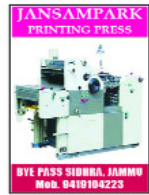




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Amit Shah to review J&K's security situation in New Delhi today

J&K NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to chair a meeting in New Delhi tomorrow to review security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meeting will be held at 3 PM in North Block. J&K LG, Union Home Secretary, DGP and other senior officers will attend the meeting.

## 4.0 magnitude earthquake hits J&K

J&K NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 12

An earthquake measuring 4.0 on the Richter Scale struck Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. The quake hit the region at 10.10 am, said National Center for Seismology, Jammu and Kashmir is known to be a high-seismic zone.

The depth of the earthquake was 10 km, it said. No loss of life or damage.

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## New NEP implemented considering requirements of modern and developed India: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
BIOPAL, APR 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the new National Education Policy is implemented keeping in mind the requirements of modern and developed India.

He also said the policy emphasises the holistic development of children, knowledge, skills, culture, and promotion of Indian values.

"The Central government has implemented the new National Education Policy (NEP) keeping in view the requirements of modern and developed India," the prime minister said in a video message while addressing a programme for newly-inducted teachers in the Madhya Pradesh capital.

Modi said the campaign to provide government jobs to the youth in



Madhya Pradesh is going on at a fast pace where thousands of people have been recruited for various posts by organizing employment fairs in different districts, an official release said.

Modi informed that more than 22,400 youths have been recruited for the post of teacher. He congratulated the youths who have received appointment letters for getting involved in such

important work as teaching.

Highlighting the important role of teachers in the effective implementation of NEP, Modi said the massive teacher recruitment campaign in Madhya Pradesh is a big step in this direction. Modi also informed that almost half of the teachers appointed today will be deputed in tribal areas which will benefit the children.

He also expressed happiness that the Madhya Pradesh government has set a target of more than one lakh appointments in government posts this year, including 60,000 teachers, and as a result, the state has made a big leap in the quality of education in the National Achievement Survey (NAS).

Modi also mentioned that MP has reached from 17th position to 5th position (in NAS) without spending money on advertisements.

Referring to the ambitious skill development programme, he said the government lays special emphasis on skill development to promote employment and self-employment.

He added that skill development centers have been opened across the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Without preparing entire judgment, judge can't pronounce its concluding portion in open court: SC

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 12

A judicial officer cannot pronounce the concluding portion of a judgment in the open court without the entire text of the judgment being prepared or dictated, the Supreme Court has said.

The top court also directed the sacking of a trial court judge in Karnataka found guilty of pronouncing the outcome of a case without preparing the judgment.

The SC direction came on a plea filed by the Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka who had challenged the HC's division bench order on the judge's reinstatement by quashing the termination order passed by its full court.

Coming down heavily on the Karnataka High Court for "white-washing" serious charges, a SC bench of justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mishra said the conduct of the judge is unacceptable.



"It is true that some of the charges revolve around judicial pronouncements and the judicial decision-making processes and that they cannot per se, without anything more, form the foundation for departmental proceedings."

"Therefore, we are ignoring those charges. But the charges which revolve around gross negligence and callousness on the part of the respondent in not preparing/dictating judgments, but providing a fait accompli, is completely unacceptable and unbecoming of a judicial officer," the bench said.

The top court said the

defence taken by the judge that the lack of experience and the inefficiency on the part of the stenographer has to be blamed was entirely unacceptable.

"But unfortunately, the High Court not only accepted this panchnaitara story, but also went to the extent of blaming the administration for not examining the stenographer as a witness. Such an approach is wholly unsustainable."

"If it was the case of the respondent that the entire blame lay upon the stenographer, it was for him to have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Centre approves Rs 272 crore under compensatory afforestation scheme for J&K

AGENCIES  
SHINAGAR, APR 12

The Centre has approved Rs 272 crore for implementation of compensatory afforestation scheme in Jammu & Kashmir.

The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority has approved Rs 272.65 crore for different activities under the scheme during the ongoing fiscal.

"With reference to the letter no. PCCF/ CAMP/NAFO/2023-24/ 13759/3283/94 dated 28.03.2023 of Government of Jammu and Kashmir on the above-mentioned subject, it is to convey the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Authority under Section 15 (f) of

the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 for the mandatory and time bound activities of the Annual Plan of Operation of 2023-24 at total outlay of Rs. 274.05 crore (Rupees two hundred seventy four crore and five lakhs only). During 21st meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of the National Authority, EC has approved an amount of Rs.272.65 crore (Rupees two hundred seventy two crore and sixty five lakhs only)," reads the communication sent to J&K Government by CEO National Authority, CAMP/NA, a copy of which is in possession of news agency.

After the Centre's approval, the Jammu & Kashmir government has asked different implementing agencies to take immediate action for execution of works approved in the annual plan of operations.

It has also set a timeline for implementing agencies. In a communique, the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has directed implementing agencies that administrative approval/technical sanction for all works in the APOs shall be done by the competent authority by April 30, 2023.

It has set May 15 and June 15 as deadlines for floating of tenders and evaluation of bids & award of contract, respectively.

The office of PCCF has further directed them that infrastructure works

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## J&K grateful to PM Modi, Nitin Gadkari, Amit Shah, for sanctioning mega road projects in J&K Ravinder Raina

J&K NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 12

Jammu & Kashmir is grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, for sanctioning mega road projects in J&K, said Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir.

"Road widening projects with construction of new corridors, new roads, tunnels, bridges and flyovers will reduce the travel times, reduce accidents, and increase connectivity within the region as well as increasing the connectivity of J&K with the rest of India. This will boost the industrialisation, tourism and better

earning avenues in J&K", said Ravinder Raina.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary & former MLC Adv. Vibodhi Gupta, BJP NEM & former Minister Priya Sethi, former MLA Ashwani Sharma was addressing the media persons at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina while

addressing the media persons vehemently thanked the Union government led by PM Modi for liberally funding mega development projects focusing on road connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir.

Raina said that it was in Atraj's tenure, when the foundation of strong and smooth road connectivity was laid in J&K. He lamented that under the congress's regime for 10 years from 2004-2014, the

works were jeopardized but now they have taken a growth spurt in Jammu & Kashmir again after 2014 under the strong and decisive leadership of PM Modi. This is contributing immensely to the development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Raina said that since 2014, excellent road network has been developed. 40000 crore worth express highway is being developed, that Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Express highway, Samba Flyover, King road, Jammu-Akhnoor road flyover, Akhnoor-Nowsheera-Rajouri road NH connectivity, Poonch-Shopian, Kashmir valley via tunnel, Sudh Mahadev road, Sudh Mahadev-Khelauni tunnel, Doda-Kishwar

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## A Man allegedly kills Son, injures Wife, Daughter in Samba

J&K NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 12

A man was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly killing his son and injuring wife and daughter with sharp edged weapons in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that a man named Kulbir Singh was arrested after police acted swiftly on getting information that he attacked his wife and children with sharp edged weapon in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The son of accused died while wife and daughter are injured," said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Former DG Planning Tariq Khan among 2 appointed as PSC members

J&K NEWS SERVICE  
SHINAGAR, APR 12

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday appointed Tariq Ahmad Khan, former director general, Planning department and Sanjeev Gupta, district and sessions judge (retired) as members of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission.

In a notification, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, the General Administration Department said that the LG has appointed Tariq Ahmad Khan, director general (expenditure division), Planning and Sanjeev Gupta, District and Sessions Judge as members of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 1

## J&K Reports 122 Fresh Covid-19 Cases, Active Tally Over 500

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, APR 12

The Government on Wednesday informed that 122 new positive cases of novel Corona virus (COVID-19), 52 from Jammu division and 70 from Kashmir division, have been reported today thus taking the total number of active positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 531.

Moreover, 62 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 12 from Jammu Division and 50 from Kashmir Division.

In last 24 hours, 4,137 COVID tests have also been conducted across the UT.

In case of any emergency people can avail free ambulance

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## Covid entering endemic stage in India, cases likely to start subsiding after 10-12 days

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 12

Covid in India is moving towards the endemic stage, so the cases may keep rising for the next 10-12 days after which they will subside, official sources said on Wednesday.

The sources said even though the cases are increasing, hospitalisation is low and expected to remain low.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## 4 Army Jawans killed in firing at Bathinda military station, two unidentified persons booked

AGENCIES  
BATHINDA/NEW DELHI, APR 12

Four Army jawans were killed in firing inside a military station in Bathinda in Punjab early Wednesday, with the state police registering a case against two unidentified persons.

The four personnel, in their mid 20s, were sleeping when the firing took place around 4:30 am in a barracks near the officers' mess in the artillery unit.

A jawan saw two unidentified men in white kurta-pyjama, their faces and heads covered, coming out of the barracks after the firing. One of them was carrying an INSAS rifle and the other an axe, the jawan said, according to the police FIR. According to "the



information we have gathered so far, it is clear that it is not a terrorist act," a senior police officer said.

Initially, the police suggested that it was an incident of "fratricide." However, officials later said there was no clarity on the incident yet.

It is learnt that Army Chief Gen Manoj Pandey briefed Defence Minister Rainath Singh on the

matter. Army sources said a court of inquiry (CoI) will investigate the entire incident in addition to the ongoing probe by the state police with support from the force.

It is suspected that an INSAS rifle, which was reported missing along with 28 rounds two days ago, was used in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Improving agriculture leads improving lives: Jugal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: Bharatiya Janata Party Kissan Morcha Jammu North unit held Kissan Sammelan at village Manyal Brahmana in Marh Constituency in which Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha, Jammu Poonch was the Chief Guest along with Bharat Bhushan DDC Chairman, Former MIA Sukhmandan Kumar, DDC Balbir Kumar, BDC Surinder Bhagat, District President Jammu North Omni Khajuria were also present.

Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering at the occasion said that without a farmer, we wouldn't have anything to eat or wear. He said that Agriculture is a work no one can live without. Farmers grow life and provide life to other humans and by improving agriculture leads to improving lives. He said that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has launched several initiatives and schemes for the benefit of farmers. He while appraising the schemes said that Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Nidhi



Yojana (PM-KISSAN) launched to provide income support to small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, farmers receive direct cash transfers of Rs. 6,000 per year in three installments. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a crop insurance scheme that provides coverage to farmers in case of crop losses due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases. Soil Health Card Scheme is an initiative aimed at promoting soil testing and nutrient management for farmers. In addition to it, Kissan Credit Card scheme also provides a credit facility to farmers. He said that Modi Government has established Kissan Suvidha Kendras to provide farmers with access to information related to agriculture, weather, and market prices. These Kendras help

farmers make informed decisions about their farming practices, reduce the risks associated with farming, and improve their productivity and income. Moreover, to give more facilities to the farmers and to meet the shortage of fertilizer government has reduced the rates of fertilizers and brought it under one head "Bharat Khad". Member of Parliament said that these initiatives and schemes by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji's aim to provide financial and technological support to farmers to enhance their income and livelihoods. Bharat Bhushan DDC Chairman also addressed the gathering said that J&K UT government under the guidance of LG Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji are taking many steps to double the income of farmers and to fulfill the dream of Modi Ji. Sukhmandan Kumar Former MIA thanked Member of Parliament for visiting village Manyal Brahmana and for boosting the moral of farmers. He said that under the stewardship of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji farmers are very happy. SDM Marh Manu Hansa, Tehsildar Rampaul, Officers of various Departments PHE, PWD, PDD etc. District President Kissan Morcha Raman Singh, Naib Sarpanch Parshotam, Ashok Keri, Ajay Sharma, Badal Singh, Bhuvnesh Mehta, Ashish Sharma, Mandal President Vikramjeet Singh, Sarpanches & panches and others also present at the occasion.

# Administration must come up with a viable solution for Rehri-Fari operators: Sat, Ashwani

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: Administration must come up with a viable solution for Rehri-Fari operators, stated Sat Sharma and Ashwani Sharma while listening to the Rehri-Fari operators located near Jewel Chowk asked for their issues redressal.

Sat Sharma, former BJP President and former Minister along with Ashwani Sharma, former MIA, JMC Councillor & BJP SC Morcha Seh-Prabhjit Jeet Angra, and BJP SEM Shailja Gupta listened to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sat Sharma (CA), while listening to the grievances said that Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to sort out the issues faced by the public at the earliest. He said that BJP has opened easy route for everyone to share their issues at party headquarters to get the fitting solution to them.

Ashwani Sharma said



that the senior BJP leaders sincerely listen and try to sort out their issues on a daily basis to give the visiting deputations and individuals relief in their long-standing issues. Jeet Angra and Shailja Gupta diazied the issues and coordinated the camp proceedings. During the camp, people from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office in the form of deputations to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership.

The main issues presented were related to the installation of the Ration card, verification of land titles, transformer issues, electric poles, streetlights, repair of lanes/ roads, job issues, etc. A deputation from Rehri-Fari operators situated near Jewel Chowk approached senior BJP leaders presenting their request for permanent solution for the fixing of operation space, to which after talking with the concerned department officials, BJP leaders said that administration must come up with a viable solution for Rehri-Fari operators. A deputation from Samba presented their issues concerning Gun Liscence.

Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, BJP leaders telephonically talked to the concerned department officials and issued letters for the others after which he assured them that their issues would be addressed soon. Pawan Gupta said that after Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, OBCs in West Pakistan Refugees granted all Constitutional Rights. Balwant Mankotia said that the Modi government is dedicated to the welfare of OBCs and will take more steps to ensure this. Sunil Prajapati provided information on various landmark decisions of the Modi government like 102nd Constitutional amendment act 2018, which provides Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Appointment of G. D. Sharma Commission for inclusion of OBC Cast and Enhancement of OBC Reservation. Construction work of OBC hostel Building. Started at kot Bhalwal Jammu.

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# Youth worst victim of Govt's misgovernance, Govt's claims on unemployment contradictory: Rattan Lal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu has lamented that the incumbent Govt has miserably failed on all fronts with youth despite being the future of the nation have been at the receiving end under the present regime. He said that unemployment among the youth has crossed all limits and the height of the things is that the Govt is misleading the people by issuing fudged reports to show that unemployment rate has come down in J&K.

The senior NC leader stated this while addressing the party workers meeting JKNC (Youth Wing) of Jammu Rural A at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here today. The meeting was organised by District President Jammu Rural-A, Ragbir Singh Manhas and presided over by the Provincial President Youth National Conference, Jammu, Ajaz Jan while Rattan Lal Gupta was the chief guest. At the outset of the meeting, Ajaz Jan appointed Rakesh Sharma as District President Youth Jammu Rural A. While addressing the workers' meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta said youth is the backbone of the party and the present situation is a matter of serious concern as the Govt has no policy for the youth as a result of which unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is at peak today. He said that the government of J&K must come clear on the gigantic difference between the unemployment rate data announced by it recently and the one made public by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

The Provincial President accused the Govt of fudging of actual data to hide its failure on the front. He said that there is unbelievable difference between the two figures as according to the CMIE the unemployment rate in J&K in March was over 23 percent but



the reports published in media giving government data of the same entity have reported improvement from 6.7 percent in 2019-20 to 5.2 percent in 2021-22 quoting Economic Survey Report 2022-23. He asked the government to come clean over the controversial figures reflected by it. Ajay Sadhotra, former minister and Central Secretary JKNC, while addressing the meeting, raised serious concern over the pitiable condition of the border dwellers. He said that while the Govt is claiming to be votary of equitable development, the reality is that there is absolutely no development in the border areas with the border dwellers having been left to the mercy of God. He said that NC is the only party which has secular credentials working for the people of all religions and the erstwhile has experienced golden period under NC regimes. He said that today there is no development and the Govt is harassing the people by carrying out anti-encroachment drives and imposing unnecessary taxes like the property tax, etc. Babu Rampal, Central Zonal President and former Minister said SC and Backward Class people are the worst affected people in J&K as the government has no policy for their welfare or upliftment. He said that the incumbent Govt has proved to be an

utter failure on all fronts and people are waiting for the elections when they will show the incumbent Govt the door. Ajaz Jan Senior NC leader said people residing in far flung areas are facing discrimination at the hands of the present dispensation which is quite visible on ground. He said there is no development in the Chenab valley and Pirpanjal regions and even the projects launched during NC rule have been halted by the present regime. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial President JKNC in his address asked the party cadre to get united for upcoming polls and teach BJP a lesson for its misgovernance bringing miseries to the people. The meeting concluded with the presentation of vote of thanks by Ranbir Singh Manhas.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Naresh Bittu, Chandar Mohan Sharma, Pardeep Bala, Ayub Malik, Ghar Singh, Ankush Abrol, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rahul Mahajan, Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, Ashok Dogra, Harshvardan Singh, S. Gurnam Singh, Ch. Shabir, Madan Lal, Charanjeet, Mohinder Singh, Randir Singh Jamwal, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Arvind Singh Jamwal, Randir Singh Chib, Garov Kapoor, Sandeep Singh, Abid Magrey, Sahil Keri, Man Mohan, Nitish Gowsami and others.

# Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, JU releases Poetry Book

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 11: Under the initiative of interdepartmental interaction and promotion of literary activities on the campus the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, University of Jammu organized a literary function by releasing a poetry book "Shyamali" written by Dr. Ashok Gupta (Retd), Department of Hindi by Prof. Naresh Padma, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Dean Faculty of Arts and Prof. Rajni Bal, HOD Hindi. The book contains 77 poems related to Indian culture, Philosophy, nature, place of the women in Indian Society and on the local land scape. The faculty members Dr. Pawan Khajuria, Shikhi Mohd. Kalyan, Dr. Sarjeet Bhagat gave their comments on the book and appreciated the efforts of Dr. Ashok Gupta to promote those aspects which have not been highlighted and valued in the present day life. Presenting his views Dr. Ashok Gupta narrated the highlights of the book and mentioned the people and the situations which have influenced his life and work. Prof. Naresh Padma, the Chief Guest of the function appreciated the efforts of the teacher who contributed after his retirement by setting an example for others and also brought laurels to the University. He further highlighted



that under the leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu the university is making all-out efforts to promote Hindi Language and encourage retired and in-service teachers to publish their research on local aspects by extending financial support to them under publication grant. The University of Jammu is shortly establishing the Directorate of Hindi to promote the Hindi language in the region. Prof. Sucheta Pathania the Guest of Honour also appreciated the efforts of the author and related his work with English writers. Prof. Rajni Bal, HOD Hindi, critically evaluated the work and highlighted that the book contains some new words and concepts which need to be

further worked by the fellow scholars. The welcome address and introduction of the author was made by Prof. Jasbir Singh and the formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Panu Sharma while the proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Shalvi Sehgal. The copies of the book were presented to Subhashi Lange, Sunder Chandan, Chanan Kohli, Mukta Nagar, Vijay Khajuria who have contributed to the structuring and publication of the book. Others who attended the function include Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Prof. Neeru Sharma, Prof. Anupama Vohra, Prof. Anju Thappa, Prof. Parvinder Kour and many prominent writers of Jammu and Kashmir.

# BJP believes in the Mantra of Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas: Ashok Koul

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 12: BJP believes in the Mantra of Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas, said Ashok Koul, while addressing a Jan Sampark Program in Udhampur.

The Program was organized by Sagar Verma (District President OBC Morcha Udhampur), under the BJP OBC Morcha's drive Of Gaon Gaon Chalo, Ghar Ghar Chalo Abhiyaan. Ashok Koul, BJP General secretary (Org.), Pawan Khajuria, State Vice President BJP, Pawan Gupta, Former Minister, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Former MIA, Lal Chand, DDC Chairman Udhampur, Sunil Prajapati, State President BJP OBC Morcha, Arun Gupta, District

Yogeshwar Gupta, Chairman MCD, Son Raj Khajuria, State Executive Member, Suresh Salgotra, State Vice President OBC Morcha, Mohd. Sadeeq, State Vice President OBC Morcha, Anil Balgotra, State secretary OBC Morcha, Ashok Bhandral, Vice President OBC Morcha, Charan Dass, General Secretary OBC Morcha were chiefly present in the programme. Program was started with Lighting of Lamp and tributes to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. Sagar Verma Conducted the Program Proceedings and Put forth the Demands of OBC Samaj in front of the Dignitaries. Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, said that BJP follows the Path of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and started Beti Bachao aur Betiyon Padhao Scheme which resulted in the improvement of Ratio

Between Male and Female. He Said OBC Samaj always supported BJP and BJP is the only which works for upliftment of every section of the Society. He said that since 2014 Modi Government started so many Schemes for the Welfare of OBCs like Post Scholarship, National Fellowship, Reservation in Public Sector Units, Reservation in Sainik Schools, Central Schools, Navodaya Vidyalaya, 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 OBCs. Pawan Khajuria said that only BJP has embraced the communities, which were ignored by successive Congress, NC, PDP governments. He said that the Modi government has taken all the initiatives

which have given bright chances to the OBCs to excel in every field. Pawan Gupta said that after Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, OBCs in West Pakistan Refugees granted all Constitutional Rights. Balwant Mankotia said that the Modi government is dedicated to the welfare of OBCs and will take more steps to ensure this. Sunil Prajapati provided information on various landmark decisions of the Modi government like 102nd Constitutional amendment act 2018, which provides Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Appointment of G. D. Sharma Commission for inclusion of OBC Cast and Enhancement of OBC Reservation. Construction work of OBC hostel Building. Started at kot Bhalwal Jammu.

# Nukkad Natak organised to spread anti drug awareness

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APR 12: Under the ongoing campaign of Nasha Mukti Bharat, the children of Modern Public School, Bandi Chechyan, Poonch (J&K) vol-



untarily conducted a Nukkad Natak to spread awareness among school children & locals. The motive of the skit was to create awareness about drug issues. Children understood that Drug

addiction is a challenge that needs to be addressed on a large scale & Nukkad Natak on Anti-Drug awareness is an effective way to reach out to the public. This also spreads messages about harmful effects of drug abuse. A large No of Students & villagers gathered to watch this Nukkad Natak. The Nukkad Natak performed by children showcased, how drug addiction can effect a person's mental and physical health. The main emphasis was given on the serious problems that are affecting the lives of millions of people around the world. The role play by the children impacted the audience present. Locals were also urged by the children to further spread the ill effects of drugs & increase awareness in other social gathering also.

# Harsh Dev petitions PM over Job scams in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APR 12: Former Minister and NPP President Harsh Dev Singh today submitted a petition in PMO addressed to the Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi highlighting the problem of burgeoning unemployment in J&K and the growing anger amongst the youth against the recruitment agencies and the current regime. The memorandum read thus "reports of job scams in J&K have been hitting the headlines of various media houses for the last several years with hardly any action having been initiated against the powerful employment mafias ruling the roost."

The educated unemployed youth have been persistently on the roads agitating for a fair deal and justice with none to take note of their shrill cries. A deep rooted patronised culture of corruption continues to prevail in the UT where the educated youth has become the worst casualty of the system.

Pertinent to mention that even the Chief Secretary has only recently given a statement in the media that around 250 lac appointments have been made in J&K through back door without following the due procedures.

While the statement of the Chief Secretary is laudable and reveals his sincerity to stem the rot, the vested interests continue to pose hindrances in view of involvement of some powerful people in such job rackets necessitating your kind indulgence and a high level probe into all such back door appointments which have earned the most dubious notoriety for the UT.

In the wake of infamous scams in

the selection of PSIs, FAAs and JEs in the UT, J&K has been marred with employment scandals during the last few years. While the govt failed to fill up the posts in various govt depts in a fair and transparent manner, the culture of fake, backdoor and other paid appointments grew by leaps and bounds. And whereas the recent past witnessed large scale retrenchments, of even the regularly engaged govt employees, the new UT saw the resultant vacancies being put on sale by the various recruitment bodies through blacklisted agencies.

It was the public outrage and fear of adverse consequences that had forced the govt to rescind the said list wherein crores had been swindled by a corrupt mafia. The demand of agitating youth to disengage the APTech co. hired for making recruitments in the UT is genuine and needs to be addressed seriously.

The irregular selections of Firemen and drivers made in Fire services Dept through dubious means was also highlighted umpteen times in the media but the hussians have chosen to push the matter under the carpet for reasons best known. The govt had constituted a three member committee to present the report pertaining to the selections within a month but more than four months have passed without any action.

In another job scam of gargantuan proportions, the J&K Bank made appointments of around 3000 Banking Associates and Clerks through backdoors which too has failed to invite due attention of authorities concerned despite the issue having been highlighted by the erstwhile State Governor Sh. S P Malik. The commission of biggest recruitment scandal had been the

engagement of more than 4000 SPOs in 2017-18 through backdoor without following any procedure and the officers who made such appointments were rewarded with prized postings by the then BJP-PDP govt.

Besides hundreds of backdoor appointments were made in KVIB during the BJP-PDP govt, with a few of them reportedly rescinded, as an eyewash and a window dressing for the gullible. Several hundreds of backdoor appointments were made in Industries Dept and its allied corporations during 2015-18 with none to take cognizance despite public outcries. The erstwhile coalition rule witnessed scams wherein hundreds of backdoor appointments in H&ME dept were made by Chairman of Rogi Kalyan Samitis out of Hospital Development Fund in brazen contravention of prescribed norms and regulations. Similarly, the large scale appointments made in SKUAST and other govt depts and corporations have failed to elicit any response from the concerned agencies.

The number of daily wagers swelled to 1,10,000 in 2018 against 62,000 in 2014 as per a reply provided on the floor of Legislative Assembly thereby providing the most glaring example of misuse of authority and patronised corruption during the coalition rule. Unfortunately, the vigilante organizations too preferred to remain mute spectators in a bid to keep their political masters in good humour.

Mr Harsh Dev appealed to the Prime Minister to order Supreme Court monitored probe into all the recruitment scams during the last few years so that the justice is delivered to the youth of J&K who have been languishing on roads for long".

# Altaf Bukhari expresses concern over surge in drug addiction in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: Expressing serious concern over growing menace of drug addiction, the Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has sought strict action to curb drug smuggling in Jammu and Kashmir that has given rise to social evils and criminal activities.

As per a press release, Altaf Bukhari was addressing a meeting in which over 200 youth from different parts of Jammu region were present here at Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar. In this meeting, dozens of youth joined the Party.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, he appreciated the youth wing for their hard work in making people aware of the policy and developmental agenda of Apni

Party.

It was the result of Apni Party leaders and workers of all the wings that the people from every segment have come forward endorsing the faith in the party's policy, he said. He said "Jammu and Kashmir is facing a tough situation because of drug addiction and smuggling. The police, civil administration and general public have the responsibility to fight equally against the menace which has posed a threat to the future generation."

While highlighting the importance of awareness among the people in urban as well as in rural population, he directed the youth wing to work in this direction to save the life of the youth who become drug addicts and make the young generation aware of the drug addiction.

"Apni Party youth wing shall come forward to play its important role," he said. On this occasion, the Apni Party President donated Rs 5 lakhs for awareness / drive against drug addiction in Jammu amid growing concerns of the society against the social evils in Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed his serious concern against the surge of drug addiction as it has given rise to multiple criminal activities.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the demands of daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to the Govt to formulate a policy for their regularization and release of pending wages.

Expressing his anguish over the unfair selection process which sparked widespread protests in both Jammu and Srinagar cities, he said that the Govt must ensure transparency in recruitment process to restore the confidence of the aspirants of different jobs.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, Provincial Secretary/District President Jammu Urban, Dr Rohit Gupta, State Vice President Apni Youth Wing, Raeesq Ahmed Khan, Abhay Bakaya, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President Jammu Youth, Shivam Choudhary, Samba Youth Wing President, Mangat Ram and others.

# BJP conducts cleanliness drive at 'Shamshan Ghat Jogi Gate'

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan team along with a large number of volunteers launched a cleanliness drive in the Shamshan Ghat Jogi Gate in connection with the SEWA SAP-TAAH being celebrated by BJP.

A Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan was launched by the office bearers of Swachh Bharat Mission along with a large number of Volunteers of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan under the leadership of Er Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, Incharge BJP swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.

While speaking on the occasion, Er Dil Bahadur Singh appealed to the public to participate enmass in the Swachhata program launched by the BJP. He further said that a clean and green Jammu is the need of the hour.

He added that the Swachhata Abhiyaan launched by PM Modi in



the year 2014 has yielded very good results so far.

Er TK Sharma, co Incharge BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Jammu and Kashmir gave a message to the citizens that in one day or one year still, it will be a great contribution if we will be able to stop people from spreading filth in the public places. He said that we have to change our thinking only then our country

would become clean.

Others present on the occasion were Sahil Sharma, Co convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Som Nath Khajuria Executive Member, Randip Singh Parihar co convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Er VK Gupta Convenor Jammu, Er Sunil Zailpuri, Anil Pandita and Vatsal Bhan Convener and convener (Displaced).

# Vibodh lauds J&K BJP workers for putting 'Nation First'

JI NEWS SERVICE



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta on Wednesday advised workers to interact with every section of society to win their trust and lauded them for putting Nation First.

He also urged them to ensure house-to-house contact to connect with people, interact with beneficiaries, and to aware them of the various welfare schemes of the Modi government.

"There is not even an iota of doubt that today BJP is the biggest party in the world and our opponents have also admitted it but now we have to further increase our strength to make India a superpower."

of the BJP government has provided youth with unprecedented opportunities and has boosted the economy of the country. He also urged party workers to dedicatedly and sincerely work for the welfare of the people and society. He asserted that BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue its fight against corruption and nepotism to ensure transparency in governance.

Former Mayor and BJP J&K Vice-President Chandra Mohan Gupta asserted that BJP's initiatives and projects in Jammu and Kashmir have brought unprecedented development to the Union Territory. He said that BJP is most popular among the poor and downtrodden people as they have benefited the most from the schemes and welfare policies of the Modi-led central government. He also highlighted various schemes of the Modi Government such as the Mudra scheme, Make in India, Skill India, and initiatives such as Atam Nirbhar Bharat, Swachh Bharat Andolan, and enlightened workers that how these schemes and initiatives have improved the lives of millions. Mandal Parধান Atul Bakshi also spoke on the occasion and expressed confidence that his Mandal has been regularly organizing events to win the trust of people and serve them.

The country is progressing under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and is prospering even when advanced countries suffered a slow-down due to COVID-19," Vibodh said addressing BJP workers from Rehari Bakshinagar Mandal.

Vibodh told that though BJP is set to record a landslide victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha election yet the party cadre should work with the same energy and enthusiasm as we have been exhibiting since the inception of the party. We should work hard not only to win the election but also to win the hearts of people, he added.

Speaking on the occasion BJP District President Parmodh Kaphai said that the development-led vision

# SMVDU faculty bestowed with Dr. GP Talwar Gold Medal at Raveshaw University Cuttak

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Senior Assistant Professor School of Biotechnology, SMVDU has been awarded with Dr. GP Talwar Gold Medal oration award at Raveshaw University Cuttak by ISSRF (Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility).

Dr. Rakesh has done his Ph.D. from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi and is Post doctorate from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis MO, USA and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre Dallas USA.

His group's current research interests are in mechanistic elucidations of different cancers, reproductive biology disorders in the northern region of



India particularly Jammu and Kashmir. Presently he is leading the group of scientists from 04 universities of Jammu and Kashmir in a joint study by ICMR on reproductive disorders

of Jammu and Kashmir. During his tenure, he has received numerous awards for his work, prominent among them are Dr. GP Talwar young scientist award, Best Oral presentation award, outstanding award from Neuro-texas Institute research foundation, Austin Texas, USA and Best Paper award from Andrology Society of India. He has published more than 90 papers during his tenure which included peer reviewed high impact factor journals like Nature, Molecular Cell, PNAS, Cancer Research, JBC, MCB, NAR etc. In the last 11 years, he received numerous grants from funding agencies like ICMR, DST, JK-DST worth crores of Rupees. Padama Shri RK Sinha, Vice chancellor of SMVDU congratulated him on the receipt of the award.

# All India Panchayat Parishad celebrates their 65th Foundation day

JI NEWS SERVICE

aknnoor, apr 12: All India Panchayat Parishad which was founded in 1958 organised its 65th Foundation day in Aknnoor. AIPP is a Govt. recognized autonomous apex Federation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, addressing the issues of rural India and aiming to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system, a decentralized form of self-governance at village level to solve local socio-economic problems effectively red to agriculture, health, education, natural resource management and unemployment. National President Ashok Singh Jadaun, National General Secretary SS Vijay Mishra, National Vice President Mohinder Government of India Panchayati Raj Member and National General Secretary SS Vijay Mishra along with other dignitaries were present in the foundation day program chaired by All India Panchayat Raj Campaign Committee President Kuldeep Sharma on Wednesday at Amar Palace, Aknnoor.

Jammu and Kashmir President Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Jugal Kishore Gupta, Uttar Pradesh General

Secretary Rakesh Singh along with dozens of Sarpanches, Panches and other dignitaries participated in the programme. During the program The 'Back To Village' program of the JK Government was also discussed, in which the works of Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats and District Panchayats were reviewed.

On this occasion, National President of Panchayat Parishad Ashok Singh Jadaun said that he will try to get the rights of Panchayats implemented. He assured them to take up their issues with the government to get them addressed as soon as possible. He strongly advocated that Panchayat Representatives should be given the freedom to work independently.

He said that bureaucracy is trying to dominate the working of Panchayats in Jammu Kashmir.

SS Vijay Mishra Gen Secy in his address said that All India Panchayat Parishad is a national level organization and many schemes are implemented by the Centre and State government only on our proposal.

On the other hand, on the question of powers and rights pertaining to Sarpanches and Panches, Vijay Mishra said that it is a sad aspect that

the Panchayat has been left at the mercy of the State Governments and the Government of India was expected to gradually provide powers.

Jammu and Kashmir President Dr. Kuldeep Sharma said that in Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal panchayats have maximum rights, but in Jammu Kashmir the rights of panchayats are still only on paper. He said that the sarpanches do not know what are their rights and what is their authority. He said that Bureaucrats are dominating Panchayati Raj in Jammu Kashmir, but the village heads will also have to be empowered and for that, if necessary, they will also agitate.

President of Jammu Kashmir Panchayati Raj Campaign Committee Kuldeep Sharma said that there is a problem of funds in every panchayat, funds are not being received on time. Gram Panchayats cannot be developed due to lack of funds, that's why more budget is needed for Panchayats. He said that lakhs of MGNREGA liabilities are pending in Jammu Kashmir due to which people of rural area are suffering a lot. He appealed to national office bearers to raise these issues with the Center Government.

# Rajnath Singh calls for judicious use of financial resources, advice based on sound economic analysis, internal audit and payment & accounting

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 12

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has stressed on the need to devise innovative methods to maximise the value of money spent on the security needs of the country, terms a robust defence finance system as the backbone of a strong military. Inaugurating the three-day International Conference on Defence Finance & Economics in New Delhi on April 12, 2023, Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that a legal and assured defence-finance framework is an integral part of a mature state system, which ensures prudent management of the defence expenditure.

The Raksha Mantri stated that such a framework, which includes

expenditure control as per guidelines, financial advice by professionals, audit, payment authentication mechanism, etc., ensures that the defence spending is well within the allocated budget and the full value of money is realised. He emphasised that while the Armed Forces require a superstructure of defence ecosystem, involving R&D organisations, industries, soldier welfare organisations, etc., they also need a well-funded system with a robust architecture to ensure the optimum and judicious use of financial resources.

Rajnath Singh was of the view that it is difficult to apply the economic concept of full value of money in defence expenditure, as in this sector, there is no visible revenue stream

and no easily identifiable beneficiaries. To maximise the value of money spent, he stressed that the rule of competitive bidding through open tender must be followed in defence procurement.

"In the case of procurement of defence platforms/equipment, either under capital or revenue route, the gold standard of Open Tender should be adopted to the extent possible. A competitive bid based procurement process, which is open to all, is the best possible way to realise the full value of the public money being spent. There would be some rare cases when it may not be possible to go for an open tender process. Such instances should come under exceptions and exceptions should not become the rule," the

Raksha Mantri said. Rajnath Singh underscored the importance of comprehensive Blue Books, codifying the rules and procedures of procurement of defence equipment & systems for a fair and transparent system. He said, with this vision, the Government has formulated blue books in the form of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 for capital acquisition; Defence Procurement Manual for revenue procurement and Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services. "These manuals play a very important role in ensuring that the process of defence procurement is rule-based and follows the principles of financial propriety. Since these manuals are critical, they need to be carefully crafted by defence finance

and procurement experts in consultation with all the stakeholders. This needs to be a continuous exercise, so that these documents are dynamically updated, incorporating new rules and procedures as and when required," he said.

The Raksha Mantri also emphasised on the role of expert financial advice to the Service personnel in day-to-day financial matters. He said, the system of Integrated Financial Advisor (IFA) has been created to provide financial advice to the Competent Financial Authority (CFA) in order to help them in avoiding the wastage of public money. In this system, the IFA and CFA work as a team towards utilising public money in a prudent manner, he said.

Rajnath Singh batted for a fool-proof system of

internal and external audit which would tackle the instances of wastages, pilferage and corruption, if any, even after following the principles of financial prudence and propriety. The role of auditors is that of a watchdog or a sentinel, he said.

The Raksha Mantri also elaborated on the need for a sound system of accounting, passing of bills and payers, salary and pension disbursement, etc., as it frees the Armed Forces personnel to concentrate on their core jobs. He added that the separation of functions of defence finance from the core defence organisations has multiple advantages. "The chances of leakages, corruption, wastages are reduced. A positive public opinion is generated when there is a justified confi-

dence that public money is being spent optimally and prudently. With greater public trust and confidence in the system of defence expenditure, the defence system benefits overall, as the chances of greater funding by legislature increases pari-passu (Latin for equal footing)," he said.

Rajnath Singh asserted that the central idea is that defence establishments like Army, Navy, Air Force, Defence Research organisations etc. require a specialised agency, which is dedicated to defence finance and economics. In India, this work is being done competently by the Defence Accounts Department under the leadership of Financial Advisor (Defence Services), he said.

Before the international delegates, the Raksha Mantri also put forth the

idea of shared security. "In the spirit of collective security of the whole world as one family, we are all partners in the path towards a secure and prosperous future for the entire humankind. We have a lot to learn from your experiences in the field of defence finance and economics and we are ready to share our learning with you," he said.

The Raksha Mantri stated that the full potential of society's development can be realised only when it is secure from external and internal threats. He described security of the people from external aggression and internal disruptions as the prime function of the state. Security is the bedrock on which the prosperity, arts and culture of any society flourish and prosper, he said.

# Piyush Goyal addresses India - France Business Summit and CEOs Roundtable

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 12

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal mentioned that there is a huge delta of opportunities in India during his address at the India - France Business Summit and CEOs Roundtable yesterday in Paris, France. "We are one of the largest consumers of goods and services. Exports of goods and services are growing by over 50% and we hope to continue this growth trajectory. We hope to see our exports of goods and services to triple from \$765 billion to \$2 trillion by 2030," he added.

The Embassy of India, Paris, France, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Mouvement des entreprises de France (MEDEF) and the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), organised the India - France Business Summit and CEOs Roundtable.

Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade, Economic Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, Government of France, Mr Olivier Becht shared that he is confident that both sides will foster bilateral & multilateral relations. "India being the world's most populous country has the potential to attract numerous manufacturing activities, already, many French companies are actively engaged in India, and there is tremendous untapped potential for further collaboration," he said. Vice-President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited, Mr Sanjiv Puri shared that the presence of a large delegation from the CII in France underscores the significant importance that India attaches to its relationship with France.

DG CII, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee highlighted that India and France are committed to collaborative engagement in areas like innovation, financial inclusion, ESG in businesses, and deepening global engagement towards Africa.

Sessions were held on 'Building a green future', 'Critical and Emerging Technologies: The New Strategic Frontier', 'Defence Cooperation: Securing a Shared Future Through Atmanirbhar Bharat' and France and India: Springboard to Europe and Indo-Pacific.

Building a Green Future

Both India and France attach the highest importance to building a green future. Both countries have ambitious climate goals. Building a green future creates enormous market opportunities, but it also requires huge investments and technological breakthroughs. In recent years, there has been significant increase in investments, collaborations and joint ventures, especially from France to India, in "green technologies". The Session brought out ways on how businesses can tap opportunities in green transition; discussed new technologies in various areas - renewable energy, mobility,

and opportunities therein; recommendations on increasing India-France Technology Cooperation. The Session was moderated by the Ambassador for Digital Affairs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Henri Verderer.

Critical and Emerging Technologies: The New Strategic Frontier

Collaboration and competition are growing around critical and emerging technologies, including advanced computing, communications and networking technology, advanced materials, engine technology, space technologies and systems, sensors, renewable energy technology, semiconductors and microelectronics, directed energy, hypersonics, etc.

As two countries with strong belief in sovereignty and strategic autonomy, the Session highlighted ways on how India and France can enhance their cooperation in critical and emerging technologies; complementarities between the two countries

Defence Cooperation: Securing a Shared Future Through Atmanirbhar Bharat

The evolving geopolitics, including the growing challenges in the Indo Pacific region, and emergence of contests in new domains such as Space and cyberspace, have further increased the salience of this partnership. France has been a longstanding and an increasingly important source of defence platforms, equipment and technology for India. The Session brought out how we go beyond assembly and also develop and design defence technologies; specific defence platforms and equipment where we see maximum potential for India-France partnership. The Session was moderated by DG, CII, Mr

Chandrajit Banerjee. France and India: Springboard to Europe and Indo-Pacific

In the past three years, France has been ranked the most attractive investment destination in the EU, which is also reflected in the rising foreign investment figures. While India is among the leading Asian sources of investments in France, the value of investments is small and concentrated in a few sectors. Indian companies are reviewing their European strategy in the context of the post-Brexit EU. France could be the next big destination for Indian investments. Since generating a part of the value in the market is important for success, the Session shed light on how can Indian companies invest more in France to cater to India's largest destination for exports, the EU; and on how markets can be accessed. The Session was chaired by President, FIEO, Mr A Sakthivel.

CEOs Roundtable

More than 50 CEOs from Indian and French companies participated at the CEOs Roundtable which was addressed by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal and the Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade, Economic Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, Government of France, Mr Olivier Becht. Sectors such as agriculture, tourism, defence, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, aerospace were represented at the Roundtable. Along with the Ministers, perspectives were shared by Ambassador of India to France, Mr Jawed Ashraf, Vice-President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited, Mr Sanjiv Puri, DG, CII, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Executive Director, International Energy Agency, Mr Faith Birol and CEO, Danone, Mr Antoine de Saint-Affrique. Other CEOs participated in a discussion with Shri Goyal as well.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### New NEP implemented..

to provide training to the youth under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

"In this year's budget, 30 Skill India International Centers will be opened where youth will be trained through New Age Technology, and an initiative has been taken to provide training to small artisans through PM Vishwakarma Yojana and also to connect them with MSME," the Prime Minister said.

He appealed to the newly-appointed teachers to make a place in their hearts for their students similar to a mother.

"You should always keep in mind that education (imparted by you) will not only shape the present but also the future of the country," the prime minister said.

Modi also said the education imparted by teachers will not only bring positive change in students but also in society.

"The values that you inculcate will create a positive impact not only on today's generation but on many generations to come," he added. (Agencies)

### Without preparing entire..

summoned the stenographer as a witness. The High Court unfortunately reversed the burden of proof," the bench said.

The apex court said that the high court was swayed unduly by the animosity attributed by the judge to a member of the local Bar and the assistant public prosecutor in granting him relief.

"We have not come across a case where the High Court, while setting aside an order of penalty, has held that there shall not be any further inquiry against the delinquent.

"But in this case, the High Court has done exactly the same, creating a new jurisprudence," the bench said. (Agencies)

### Centre approves Rs 272 crore..

shall be completed by end of February 2024." Efforts shall be made to get these completed by end of December 2023," the communique further states--(KNO)

### J&K grateful to PM..

to Kashmir, four laning of Jammu-Srinagar via Banihal, Marog-Digdol tunnel, Zozilla tunnel, Batote-Doda-Kishtwar, Srinagar-Baramulla, are major landmark decisions of the Modi government.

The Modi government has initiated road projects worth 1,25,000 crore. We thank the union government for taking steps for Ring roads, green ways, and express highways. There has been tremendous and unprec-

edented enhancement of road the year connectivity of Ladakh with the rest of India, which will ensure smooth transportation of people as well as security forces. The work over Rohtang has also been tremendous.

The NH status to the Baba Amarnath road, Anantnag-Pahalgam-Chandanwari-Baltal Amarnath Yatra road, Baltal ropeway Gandola will prove to be the one of the greatest gift of Modi government to J&K increasing the tourist foothold in the region. These steps will ensure the beautification of the Paradise of Earth. For all these gifts, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari from the core of their heart.

Sadhna Tunnel Kupwara-Tangdhar will prove to be a boon for the nationalist population of the difficult terrain. Bandipora-Gurez Rajdan tunnel will majorly help the locals. Jammu & Kashmir is rewriting the developmental history with the backing from the Modi government with the special efforts of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

BJP SEM Shailja Gupta, JMC Councillor Jeet Angral and other BJP leaders were also present on the occasion.

### A Man allegedly..

police. A case has been registered while the investigations are in progress.

### Former DG Planning..

Commission. A gold medalist from Kashmir University, Khan did his post-graduation in Commerce and MPhil in Management Accounting. He joined Planning & Statistics Service in 1993 and superannuated in April 2022.

Khan, who has an impeccable service record, held key postings in different debarments and played a significant role in infrastructure development in Jammu & Kashmir.

In his illustrious career of 36 years, he worked in various capacities in the Health and Medical Education Department, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Public Works Department, Power Dev Department and Finance Department.

In 2020, Jammu & Kashmir government conferred him with the UT award for meritorious public services--(KNO)

### Govt orders transfer..

of which lies with the news agency Diya D, IPS, awaiting orders of adjustment, is posted as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla.

"The post of Addl. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, is re-designated as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla, till held by the said officer," reads the order.

It added Rakesh Kumar Parihar, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, is transferred and posted as Dy. Commandant IR-16th Battalion, against an available vacancy--(KNO)

### J&K Reports 122..

services 24\*7 at their doorsteps by calling on toll-free number 108 while as pregnant women and sick infants can avail free ambulance services by dialling toll-free number 102.

People can also call on toll-free National helpline number 1075; J&K COVID-19 Helpline Number 104.

### Covid entering endemic..

The current rise in Covid cases is being driven by XBB.1.6, which is a sub variant of Omicron, they added. While Omicron and its sub-lineages continue to be the dominant variant, most of the assigned variants have little or no significant transmissibility, disease severity or immune escape.

The prevalence of XBB.1.6 increased from 21.6 per cent in February this year to 35.8 per cent in March. However, no evidence of an increase in hospitalisation or mortality has been reported, official sources said. (Agencies)

### 4 Army Jawans killed..

firing incident. The Army said on Wednesday the INSAS rifle has been found.

The two suspected attackers, who were of medium height, went towards a forested area near the barracks on seeing the jawan, who later reported the matter to the police.

Subsequently, two Army officers went inside the barracks and found Sagar Banne (25) and Yogesh Kumar J (24) in a pool of blood. In another room, the bodies of Santosh M Nagaral (25) and Kamalesh R (24), were found. The bodies bore bullet marks, according to the FIR.

Two of the slain jawans hailed from Karnataka and the other two from Tamil Nadu.

The Bathinda military station is one of the largest Army bases in the country and it comprises a significant number of operational units of the force.

"It has been ascertained that in the unfortunate incident, four army jawans of an artillery unit succumbed to gunshot injuries sustained during the incident. No other injuries to personnel or loss/damage to property have

been reported," the Army's South Western command said in a statement.

After the firing incident, the Army deployed quick reaction teams and cordoned off the area.

It said the area remained sealed off and joint investigations with the Punjab Police are being coordinated to establish the facts of the case.

All aspects, including the possible case of involvement of the missing INSAS rifle, are being ascertained, it said.

The Army said no individual has yet been detained or apprehended for the killing.

Bathinda Superintendent of Police (Detective) Ajay Gandhi, who headed the police investigation, told reporters that 19 empty shells of an INSAS rifle were found from the spot.

According to the Army statement, "Army and Police Joint teams will now be undertaking forensic analysis of the weapon for ascertaining further details. The balance number of rounds in the weapon will only be available after forensic analysis." "The joint investigation with Punjab Police is in progress. All possible assistance is being provided," it added.

Gandhi said CCTV footage is being scanned and the Army is conducting a cordon-and-search operation and the entire area has been sanitized.

Asked if it could be a fratricidal incident, Gandhi said, "Investigations are on." Bathinda Senior Superintendent of Police Gulnesh Singh Khurana said in the evening, "As per the information we have gathered so far, it is clear that it is not a terrorist act." Earlier in the day, Khurana, while referring to the incident, said, "It is an internal issue, it appears to be fratricidal issue." Punjab's Additional Director General of Police SPS Parmar earlier in the morning made a similar observation, saying "It is not a terrorist attack, it is not an attack from outside. It is a fratricidal incident." Based on a complaint filed by Army Major Ashutosh Shukla, an FIR was lodged at Bathinda Cantonment police station under IPC Section 302 (murder) and relevant sections of the Arms Act against two unidentified persons, the police said.

Bathinda Cantonment Police Station SHO Gurdip Singh, when asked if the police received any complaint about the missing INSAS rifle, he said they got the information on Tuesday evening. (Agencies)

### 4.0 magnitude..

to property has been reported as yet.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.0, Occurred on 12-04-2023, 10:10:51 IST, Lat: 34.44 & Long: 73.61, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Jammu and Kashmir, India," the NCS wrote on Twitter.

## MP Gulam Ali directs authorities for smooth transhumance

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali today directed the authorities to enable smooth transhumance and listen to the grievances of the common man and ensure resolution instead of confrontation.

Hundreds of angry nomadic Gujjars agitated over denial of permission to move towards upper reaches alongwith cattle stock today met senior MP Rajya Sabha Dr. Gulam Ali and sought redressal of their grievances.

The Gujjar delegation narrated their woes in the absence of non-cooperation by the District administration and harassment by the police authorities. They said that officials of the Animal Husbandry department manhandled them while visiting the district office.

MP Gulam Ali said that BJP Govt led by PM Narendra Modi has been always keeping the interests of pasmanda sections of the society and if someone is harassing the most national section of the population, it is most unfortunate. He immediately issued directions to the concerned authorities to resolve the issue immediately.

He said that the delay in permis-



sions has forced the nomads to postpone their movement to the upper reaches by a month and now the peak of summer has already started and cattle would be suffering in the absence of food stock and water.

The officers of the district administration blamed the police authorities for delay in issuing permission in the absence of police verification. Later MP Gulam Ali deputed BJP ST Morcha president Roshan Choudhary to accompany the Gujjar delegation and resolve their issues with authorities.

Gujjars also claimed non-availability of the government transport for transhumance recently announced by

the Tribal department of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

MP Gulam Ali said that government has announced the provision of transport for transhumance with good intentions but this will create a sense of discrimination and also disturb the natural habitat besides hampering the local environment.

He said that government alone cannot provide for transhumance of such vast numbers of cattle stock.

A number of other delegations including Sakshar Bharat, people belonging to Rajouri, Poonch, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Doda met MP Gulam Ali and projected their demands.

## BJP regime destroyed J&K in various spheres: Dr Manohar

JI NEWS SERVICE

BILLAWAR, APR 12: Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today concluded four days tour of different villages Mela, Gurah kalyal, Kough, Dewal, Malti, Kote, Katni, Dharalta, Dhangara, Kishanpur-Dungara, Pathyal-Didwara, Thanhu, Ramkote, Reyant, Aglihar, Tharakalwal During tour, Dr Manohar addressed public meeting at Reyant-Agildhar, Thanhu, Billawar and various deputations and listen their problems during visit. During four days visit, people from different areas apprise former Minister that BJP Govt ignored remote and backward areas of Billawar constituency on all fronts. Prominent grievances include reduction of RBA quota in govt service from 20% to 10%, no new project of roads to connect far-flung areas like Village Reyant, Bural, Barbari, Gara-Salla of Panchayat Agildhar, Dehota, Bhaie, Parnara, Thadawal of Panchayat Dhanaparole, Hethal-Round of Panchayat Kachsir, Habitation Morian of Panchayat Kough, Habitation Lahire and Bhad-Samar of Dharalta, Habitation Thed, Sitala Mata Seri and HS Moomi of Panchayat Mooni, Habitation Kalonta of Panchayat Derly and Gortha of Panchayat Billawar Rural, Nara of Panchayat Barota, Reyni-Brota of Panchayat Didwara. The other issues include poor health service in all areas including SDH, Billawar, lack of

Teaching Staff in almost in all area of these Tehsils, Govt is facilitating mining loot and torturing local Trolley owners. Unemployment is all time high now and Govt has no road map to deal this serious problem. Govt is also working day and night to retard Numberdars, Chokidars, ICDS workers helpers and daily wagers without giving single penny to them.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar demanded special employment package for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that it is the duty of the government to address the unemployment issue immediately. He lambasted BJP government for exploiting daily wagers in various departments for not fulfilling their long time pending genuine demands. He said due to callous and non-serious attitude of governments families of daily wagers across J&K are facing a starvation-like situation. He said that people are now fed up of the BJP led dictatorial regime. Common man was suffering in the hands of the administration which has adopted an adamant behaviour and is working on the lines which is completely anti-public. He also highlighted issue of various roads of the constituency which are in dilapidated condition and urged upon the administration of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to pay urgent attention as public is suffering badly.

Dr Manohar said that the financial health of the people is getting worse with every passing day. He said peo-

ple should not get carried away by the negative forces who are trying to create division and hatred in J&K. Former Minister demanded special recruitment in army and other central paramilitary forces for hilly area people. He hit out at the BJP for misleading people on every count just to attain power but didn't care about urges and aspirations of the people.

He also criticized the ruling government for its failure to provide basic amenities to the people of Billawar constituency. Dr Manohar said that BJP's unilateral decisions have added to the long prevailing political instability and alienation in the region besides violating the spirit of federalism in the country. We will not allow BJP and its B teams to erode J&K political and cultural identity. Nothing can rescue BJP and its local proxies. People will teach them a lesson in the elections, whenever they are held.

Dr Manohar said that it was claimed that BJP's decisions will bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. "But even after nine years, we do not see any new development, employment and economy improvement. There is no visage of good governance," he added. He said they were speaking about massive industrialization but the reality on ground is completely different. "Not a new industry has come here. Our own handicrafts and other small scale industries are on the verge of collapse."

## Scam worth crores of illegal Khair cutting from forest land in Thandi Choi: Sunil



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: RTI activist Sunil Kumar during a press conference at Press Club Jammu alleged illegal felling of Khair Trees of well worth crores from forest land in village Thandi Choi of Kalidhar range. Sunil Kumar said that the forest department is trying to suppress this Khair Cutting scam from forest worth crores.

Sunil while addressing the press conference said that the felling of Khair is restricted, and it can be permitted only under 10 Year Khair Management (felling) Plan in which the felling permission is issued to the farmers on proprietorship land. He said that in this 10-year felling plan, a village is allowed only once. He said that village Thandi Choi had got the permission for felling in 2016-17 and Chandi Choi village had been given permission for felling in the year 2022-23. Whereas no village named Chandi Choi is located anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which the department has allowed felling once again in Thandi Choi in 2022-23. He said that some officials of the department say that felling was incomplete during the permission granted in 2016-17, only because of that the permission was given again, but never in the last six years did the people of this village demand extension of time for their Khair felling. Sunil demanded a high-level inquiry by the Lieutenant Governor as to how Chandi Choi became Thandi Choi and how a village got permission for felling of Khair trees for the second time in 10 years.

Sunil said in a media address that in this whole scam concerning revenue officials, the forest department officials and some blue-eyed police officials have jointly committed this

scam. He said that when the files of the farmers were prepared after getting the permission, there was corruption of lakhs of rupees in it and the files were made in the name of those farmers at the place where there were no Khair trees. He said that I have made such a complaint in the department in which seven farmers were allowed to cut 500 Khair trees from their land owned by them from about 30 Kanals of their prop. land, but they did not have even 50 Khair trees on that land, in lieu of which they felled Thousands of trees from about several hundred Kanals of forest land.

After this, the Forest Conservator of Jammu East went there with its entire staff, who investigated all the complaints received in the department and they also found many types of evidence there. The personnel of the Forest Protection Force accompanying him took dozens of photographs of uprooting of stumps (destroying evidence), use of JCB Track in forest land, stumps in forest land were seen. But despite getting so much, the department has not taken action on this matter till date. From which it can be assumed that the matter has been fixed up to a high level.

Sunil has demanded that the Lt. Governor should intervene in this multi-crore scam and take action against all the officers involved with immediate effect, because with the connivance of these officers, they are erasing all the evidence and smuggling the illegal felled Khair wood in private vehicles. He demanded that all illegal wood lying in Thandi Choi should be confiscated by the department and the Lieutenant Governor should make a joint team of honest high officials of Revenue Department and Forest Department to investigate the matter thoroughly.

Department, so it should be first demarcated by the demarcation wing. While this team found wrong permission files, illegal numeration and evidence of uprooting of stumps which they suppressed.

Sunil raised questions that the forest department does not even know where their land is, so these officers do not have the right to continue in their positions and they should be suspended with immediate effect. He told that seeing the matter unfolding Block Forest Officer Khour Salamata, Tehsildar Kharah Balli Romesh Chandra and then SHO Khour Ratan Singh Rana prepared a report on their own without getting directions from anyone that everything is correct and genuine. They informed their higher ups that there is no forest land in Thandi Choi. Later it came to know from the website of Jammu and Kashmir land record that there is more than 10000 Kanals of forest department land in Khalsa number 212, 213, 375, 379, 380, 386, 386 m etc. He asked why these three officers made this wrong report and gave wrong information to their superior officers including District Magistrate Jammu and DFO Jammu.

He said that action should be taken immediately on making wrong reports on these three.

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## PM Modi has a vision for a progressive, prosperous J&K: Rajesh Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) Chief Rajesh Gupta said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision for a progressive and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, and it is incumbent upon all of us to support it peace and normalcy have returned to J-K and every region and every section of the society is getting their rights, he said. "India is on the path of becoming the world leader and J&K will be its shining star."

NDPI leader said that Jammu and Kashmir is poised for a huge transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi with equitable development to all and empowerment upon all to bring the mission mode of the governance. "A sound and strong edifice



has already been put in place during the past over three years by implementation of various ambitious programmes and projects besides focus on investments to enhance the growth, generate the jobs and deliver of economic benefits to even the last person in the society", Gupta said while interacting with the media.

NDPI leader dwelt in detail various path breaking initiatives taken across

Jammu and Kashmir during the past nearly four years with an avowed objective of ensuring development, creating infrastructural facilities, strengthening utility services and giving fillip to growth as a result of massive investments.

He said the investments will manifest in industrialization on a mega scale thus opening vistas of opportunities for economic empowerment and generation of jobs for professionals, technocrats, educated unemployed besides skilled and unskilled workforce.

The NDPI president exuded confidence that the J&K people will become part of the country's growth story by extending their support to the landmark initiatives being taken by the government for heralding a new era of development. Peace, he said, is imperative for achieving these objectives.

## BJP is committed to serve humanity: Rekha

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 12: District President BJP Jammu South Rekha Mahajan along with Dy Mayor JMC Baldev Singh Billowaria inaugurated a free medical camp at Gadigarh Roi Morh, Radha Krishna Mandir falls under District Jammu South. The program was organized and coordinated by Mandal President Gadigadh Vijay Sharma in collaboration with a team of doctors and medical staff.

Rekha disclosed that on "Samajik Nayay Pakhwada" the Bharatiya Janata Party intends to reach out to commoners through medical camps being organized even at district levels as well as in Mandal levels. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir organized various medical camps across Jammu & Kashmir union territory under "Sewa Pakhwada" Rekha added. Rekha said that the maximum medical camps were organized in the areas where free medical facilities are

not easily accessible. In addition to routine diagnosis, free medicines were distributed under the "Sewa Hi Sanghathan" campaign. BJP Jammu district organized the camps for free distribution of immunity booster medicines in collaboration with the AYUSH department, and on the spot, there were free diagnostics at some places and registration for future free or discounted surgeries were also done in these camps, she said.

To mark the Sewa Saptah District President BJP Jammu South Rekha Mahajan also attended various programs in Jammu District South. She said that similar camps for free health Check and providing medicines were organized in all the Mandals of District Jammu South In addition to this employment awareness program in Satwari Govt boys high school, which was organized by Yuva Morcha Gandhi Nagar Mandal in coordination with Mandal President Baldev Billowaria said, that as per

the party's motto on sewa saptah to serve and reach out to the common populace besides providing good medicines and the best Medicare facilities at their doorsteps, BJP leadership under Mokal Sarkar has started this missionary mode Free Medical Camps for the poor & down-trodden.

Baldev has also applauded the Doctors including medical attendants for providing day and night service unconditionally and for providing respite to the common man by conducting various tests like Lipid Profile, Sugar, BP, and ECG free of cost.

Among those who were present at the camp included Mandal President Mulkh Raj Sharma, District Vice President Shalu Gupta, District Secretaries Rohan Chandan, Puumi Choudhary, Vikas Sharma Under Khajuria, B R Sharma, Bharat Sharma, Pushkar Sharma Makhan Singh, and other prominent.

## FCS&CA imposes of Rs.10k on 17 erring traders for violating ECA-1955

LANUNCHES MASSIVE DRIVE WITHIN THE VICINITY OF SRINAGAR CITY

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 12: The Enforcement squad of this Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department today launched a massive drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City i.e., Habba

Kadal, Rainawari, Nowshara, Zaidial, Botshah Mohalla, Sarabiala, Bemina, Shalteng, Budshah Nagar and Nowgarn areas.

During the course of action as many as 92 establishments were inspected, out of which 17 erring traders were penalized with a sum of

Rs.10100 for violating Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955.

The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well & whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice. In case of any complaint, people may contact the toll free number 18001807011.

## Preparation for SAJY-2023: DC visits Yatra Transit Camp Shadipora

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Wednesday visited Yatra Transit Camp Shadipora to review the status of preparation for the Shrī Anarnath Ji Yatra (SAJY)-2023.

The DC reviewed the arrangements being put in place and directed the concerned officers to ensure all required arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the Yatra so that the pilgrims do not face any problem.

He directed for maintenance of

proper sanitation and cleanliness and proper drinking water at the yatra transit camp besides proper accommodation.

The DC inspected the upgraded accommodation facilities and said that all the necessary facilities shall be put in place well in advance.

He said last year various Departments and locals worked jointly to ensure hassle free yatra and said that in the upcoming yatra of this year locals will be engaged to boost the business activities and to provide facilities to pilgrims.

Dr. Owais said that more infra-structures shall be developed at the

transit camp to ensure accommodation and other facilities to the maximum number of pilgrims.

He urged the officers to work with zeal and in complete coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the Shrī Anarnath Ji Yatra 2023.

The DC was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Lakhay Sharma, Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, SDM Sumbal Amir Choudhary, Jf Planning Intiyaz Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B Sumbal, Executive Engineer PDD Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and other senior officers of the district.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Commuters longing for safe highway travel

It has been a long yearning for commuters to have a safe and trouble-free journey on Jammu-Srinagar highway—a vital surface link between Kashmir and the rest of the world as the road remains frequently closed due to landslides and shooting stones at various vulnerable stretches. Though work on highway widening was started more than a decade ago, it is yet to be executed despite the fact that it was targeted to be completed within five years from its commencement. The highway stretch between Ramban and Banihal has remained the most problematic one because of having the highest number of shooting stones and landslide prone areas. What is more disappointing for highway users is that they will have to wait till 2025, as per the deadline set by NHAI, for the completion of a four-laning project which was scheduled to be completed by 2016 at the time of its start. To ensure a safe journey for travelers on the treacherous 36-km-long Ramban-Banihal section along Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has planned to make three important tunnels on the stretch operational by March next year. Two tunnels, having a total length of 1,680 meters, are expected to be completed and thrown open for travelling in March this year. These tunnels will bypass "killer spots" with landslides and shooting stone prone areas along the stretch. Work on Tunnel T-5 to bypass Panthyal (vulnerable to shooting stones) on NH-44 has been accelerated so that it becomes operational by March 15 this year. Countdown has already begun. Another important Kunfer tunnel in Ramban is also expected to be completed by March 31 this year. Kunfer tunnel with a total length of 880-meter would bypass the 2.9-km-long problematic shooting stone area on the highway. The 800-m Mehar tunnel would be ready by March next year and it would bypass around 800-meter shooting stone area on the highway. The NHAI prepared a detailed project report worth Rs 2,000 crore to the Centre for re-alignment of 14-km four-laning road stretch on Ramban-Banihal section to bypass half-a-dozen 'killer spots' to make it an all-weather road. The re-alignment of road was finalized between village Marog and Makarkote in Ramban. A total of 14 tunnels are being constructed on the 79-km-long Udhampur-Banihal stretch comprising three tunnels between Udhampur and Ramban section and 11 along Ramban-Banihal stretch to ensure all-weather road connectivity to Kashmir Valley. According to reports as a part of the realignment package between Ramban and Banihal, three tunnels ranging from 400 metres to 800 metres are to be constructed to bypass critical stretches on the highway. The NHAI should expedite the work on widening of the highway and ensure that it should be completed within stipulated time. The government should independently review the progress of widening work so that accountability is fixed for any further delay.

GROWING TAIWAN-US RELATIONS RILE BEIJING

TAIWANESE ANALYSTS AND CITIZENS ARE AWARE OF THE DETERIORATING SINO-US RELATIONS. THEY AND MANY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS APPREHEND THAT THIS RAISES THE CHANCES OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO. THE TAIWANESE DON'T WANT TAIWAN TO BECOME ANOTHER UKRAINE. COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE TO TAKE SIDES.

JAYADEVA RANADEMANO JOSHI

CROSS-STRAIT tensions are escalating as Taiwan's national elections, scheduled for January next year, draw closer. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's stopover in the US last week provoked China to take the promised 'robust countermeasures', vividly demonstrating its military capabilities and further raising tensions.

Ever since the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Tsai Ing-wen took over as Taiwan's President in May 2016, Beijing has been upset at the turn Taiwan's politics has taken. Tsai Ing-wen herself has been cautious, though deliberate, in her moves to preserve Taiwan as a distinct political entity. She has, at the same time, adhered to the DPP's principles on Taiwan's status and not yielded ground on the 1992 Consensus. Her Southbound Policy, for instance, is non-confrontational and seeks to broaden Taiwan's diplomatic and trade interactions while diversifying its economy and reducing dependence on the People's Republic of China. These are long-range moves which will benefit Taiwan and its business community, but are unlikely to yield short-term political dividends. She has simultaneously been firm in preserving the identity of Taiwan and its people as a separate entity.

Tsai Ing-wen's caution has not met with an equally calibrated response from Beijing. Beijing has rallied against her for not agreeing to the 1992 Consensus and its warnings have ranged from intemperate threats of direct action against individual leaders, including their decapitation, to put pressure on Taiwan's economy and Taiwanese businessmen residing in China.

The growing warmth in Taiwan's relations with the US, when Sino-US relations are deteriorating, is agitating Beijing and adding to tensions. There is concern in Beijing that the US may change its policy on China. Chinese President Xi Jinping has also pursued a more aggressive policy towards China's neighbours, including Taiwan, since becoming President in 2012. At the 20th Party Congress last October and again at the National People's Congress (NPC) plenum last month, Xi reiterated his pledge for the reunification of China "in the new era". This has been accompanied by a strong implication of the use of military force.

China's new Premier Li Qiang, in his first remarks to the press after his appointment at the NPC, however, made no reference to the reunification of Taiwan with China. Instead, he focused on people-to-people and business contacts, implying that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will re-energise United Front activities in Taiwan. An example is the recent visit of former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou — the first by either a serving or retired Taiwanese leader — to China after which he reportedly



claimed the "1992 Consensus has come back to life." A pronounced uptick in the CCP's United Front activities as part of China's two-pronged effort at reunification can be anticipated prior to the elections.

The then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei in 2022 marked a critical moment in China's relations with the US and Taiwan. Within days of her leaving Taiwan, China organised a massive air-sea military exercise to demonstrate the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) capabilities, including to show it can effectively blockade Taiwan. Almost each day since then PLA Air Force (PLAAF) fighter jets and PLA Navy (PLAN) warships have entered the Taiwan Strait and occasionally crossed the median line.

In his work report to the 20th Party Congress last October, Xi said the PLA "will enable us to shape our security posture, deter and manage crises and conflicts and win local wars."

The PLA officer who planned and supervised the operations, General He Weidong, was 'helicoptered' by Xi into the CCP Politburo and appointed one of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military Commission (CMC). China has also ramped up theatre and provincial-level war preparedness, military amphibious exercises etc. and initiated other measures, including cheque-book diplomacy.

Promptly on Tsai Ing-wen's return from the US, China again launched massive air-sea military exercises aimed at Taiwan. Its PLA Eastern Theatre Command announced 'round-the-island' operations in the Taiwan Strait from April 8 to 10. On April 8, China's state-owned CCTV telecast footage from the military exercises around Taiwan and the following day of the

military's simulated precision strikes against Taiwan.

On April 9, Taiwan's defence ministry reported that they had spotted 58 Chinese aircraft as well as nine warships around Taiwan. Later, reports said, 71 PLAAF fighter aircraft and nine warships were engaged in military exercises for what the Chinese military called the 'encirclement' of Taiwan. The PLA has obviously begun 'shaping' China's security environment.

But a major impediment to Beijing's plans is the US. Whether Beijing will launch an offensive against Taiwan depends on its assessment of whether the US will intervene on Taiwan's behalf. A recent report by a Chinese think tank, the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, said the US had intensified military operations in the South China Sea in the past two years.

According to it, a large US recon aircraft undertook about 1,000 sorties into the South China Sea region with some as close as 13 nautical miles from the baseline of China's mainland territorial waters. Another report claimed that China's nuclear energy sector is being targeted in a cyber-espionage campaign.

Taiwanese analysts and citizens are aware of the worsening Sino-US relations. They and many international observers apprehend that this raises the chances of a conflict between the two. The Taiwanese don't want to see Taiwan become another Ukraine; countries in the region would prefer not to have to take sides — at least till they are sure of the winning side! Meanwhile, with the rapid deterioration in the China-US ties, there is a growing probability of a clash at sea between the navies of the US and China in the near future.

Milk war takes centre stage in poll-bound Karnataka

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

IT is easy to forecast poll trends, but difficult to foretell the outcome — this holds as true for Karnataka as for any other state.

An issue that lurked around the corner since December 2022 sprung back with an intensity that will not be to the BJP's liking. The BJP, ruling Karnataka since July 2019, is looking at another term in office after a messy tenure marked by wholesale defections from the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) or JD(S) — which together gave a short-lived coalition government — unending demands from the deserters, two Chief Ministers neither of who was allowed to strike roots, corruption allegations and the perception that the communal situation had deteriorated. The BJP's thrust to conflate the state polls with a national referendum on the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'achievements' had an unexpected fallout that took the electioneering's focus from the national to a regional issue and touched the heart of Kannadiga 'pride'.

The genesis of the issue dates back to December 30, 2022, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah was in Cojlagalur, Mandya district, to inaugurate a Rs 260-crore dairy plant. Shah, who is also the Cooperation Minister, lauded Karnataka for the rapid strides made in the milk cooperative sector. He said, "I come from a

The controversy hit the BJP harder because Old Mysuru in south-central Karnataka is the hub of the dairy business. It's also the region which the BJP has focused upon seriously in the past few years because it is traditionally a JD(S)-Congress stronghold. The Vokkaligas, one of the two dominant communities, have generally not voted for the BJP because the party has commanded near-total support of the rival community, the Lingayats.



state (Gujarat) where the White Revolution changed farmers' destiny...I want to assure farmers that Amul and Nandini can work together to set up primary dairies in every village of India so that in three years not one village will be without a primary dairy. I want to tell the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) that technical support, cooperative support and Amul's functioning know-how will be available...and Gujarat and Karnataka together will work towards making farmers prosperous." Nandini is the brand name under which the KMF markets its products and is regarded as a success story. Movie superstars Dr Rajkumar, Upendra and Puneeth Rajkumar were Nandini's brand ambassadors at various times. Opposition leaders and former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and HD Kumaraswamy promptly reacted, calling Shah's speech an affront to the pride and self-respect of Kannadigas. Stung by their criticisms, Karnataka BJP leaders privately ruled out an Amul-Nandini merger which the Congress and JD(S) hinted at. Although dairy farming is becoming less lucrative, Karnataka has always been sensitive, even protectionist, about its role models.

The controversy hit the BJP harder because Old Mysuru in south-central Karnataka is the hub of the dairy business. It is also the region which the BJP has focused upon seriously in the past few years because it could never break into Old Mysuru — traditionally a JD(S) and Congress stronghold. The Vokkaligas, one of the two dominant communities, have generally not voted for the BJP because it commanded the near-total support of the rival community, the Lingayats. Old Mysuru houses the Mysuru, Mandya,

Chamarajanagar, Hassan and Ramnagara areas of which Hassan is the citadel of HD Deve Gowda, the JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister, while DK Shivakumar, the Karnataka Congress president, reigns over Ramnagara. The BJP set a target of winning four seats in each of the districts.

It realised if it has to cross the hump and get a majority on its own, it must breach Old Mysuru.

Although its leaders averred that 'development' was their only plank

from 'start to end', faith-related issues, which fetch dividends in the BJP's original bastions in the coastal belt of north and south Karnataka as well as Shivamogga and Chikmagalur, overshadowed the tenure of BS Bommai, who replaced BS Yediyurappa as the CM in July 2021. The net result is while the BJP is battling corruption allegations, it has kept its core Hindutva base happy by passing a law banning dog slaughter, curbing religious conversions and inter-religious marriages to check the so-called love 'jihad', backing the RSS's campaign against Muslim women for wearing the hijab to schools and colleges and threatening to bring in the Yogi Adityanath 'model' of demolishing properties of minorities if they 'defied' legal injunctions. Defensive over the BJP's charge of 'appeasing' Muslims and Christians', the Congress and JD(S) remained muted about the Hindutva drive. The imperodables for the BJP are the extent of backing for former CM Yediyurappa from the powerful Lingayat community even after he demitted office, Bommai's acceptability among the Lingayats, the BJP's ability to coax the support of other groupings like the Vokkaligas, backward

castes and Dalits, efficacy of the communal card and credibility of the double-engine narrative.

If the shadow of Yediyurappa still looms large over the BJP, the Congress grapples with the power play manifest in the scarcely concealed intent of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to get the CM's throne. The stirrings were visible after the Congress released its list of nominees. Shivakumar got the ticket from his earlier seat, Kanakapura, while Siddaramaiah was nominated from Varada, a seat that his son Yathindra won in 2018. In the process, Siddaramaiah's legacy was checkedmate. Although projected as a 'mass' leader by the cheer brigade, Siddaramaiah's victory margins in elections have been pathetic.

He won his last election from Badami by a whisker and lost the second seat, Chamundeshwari. Congress workers in both places made it demonstrably clear that he was unwanted. The Shivakumar-Siddaramaiah duo represents two opposing castes, the Vokkaliga and the backward caste Kuruba, respectively, but the rainbow coalition the Congress looks to put together may not work on the ground.

# SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU ON THE PAN-INDIA SUCCESS OF SOUTH ACTORS: THIS INCLUSIVITY IS QUITE AMAZING

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is now a pan-India star but there was a time when she and other actors from the south weren't considered to be stars. In an interview, the actress talked about how the regional language film industries have come up in the forefront in recent years, with several Tamil, Telugu and Kannada films leaving major Hindi movies behind, in terms of box office success.

To say the least, at a time when Hindi cinema was considered to be at the pinnacle, regional films like 'RRR', 'KGF: Chapter 2', 'Pushpa: The Rise', 'Kantara' and others have managed to change the narrative.

During an interview with Gulte, Samantha said, "It's absolutely wonder-



ful. There were times when we south actors couldn't source garments from designers because they were like, 'Who

are you? South actor? What south?" She added, "We've come a long way from there, haven't we? This inclusivity is quite amazing, and we're now finally where we should be."

Samantha said that while her career has been marred by several ups and downs, she is happy with the decision to be an 'open book'. This prepared her for the worst. It's the time she was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition, for her dealing with the separation from ex-husband Naga Chaitanya.

Nonetheless, the actress rose to nationwide fame with her special number in 'Pushpa', and her much-loved performance in the second season of Prime Video's 'The Family Man'. She is now being seen in the big budget historical drama 'Shakuntalam', and has romantic film 'Kutub', and the Indian spinoff of Prime Video's 'Citadel' in the pipeline.

## Vetrimaaran confirms working with Jr NTR for upcoming film: 'Won't collaborate with him for star value'

Filmmaker Vetrimaaran, who has so far collaborated with Dhanush on multiple occasions, has confirmed that he will join hands with Jr NTR for a yet-untitled upcoming project. He also said that he won't collaborate with Jr NTR for the star value but for the suitable content that would require him.

Vetrimaaran, who was in Hyderabad on Tuesday to promote the Telugu dubbed version release of his latest Tamil film Viduthala: Part 1, interacted with the media. As part of the interaction, he was asked about the rumours about working with Jr NTR.

"Collaboration will make sense to me and I will not collaborate just for the star value or the combination value. I will only collaborate for a content that will demand a star like him. So that much I can say," Vetrimaaran said.

Several fans reacted to the video and shared their excitement over the collaboration. A person wrote, "This will be an epic collaboration. Two powerhouses coming together (sic)." Another fan said, "Can't wait for this project to take off (sic)." As part of the same interaction, Vetrimaaran confirmed that he met and pitched a story idea to Jr NTR.

He also added that their project will take time to take off as both of them are currently occupied with their respective assignments. Last year, reports emerged for the first time that Vetrimaaran had met Jr NTR to pitch a story idea. Jr NTR is currently busy with the shoot of his next yet-untitled Telugu film with director Koratala Siva. Dubbed NTR 30, the project marks the Telugu debut of Janhvi Kapoor. The film will release later this year.

## Shakti Arora: TV actors are conditioned to perform under pressure, which is not true for artistes on other platforms

After quitting the long-running show Kundali Bhagya, actor Shakti Arora has decided to venture into the OTT space and explore his untapped potential. But many artistes before him have talked about the discriminatory behaviour that TV actors often deal with when they decide to make a shift towards another platform.

Asked if Arora has noticed a similar pattern, he says, "Koi director aapko ye muh par nahin bolta hai ki aapne TV me kaam kara hai toh hum aapko kaam nahi denge. Par yeh baatein hoti hain casting agents mein. Film or ad directors do not sit and watch television. They do not know who is from which platform. All they care about is performance."

Though the actor admits he fails to understand the reason behind such "unfair treatment" by casting agents, he maintains that TV actors are better performers than most other artistes across platforms.

"They (TV actors) are conditioned to perform under pressure. We get the scripts on the same day and sometimes, it's changed just 15 minutes before the shoot. Yet we manage to prepare for the scene



and perform it to the best of our ability. We are very spontaneous artistes and that's our strength. So even if we get a film script or that of an OTT project, we can memorize a 2 page dialogue within no time and deliver," he shares, adding, "Unlike us, actors on other platforms get bound scripts as well as the time to rehearse a hundred times. There are many big actors who even use teleprompters to read dialogues. Hence, I do not understand why TV actors are looked down upon even then."

Willing to work across platforms, Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi actor points out how there is an order of preference when it comes to different platforms. "An actor is open for all the mediums - films, OTT, Television and advertisements. No actor will tell you ki mujhe sirf TV karna hai ya mujhe films mil rahi hai par me bas OTT karna chahta hun. But there is an order of preference. Any artiste would first choose films, then comes OTT followed by ads and TV and I would also go in that particular order if offered good projects," says Arora who is already on the hunt for good opportunities and has been auditioning for such roles since past one month.

## 'Jubilee' Actor Wamiqa Gabbi On Casting Couch: Personally Not Faced Anything Like This, Call Myself Fortunate

Actress Wamiqa Gabbi has been part of projects like 'Graham', 'Modern Love Mumbai', 'Khufiya' and 'Fursat', but it is her latest project 'Jubilee', which has made her the centre of attention. She is seen as Niloufer Qureshi in the Vikramaditya Motwane-directed series, which dropped its five episodes last Friday.

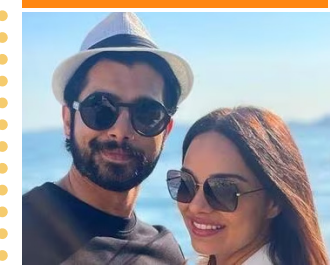
In the show, she plays a courtesan, who is sold off to a brothel after the Partition but ends up escaping, only to carve her own path. Next up, Siddhant Gupta's character Jay Khanna, casts her in his big film, and she rises to be a star. One of her dialogues in the show is 'Film banane ke liye kisi na kisi ke sath sath padhita hai, ya sharer se ya imaan se (You need to compromise to make a film, either physically or morally)', clearly hinting at the casting couch in Bollywood.

Now, in a recent chat with Indian Express, Wamiqa mentioned how it is not only about films but any industry, and revealed how she's been lucky to not experience anything like this. "I have personally not faced anything like this, and I call myself fortunate. I have grown up in a very protected environment and have always had my family's support. I have no connection to the film industry and my dad always says I was lucky to have gotten good work. To be honest, we all hear about these things and I have wondered how I would have reacted if this was to happen to me. As a woman, you always think about it," she said.

Wamiqa added that the casting couch never gets spoken about, and said, "It happens everywhere but no one gets to know about it."

As actors, we are accessible and even share it on platforms so people know it happens. Otherwise, I know about my friends who are in corporations and have faced similar situations. Bollywood aise hi badnaam hai sirf (Bollywood is only defamed).

## Sharad Malhotra and Ripci Bhatti are giving their marriage another chance, confirm sources



Not all is well in actor Sharad Malhotra and Ripci Bhatti's marriage. We have exclusively learnt that the actor, who got married to the Delhi-based designer in 2019, hit a rough patch recently. However, after a lot of deliberation, they have decided to give their relationship another chance.

According to a source from Malhotra's social circle, the reason which led to turbulent times in their relationship was their individualistic personalities.

"They both have very individualistic personalities, which has been the reason behind their issues since the start. There is no doubt that the relationship started with a lot of love, but recently, they really hit a rough patch, which made everyone close to them worry about their future together," confirms a source to us.

In fact, their always-on-the-go lifestyle was also one of the reasons which took a toll on the marriage. "They both are very focussed on their respective careers, and travelling most of the time. So it was leading to a distance between them, which led to frustration and rift," adds the source. However, they are not willing to give up so easily, and are working on their differences. "I started by them travelling together as much as possible, which was evident when Ripci went to Sharad to Goa recently. They also moved to a new place in January, hoping that a new place will add new energy to their bond. The same has started to reflect in Sharad's social media also, as he posted a moment with wife recently after a long time. Their decision to work on their marriage also comes after their discussion with their families.



## DEBINA BONNERJEE: I ant to stay at home with my kids because mom's guilt is real

Mom of two girls, actor Debina Bonnerjee is currently enjoying spending time with her kids and is in no hurry to head back to work. And it's not because her kids are dependent on her; it's just her desire to be with them in the crucial years.

"I am not in a hurry to resume work, perhaps I will start in a couple of months. At the moment, I am not in the best of my energy. My little one (Divisha) is on breast milk at the moment, and I want to be with her. When she starts eating solid, I can spend more time away from home. I will think of resuming work only after that," Bonnerjee tells us.

The Alladin - Naam Toh Suna Hoga actor feels it is crucial to spend the growing up years with kids. "When somebody in my home tells me that my kids are so attached to you or that

she didn't sleep when I was not there. For instance, there was an evening event recently, and we came home really late, and got to know that one of the daughters did not sleep at all. It is not one sided. I am also equally attached to them. I am constantly thinking about what they are doing, or what they are eating. I also want to be with them, and spend time with her," she says.

Sponsored The 39-year-old mentions that "mother's guilt" strikes hard, and that it is not an easy task to overcome it. "Although we keep motivating each other, the guilt comes from within and it's very natural. It is because we want to give more than 100% to our kids. And you want to be there when they take their first step, and for all the other special moments.

## Whe- Katri- a Kaif was asked if ex Ra- bir Kapoor's mom Neetu Kapoor 'really dislikes her', cropped her out of family pic

Neetu Kapoor had recently shared a cryptic post on Instagram Stories about dating, which a section of social media users said was a dig at actor-son Ranbir Kapoor's ex-girlfriend, Katrina Kaif. Now, an old video of Katrina is grabbing attention, where she responded to the statement, "Rumour is that Ranbir's mother Neetu doesn't like you."

Recently, Reddit account Bolly Blinds N Gossip shared an old video of Katrina Kaif from a 2015 event, where

Katrina said she was 'stumped' as she replied to a question about 'rumours' of Neetu disliking her. Katrina and Ranbir married for a few years. Ranbir married actor Alia Bhatt in April last year, and they welcomed daughter Raha Kapoor months later. In 2021, Katrina married actor Vicky Kaushal.

In an old video, Katrina was asked at India Today Conclave about her reaction to rumours of Neetu Kapoor 'disliking' her. Katrina had then said, "I am just stumped, hold on a second. You know, the reason and the person responsible for

these rumours, as you are saying, would be me. I would take the full blame for that. You may ask why. The reason is because since the last eight or nine years, I have chosen not to comment on my personal life, whoever or whatever it is - the people or the man in my life. Because I think it's the easier way for me to be, there's no hard and fast reason why. I am a sensitive person. I have a hard time accepting the truths and realities sometimes that affect us all in matters of love, and having to share that with the public as well. It is just

something I have chosen to do. Because I have kept everything as closely guarded, as much as possible, you are leaving too much room for everyone and the public to speculate like this." Katrina had further said, "If you specifically ask me about my relationship with Ranbir's mother as a woman and as an actress, with whom I have interacted, she is a beautiful, stunning lady with phenomenal grace and just somebody whom I have great admiration for. Somebody who started her

career at a very young age, and worked amazingly and successfully in her career, and chose to get married to a man she greatly loved. I think that she is a fantastic person. In fact, everyone I've met from his (Ranbir's) family has been lovely, fascinating. Not only Neetu ji, but also his father Rishi ji (Rishi Kapoor), with whom I worked in Namaste London. We hit it off very well in the film. He was such a darling person. He would take me out for dinner in the evening, guide me..."



# I tried this Pamela Reif 10-minute ab workout — here's what happened to my core

If you're looking for a 10-minute ab workout, Pamela Reif is your girl. With over 9 million subscribers on her YouTube channel, Reif is an efficient trainer — she gets straight into the workout, and performs the exercises in real time, making it easy to follow along. Can you torch your core in 10 minutes? I unrolled my yoga mat to find out more.

As a fitness editor, I'm no stranger to Reif's workouts. In fact, you can read what happened when I tried her famous six-minute ab workout with over 21 million views here. I'm a fan of how short and snappy Reif's workouts are — they sculpt into your core without you needing to spend hours in the gym, plus, you can fit them in on your lunch break.

In the caption to this killer six-pack workout, Reif writes that the workout targets "lower abs, upper abs and side abs", that it's an advanced workout, and that it's "100% suitable for men". You don't need any equipment for the workout, so pop those best adjustable dumbbells to one side (or check out this 15-minute dumbbells ab workout if you do want to use them).

Looking for more workout inspiration? Read what happened when this writer did 50 Russian Twists every day for a week, and when we tried this 7-minute resistance band glutes workout.

What is the Pamela Reif 10-minute ab workout?

The Pamela Reif 10-minute ab workout is a series of 20 body-weight exercises, held for 30 seconds each. The video has a timer in the top right corner, allowing you



to follow along in real-time. When it comes to form, Reif writes, "make sure to keep your lower back flat on the mat. Only lower your legs as far as possible, so your lower back is not lifting off the mat." Reif also recommends lowering your head back to the mat if you feel like any of the exercises are putting too much pressure on your neck. She also recommends thinking about your abs for the entire workout — "it's about the mind-muscle connection. Lift your legs with the strength of your abs, not your thighs".

As the workout is only 10-minutes long, there aren't any breaks, although if you're a beginner, or you're returning to exercise after an injury, feel free to pause the video and take a break whenever you need.

The workout is easy to follow along with, but if you like to prepare yourself beforehand, it includes the following exercises:

Cross knee and leg lift: For this crunch variation, Reif has one leg

straight, and the other crossed over, with the knee pointing out to the side, almost like a figure-four stretch. Keeping the lower leg straight, engage from your abs and crunch your torso up towards your legs. Lower back down to your starting position and repeat.

Reverse crunch one leg drop: Another Pamela classic — doing two moves in one. For this exercise, complete a reverse crunch, then once you have lowered your glutes back down to the mat, lower one extended leg out away from your body. Raise it back to the ceiling, then

complete another reverse crunch. Reif wasn't lying when she said this workout was advanced — a few exercises in and my core was shaking. Turns out, I wasn't alone, a quick glance through the video's comments confirmed this was a challenging workout, with one person writing, "It's when the plank feels like the easiest exercise that you realize it's working".

A lot of the abdominal exercises were challenging, combining two different exercises in one for a real burn. While 30-seconds is a relatively short rep, the lack of break turns this workout into a slow build — you really feel it in no time.

As someone who suffers from sciatica, I have to be mindful during ab workouts to ensure I'm not arching my lower back. The majority of this workout was done lying on the floor, however, I found I had to reduce the range of motion in a few moves, or raise my legs higher to ensure my back stayed pressed against the ground.

# SILENT KILLERS IN YOUR KITCHEN THAT CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH BADLY



We are always advised to eat nutritious food, preferably, home-cooked food instead of packed food or eating out. But are all the things in our home kitchens healthy? The answer is No. There are some ingredients in our kitchens too — that act as silent killers or in other words are very harmful to our health.

Sugar: Sugar in its concentrated form is poisonous because it causes swelling in the joints, liver, and brain. If you have an injury or a chronic illness, sugar will impede your body's healing. Sugar provides energy to cancer cells and all infectious diseases. It also inhibits the absorption of nutrients, particularly all minerals.

Flour: Research has proven that all purpose

flour is very harmful to the body. Frequent consumption of foods which include refined flour leads to weight gain. Not only this, flour also increases cholesterol levels and boosts blood triglycerides. Refined flour is acidic because the fibre and protein from it are reduced drastically during its preparation. Flour weakens the bones because calcium is absorbed by the flour.

Salt: Excessive consumption of salt is extremely harmful to your heart health. A study conducted by the WHO has revealed that an increase in incidence of strokes was observed in people who consume too much salt. According to the WHO report, approximately 11 million people die annually from poor food, of which three million of

these die because of excessive salt consumption.

Oil: People who love fast food or oily snacks are more likely to suffer from diabetes along with obesity. Apart from this, the amount of fat in the body increases due to consumption of excessive oil. Incidents of abdominal pain, bloating, diarrhoea and vomiting may also occur. Consuming oily foods increases the risk of a heart attack as it increases blood pressure and cholesterol in the body.

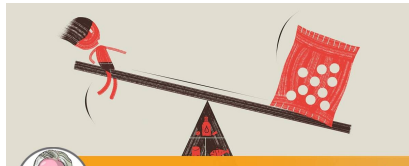
These are ingredients which have always had a pride of place in most kitchens. Since more and more studies indicate that consumption of these foods is bad for health, we must make a conscious change towards a healthier lifestyle or else be prepared to cough up hefty medical bills in future.

# WHY WE NEED TO FOCUS ON NUTRITION, NOT HUNGER

Every October, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) is released. It generally creates an uproar, and with good reason. But this time it has gone overboard. The fountainhead is a 16-year-old German and Irish organisation, which measures and ranks countries on a hunger index at the global, regional, and national levels, but not at the sub-national level where some Indian states fare better. The GHI's stated aim is to reduce hunger around the world. But its methodology focuses disproportionately on less than five-year-olds. In common parlance, hunger and nutrition are two different things. Hunger is associated with food scarcity and starvation. It produces images of emaciated people holding empty food bowls. GHI uses childhood mortality and nutrition indicators. But its preamble states "communities, civil society organisations, small producers, farmers, and indigenous groups...

shape how access to nutritious food is governed." This suggests that GHI sees hunger as a food production challenge when, according to the FAO, India is the world's largest producer and consumer of grain and the largest producer of milk when the per capita intake of grain, vegetables and milk has increased manifold. It is, therefore, contentious and unacceptable to club India with countries facing serious food shortages, which is what GHI has done.

The sensational use of the word hunger is abhorrent given the facts. But there is no denying that in India, nutrition, particularly child nutrition, continues to be a problem. Unlike the GHI, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) does a good job of providing comparative state-level data, including the main pointers that determine health and nutrition. NFHS provides estimates of underweight, (low weight for age), stunting (low height for age)



and wasting (low weight for height). These conditions affect preschool children (those less than 6 years of age) disproportionately and compromise a child's physical and mental development while also increasing the vulnerability to infections. Moreover, undernourished mothers (attributable to social and cultural practices) give birth to low-birth-weight babies that remain susceptible to infections, transporting their handicaps into childhood and adolescence. The jury is divided on the

causes and solutions. Leela Visaria, a noted sociologist, links the nutritional status of young children with the post-neonatal phase when children suffer from acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases. Sanitation and hygiene require much more work, she says. The Director of the Nutrition Foundation of India Prema Ramachandran says, "the Body Mass Index test is the best way of identifying both thin and overweight kids and the ongoing Poshan Abhiyaan envisages

this." Professor V Subramanian at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health writes, "there is a need to declutter the current approaches to child undernutrition by keeping it simple.

I advise against a disproportionate focus on anthropometry (body measurements); instead, the need is to have a direct engagement with actual diet and food intake." The irony is that issues related to nutrition and their solutions, although they appear simple and cheap, need delving into individual homes.

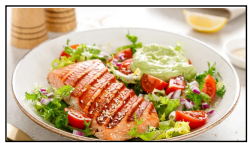
The first child nutrition challenge relates to breastfeeding. The WHO and UNICEF recommend that breastfeeding should be initiated within the first hour of birth and infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months. According to NFHS 5, in India, the percentage improvement of children who were exclusively breastfed when under six months, rose from 55 per cent in NFHS 4 to 64 per cent in

NFHS 5. That is progress, but it is not enough. By not being breastfed, an infant is denied the benefits of acquiring antibodies against infections, allergies and even protection against several chronic conditions. NFHS says that only 42 per cent of infants are breastfed within one hour of birth, which is the recommended norm. Interestingly, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra, Manipur, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana score above 70 per cent whereas the ones below 50 per cent include Bihar, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The others are in between.

The second issue relates to young child feeding practices. At root are widespread practices like not introducing semi-solid food after six months, prolonging breastfeeding well beyond the recommended six months and giving food lacking in nutritional diversity.

# 7 Clean-Eating Habits for Weight Loss, According to Dietitians

Simplify your quest to drop pounds with a plan that lifts your diet out of the dirt.



When we often make losing weight so complicated we end up quitting from sheer exhaustion or frustration. That's why calorie counting is so hard to maintain for months on end. Complicated diet strategies may work for a time, but then life happens. We get busy. We get hungry. We cut corners and reach for a candy bar. Or worse — the drive-thru.

Let's simplify your weight-loss plan a bit, shall we? We can do that by boiling it down to a simple phrase, just two easy-to-remember words that aren't just a suggestion but a command: Eat Clean.

By eating clean most of the time, you can lose weight without any feelings of deprivation, because you will quickly learn the connection between what you eat and how you feel.

Eat Clean is simply a call to action that means eating more whole foods. "Eating clean means eating whole unprocessed foods from the earth most of the time, limiting junk food and committing to a whole food, minimally processed, mindful diet," says registered dietitian nutritionist Amy Shapiro, RD, founder of Real Nutrition

## 1 NYC.

If the Eat Clean mantra isn't enough to get you started on your path to a healthier diet, try establishing these 7 clean eating habits to start losing weight right now. And then avoid the temptation of the Worst Guilty Pleasure Foods on the Planet.

### 1 Take a baby step.

Start eating cleaner by cleaning up just one meal. Choose breakfast, for example. First, take an inventory of all the breakfast foods you typically eat in a typical week. Write them down. How many are packaged or processed foods? Now, pick a day to start and replace most if not all of those processed foods with smarter swaps, two scrambled eggs instead of breakfast sausage for protein, for example, oatmeal for sweetened cold cereal, whole-wheat toast for a bagel. "Getting into the habit of clean eating is just a matter of thinking before you put a fork in it," says Shapiro.

### 2 Go whole hog, minus the hog.

If "Eat Clean" is your verse, make "Whole Food" your chorus. "Whole foods are rich in fiber, often

water and nutrients to slow digestion, help us to feel full longer, and decrease sugar cravings," says Shapiro. Eat lots of vegetables and fruits and choose whole grains over white grains. "Ultimately, whole foods 'crowd out' less healthy foods. We tend to eat less and smaller portions of whole foods than we do processed foods that are created to make us crave more."

### 3 Eat naked.

Avoid as many foods that come in packages as you can. "The idea of clean eating can help to decrease additives in foods like sodium, sugar, and fat that are typically added to overly processed items," says nutritionist Kim Pierce, RD, a certified diabetes care and education specialist and owner of The Outdoors Dietitian.

### 4 Add, don't subtract.

Try this mind trick: Focus on what you're adding in by eating clean, not what you're cutting out or depriving yourself, suggests

registered dietitian nutritionist Grace A. Derocha, RD, a national spokesperson with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

For example, cut out Gummy Bears candies (pure sugar) and replace them with something naturally sweet like watermelon chunks. Derocha calls this strategy "habit stacking," adding things that are "good for your body so you're not always taking things away," she says.

### 5 Drink this, not that.

One of the easiest ways to eat clean is to drink clean, says Shapiro: "Stay hydrated with water or unsweetened beverages to feel full and decrease sugar cravings." According to Harvard researchers, drinking sugary sodas, sweet tea and other high-calorie beverages will not make you feel as full as if you had eaten the same calories from solid food and you won't likely eat less food because you paired your meal with a 150-calorie soft drink. Make a habit of whetting your whistle with water and you will lose

weight. Shapiro recommends drinking 80 to 100 ounces of water per day.

### 6 Get good at cooking.

It's very hard to eat clean if you leave the cooking up to the line cook at your favorite fast-casual restaurant. Take control of your ingredients and how they are prepared by making the meal yourself at home. "Cooking fresh protein like chicken, turkey or fish versus a product like chicken nuggets that have increased sodium and sugar, will help to limit ingredients that can lead to weight gain," says Pierce. Obviously, And it will likely save you money. Studies show that home-cooked meals are associated with diets lower in calories, sugar, and fat, but not with higher monthly expenses for food.

### 7 Make a plan when dining with friends.

Did you know that drinking alcohol gives you the munchies? Studies show that booze enhances your sensitivity to the smell of cheeseburgers, etc. But you know that. Well, did you know that when most people share a meal with friends, they end up consuming more calories than when dining solo? Some studies found that people who ate with their pals consumed up to 48% more food than when they ate alone, according to The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.





## Saurabh Bhagat inspects construction works on Sub Regional Science Centre, Lal Mandi



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 12: Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today inspected ongoing construction works being executed on upcoming Sub Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

Perthently, JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science and Technology, is establishing Sub Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar, in collaboration with National Council for Science Museums (NCSM), Union Ministry of Culture, with an estimated cost of Rs 20.00 crore. The main objective

of the Centre is to provide quality based learning environment to inculcate a spirit of inquisitiveness, foster creative talent and create scientific temper in the community as a whole. The Centre is categorized by its two channels of communication, exhibits and activities.

Saurabh Bhagat inspected the site of the Centre and took stock of construction work at the site. Officers from R&B Department including Chief Engineer, R&B, Srinagar, Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer, officers from Revenue Department including Sub District Magistrate and Tehsil, officers from JK Science,

Technology and Innovation Council including Additional Director, Joint Director, Executive Engineer were also present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary issued on spot instructions to Chief Engineer, R&B for completion of the ambitious project before March, 2024. He also directed for starting of construction work on establishment of Information Dissemination Centre which has already been approved at a total cost of Rs 3.00 crore.

The Information Dissemination Centre will provide incubation facilities for budding innovators of the UT besides providing boarding and lodging facilities for researchers and innovators.

He also emphasized upon the concerned officers for development of Exhibition Stall at the site to facilitate JKST&IC for holding of exhibitions and related events.

Chief Engineer, R&B, briefed the Commissioner Secretary about various parameters of upcoming Science Centre.

## PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organises extension lecture on "NEP 2020, entrepreneurship activities in Biotechnology"



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: A One day extension lecture on the theme "National Educational Policy 2020 and Role of trainings, innovation, Business incubators and entrepreneurship activities in Biotechnology" was today organized by Department of Biotechnology, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar.

Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator, IIIM-TBI was invited as resource person of the event held under the guidance of Principal, Prof. Mira Mahajan, Dr. Rahul Sharma, Head of Department (Biotechnology) introduced the idea and essence of New Education Policy, 2020 to the audience which primarily was composed of students of Biotechnology studying as

per NEP, 2020 curriculum. He further introduced the resource Person who delivered a vibrant talk on the role of innovation and training programs provided by CSIR-IIIM TBI. Er. Varma emphasized on the role of skill development and its importance in the curriculum as per NEP, 2020 which aimed at holistic development of the students to become assets for the future India. He further explained the importance of Business Incubators specifically TBI for the Biotechnology students. Various role models in the field were discussed who have pitched their ideas, prototypes and designs at various platforms and received training and funding to establish their startups. Er. Varma explained the type of training programs for Biotechnology students currently running in

CSIR-IIIM (TBI), methods to apply for such programs and certification the trainees obtain after successful completion of the training program. Various other activities like Hackathon were also discussed.

Students actively participated in the event and provided their deliberations about the training programs, present curriculum and need for further improvement in the current infrastructure.

Various faculty members of allied subjects like Dr. Yash Paul (Convener, IQAC), Dr. Ashok Kumar (Biochemistry) and Prof. Swarn Singh (Botany) attended the lecture. Dr. Yash thanked the resource person for delivering a wonderful talk and wished for more collaboration with the CSIR-IIIM Technology Business Incubator.

## ADDC listens to issues of people at Chawalgam



JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 12: In order to mitigate the issues and grievances of people, the District Administration Kulgam today organized special public grievance redressal camps across 3 blocks including, D.H.Pora, Devsar and Kulgam of the district.

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather presided over a grievances redressal camp held at Chawalgam, here.

During the proceedings, several deputations, individuals from different areas flagged-off their issues, grievances and demands and sought their redressal.

ADDC gave patient hearing to the people who projected different public and development related issues of their areas. ACD Mohammad Imran and other officers were also present during this grievances redressal camp at Chawalgam.

## DC Udhampur, K Jyotsna conducts extensive tour of Latti, inspects ongoing developmental works



JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 12: To take stock of ongoing developmental works and mega projects being executed in different areas, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna today conducted an extensive tour of remote areas of Pattangarh, Bandhole. She inspected the ongoing construction work of roads and bridges being executed under the PMGSY sector there.

En-route, the DC also inaugurated Model panchayat Ghar at Sira Morh in presence of PRI members, officers and locals.

The DC congratulated the people for getting the Panchayat Ghar and said, it will prove beneficial for the people in getting their developmental issues resolved in a better way.

Saying that road connectivity is a key to development of an area, she said once the area has good roads it automatically boosts the economy of the area.

During the tour, the DC inspected Gharran Dhanas and Nagulla road under PMGSY and directed the concerned department to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion.

Later, the DC also reviewed the progress of the International Yoga centre under construction at Mantalai of District Udhampur.

Executing agencies were directed to expedite the pace of work on the prestigious project and ensure its completion within the stipulated time frame.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Free Medical Camp held at Sewa Chiralla



JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 12: A free mega medical camp was held today at Village Sewa Chiralla in Medical Block Thathri. The Camp was organised by District Health Society Doda as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme and Adhbut Doda initiative of the District Administration.

The camp was held under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer, Dr A H Zargar and guidance of BMO Thathri, Dr Ghansham Singh.

The medical camp was organized with the aim to provide quality medical care and free medicines to the poor and needy people of the area at their door steps.

A team of doctors and paramedical staff including staff from MMU Doda viz Dr Rohit Katoch, Dr Pratibah, Dr Ikhlaq Hussain, Anil Kumar, Swami Raj besides local ASHAs rendered their services and examined around 100 patients who had come from different areas. Free medicines were also distributed among the patients.

## SKUAST-K distributes SR4 variety of Paddy Seed among farmers of Khag, Budgam



JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 12: SKUAST-K, today distributed high yielding paddy seed (SR4) among the farmers of Khag area of Budgam under participatory seed village programme of NSP.

The programme was jointly organized by AICRP on Seed (Crops), National Seed Project (NSP) SKUAST-K in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Budgam.

Prof. Dil Mohammad Mahdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K was the chief guest on the occasion. He stressed upon the need of adoption and dissemination of the high yielding variety released variety of Paddy. Explaining about the benefits of the SR4 paddy variety, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the variety is climate resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions.

The programme was also attended by Dr. Gowhar, (Asstt. Prof. NSP); Dr. Aftab, (Asstt. Prof. NSP); Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, (Sr. Scientist & Head KVK Budgam), scientists of the Kendra.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Gowhar deliberated upon the package of practices to be adopted for SR4 variety and thanked Director Extension and KVK Budgam for the support.

## Handholding/ Awareness programme for JJM stakeholders held at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 12: The Project Management Consultancy, Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K, in collaboration with District Jal Jeevan Mission Kulgam today conducted a day-long mega handholding cum awareness program at Resthouse Chawalgam, here.

The sessions witnessed participation of different stakeholders including PRIs, Pani Samiti members, and field staff of Jal Shakti Department, Poshan Abhiyan, Health viz. ASHAs, AWWs, District Project Management Unit JJM Staff, Implementation Support Agency, water testing lab staff and other concerned.

The programme was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said the JJM is one of the greatest flagship programme of Government of India to provide tap water connection to every household. He added that the water supply schemes coming up under JJM will resolve the shortage of drinking water supply in the district.

The ADC exhorted the stakeholders, including Pani Samitis, to



JI NEWS SERVICE

understand in detail their role and duties and adopt best practices of water management and preservation of water bodies.

He added that people need to owe the responsibility at individual and collective fronts in preserving water bodies and using water judiciously.

Earlier, representative of Implementation Support Agency (ISA) for JJM conducted a session wherein he highlighted the various aspects of Jal Jeevan Mission, water management and overall conservation measures and the importance of Jal Jeevan Mission for ensuring adequate, clean tap water to every household. IEC Experts explained in detail the role and duties of the stakeholders including Pani Samitis, PRI members, Asha and

Anganwadi workers. Anganwadi workers shared best practices of water management and rain water harvesting with the audience and motivated them to play their role in a missionary zeal towards fulfilling the vision of JJM.

Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti Kulgam, Nawaz Ahmed on the occasion highlighted the series of steps taken in the district for successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and added that there are 142 schemes consisting of 177 works including 33 Rapid Sand Filtration plants under JJM in the district.

He added that as of date 60% of connectivity in FHTCs (Functional Household Tap Connections) stands provided in District Kulgam and the rest 40% have been targeted till June 2023.

## Doda Admin meets public in Sazan, 4 other places during Block Diwas

DECKS CLEARED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LAL DRAMAN ROAD; FLAGGED AS TOP PRIORITY: DC

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 12: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom and other District officers today toured Sazan Village of Bhagwah block and interacted with public and PRIs under Block Diwas initiative of the UT administration.

Similar Public outreach, grievances redressal camps were held at Panchayat Ghar Ganota in Assar Sub Division; Village Sewa, Chiralla in Thathri Sub Division; Panchayat Trithloo in Gandoh Sub Division and Panchayat Ghar Sarna of Baderwah Sub District.

Interacting with the public at Sazan, the DC informed them that decks have been cleared for the construction of Lal Draman road by obtaining forest clearance. "The much famed tourist destination Lal Draman will be connected through an all weather road soon," he said and assured to hold Lal Draman



JI NEWS SERVICE

mela this year as was unanimously demanded by the public and the PRIs.

The DC said that six departments associated with agriculture and allied sectors shall hold three day camps in each panchayat of the district to promote holistic agricultural planning for the district.

On the issue of shortage of teaching staff at GHSS Sazan and other schools of the area, the DC directed the Chief Education Officer to rationalise the staff in the schools. Responding to the complaint about absence of health and other officials by DDC Councillor Jia Rani, the DC passed strict directions to the controlling officers to ensure their field staff remains present in the far-flung areas to serve the public for which they are being paid a handsome salary. The DC informed that electric-

ity supply in the area shall be augmented with replacement of wooden poles with steel poles and good quality wire under the RDSS scheme soon. He informed that safe drinking tap water shall be available to every household under the JJM scheme.

Other issues raised in the programme included development of trekking routes, availability of ambulances in the area, installation of crash barriers along the road etc. The DC asked the PRIs and the departments to prioritize the works which benefit the maximum number of people in the area. He reiterated that inclusive development and peace is the prime goal of the government and every citizen must contribute in realising it.

The SSP emphasised that peace is a prerequisite for the development and urged the youth to choose the path of development over drugs and other social evils. He asked them to stay vigilant and don't fall prey to t anti-national and anti-social elements. He

informed that the district police is keeping a close eye on all the activities which may be harmful for the nation and the society, and anyone found involved shall not be spared. Weekly Block Diwas program is being organised every Wednesday at different locations of the district to reach out to the people and listen to their grievances, aspirations, and demands.

The daylong Block Diwas proceedings were also witnessed at all other designated locations. Public and PRIs put forth a range of issues/ demands. They demanded augmentation of water supply and electricity, macadamization of roads, meeting dearth of staff in schools and hospitals, upgradation of schools, banking facilities in rural areas, etc. The presiding officers of the Block Diwas, along with officers incharge of all the departments, gave patient hearing to the issues and demands and have assured to resolve all the genuine demands/ issues at the earliest.

# Cycle rally held as part of SVEEP activities in Hajin



J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 12: As part of Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, the District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with District Election Officer Bandipora on Wednesday conducted a cycle rally at Hajin to raise awareness regarding various voting related activities.

The rally was jointly flagged-off by Nodal Officer Coordination

was first of its kind in the area to generate awareness among local youth and ensure maximum participation of eligible voters.

Speaking on the occasion, M. A. Hakak said the District Administration is conducting such events across the district to ensure registration of all eligible voters during the ongoing special summary revision of photo electoral rolls. Hakak urged all the eligible persons to get enrolled and become part of strengthening democratic values of the nation.

The rally was received by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora/ District Election Officer Bandipora Dr. Owais Ahmed in the presence of SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, SDM Sumbal Amir Choudhary, and other officers at Dak Banglow Sumbal.

Addressing the participants Dr. Owais said that SVEEP is aimed at voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy, and added that such programs will be carried out across the district to generate awareness among masses.

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak and Chairman MC Hajin Irshad Ahmad.

The event was also attended by Principal Govt Degree College Hajin, Tehsildar Hajin, SHO Hajin, and other concerned besides Youth of the area and general public. The cycle rally started from the Government Degree College Hajin and concluded at Dak Banglow Sumbal. The event witnessed overwhelming participation of locals, including youth, as the event

# DM Ramban chairs NCORD meeting

Stakeholders directed to compile factual data, implement directions



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 12: District Magistrate, Ramban, Mussarat Islam today sought realistic database from all stakeholder departments in coordination with Sarpanches regarding status of drug addiction and cultivation of restricted crops here at a meeting of the District-level NARCO, Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting held to review the measures taken by the enforcement agencies to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal; Additional SP Gourav Mahajan; ACR Gias-ul-Haq; ACD Ashok Katoch; CEO, Dev Anand; CMO Dr. Kamal Zadu; DFO Kuldeep Singh; DSWO,

Rahul Gupta; ARTO, Samrinder Singh, Tehsildars and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The DM directed all concerned to compile a database of persons indulged in drug addiction to facilitate them for their medical treatment and recovery to save their precious lives. He also directed ACD, CMOs, Police, Tehsildars and BDOs to submit a factual report regarding the status of drug addiction and cultivation of restricted crops used for addiction.

The DM also directed the CMO and enforcement departments to intensify inspection of chemist shops, health centres and courier service centres to restrict illegal transport, sale and distribution of psychotropic drug and

other banned substances in the district.

During the meeting a threadbare discussion was also held on various issues pertaining to incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern and hotspots of drug use and action taken by the concerned departments with regard to curb the menace of drugs.

He further underscored that the Ramban Administration has adopted a zero tolerance policy against drug suppliers and traffickers. He asked all concerned to make a micro level strategy to deal with the menace.

The DM sought ATR from all stakeholder departments about the measures taken by them to control the drug menace. He also directed them to launch a massive awareness campaign.

# Special Summary Revision-2023: Poster Making Competition held in GDC Nowshera

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 12: The District Election cell today organised a poster making competition here in Government Degree College Nowshera.

The poster making competition was organised by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, Narinder Kumar in collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club of the college and the Department of Botany. A number of students participated in the event.

The competition was organised as a part of the Special Summary Revision 2023, and aimed to promote electoral literacy among the students. The event was a great success, with the students showcasing their creativity and talent through their artwork.

Principal GDC Nowshera, Prof. K.K. Sharma, extended his full support to the Election authorities and applauded the efforts of the Nodal Officer SVEEP and the Electoral Literacy Club in organising such an event. He expressed hope that similar activities will be organised in the near future to further promote electoral literacy among the students.

The District Election Officer Rajouri also praised the students for their participation and encouraged them to continue to engage in such activities to become active and responsible citizens of the country.

The event was a significant step towards promoting electoral literacy among the youth and empowering them with the knowledge and skills to participate effectively in the democratic process.

The success of the recent poster making competition at GDC Nowshera, organised as a part of the Special Summary Revision 2023, can be attributed to the efforts of two dedicated professors - Prof Rajat Sharma and Prof Pooja Sharma.

# NCC Cadets, NSS Volunteers of GCW Parade take out Anti Drug Rally

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: NCC cadets of 2 J&K Girls Battalion along with NSS volunteers of Government College for Women, Parade Ground Jammu, in collaboration with J&K Nationalist People's Front Jammu Province, today took out an Anti-Drug awareness rally under GCO campaign.

The rally started from Shaheedi Chowk and culminated at Dogra Chowk.

The theme was to "Share Facts on Drugs and Save Lives." The rally aimed at making India a drug free country and to educate the youth not to indulge in egregious habits.

Around 50 NSS volunteers and an equal number of NCC cadets participated in the rally enthusiastically to promote the campaign for 'Nasha Mukti Bharat'.

The program was a great success under the supervision and guidance of Principal, Dr. S.P. Sarwat along with ANO Lt. Suman Lata (NCC wing) and NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Mohammad Majeed and Dr. Gurpreet Kour.

# JMC confiscates Pit Bull on complain of attack

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Jammu Municipal Corporation today confiscated a pet dog (Pit Bull) following a complaint of attack. "The complaint was received in the Veterinary section of JMC regarding attack by the dog to the neighbor and consequently a team of JMC headed by senior officers conducted a site visit and seized the dog", the JMC authorities said. Also a penalty of Rs 3000 has been imposed on the dog owner for not registering their dog with JMC.

As it is mandatory for the pet dog owners and keepers to register their pet dog with JMC in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023 and Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and for that JMC has also issued public notice for the awareness of the general public.

MVO, JMC Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma disclosed that such drives shall continue to be conducted in future also to check the registration of the pet dogs and fines/ penalties up-to Rs 5000 shall be imposed on the defaulters residing within JMC limits.

# PSPS GCW Gandhinagar organises extension lecture on "Scope of Food Processing in JK UT"

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: PG Department of Food Science and Technology in collaboration with IQAC of PSPS Government college for women Gandhi Nagar Jammu organized one day Extension Lecture on the Topic "SCOPE OF FOOD PROCESSING IN JK UT AND VARIOUS SCHEMES FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH" to enlighten the young minds towards entrepreneurship development in Food processing sector.

Dr. Anuradha Gandotra, HOD Food Science welcomed the resource person Dr. Gul Syed, Chief Canning And Processing Instructor (Dy Director), Fruit and Vegetable Craft Centre, Chand Nagar Jammu, Principal, staff and students present. Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the college was the chairperson of the event.

Dr. Gul Syed gave deep insight into the topic and motivated students to become entrepreneurs as various schemes have been launched by the government with a view towards ensuring self employment opportunities.

A total of 58 students attended the lecture. Principal Prof. Minu Mahajan appreciated the efforts of the department and encouraged students to become job providers rather than job seekers. The programme was organised by the staff members of the department and coordinated by Neha Pandita and Jaskiran Kour PG student of the department.

# Shaheed Sarfraz Memorial Cricket Tournament concludes at Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 12: Lagan Cricket Club today won the final match of Shaheed Sarfraz Memorial Cricket Tournament by defeating Hamdard Cricket Club and lifted the trophy and a cash prize of Rs 20000.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam was the Chief Guest, whereas, SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma was the guest of honour.

Commandant, IRP 16th Battalion, Ramban Pawan Parihar, Dy. Commandant Reyaz Iqbal Tantray, besides Dy.SP Anu Sharma, Dy.SP Ashok Kumar and other members of NGOs were also present on the occasion.

As many as 34 teams from different parts of the district Ramban participated in Shaheed Sarfraz Memorial Cricket Tournament 2022-23 which was organized by IRP 16th Battalion under the Civic Action Programme at IRP Headquarters.

Winner Trophies and cash prize of Rs. 20,000 was given to the winner and the runner-up was given a trophy and Rs. 10,000.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Commissioner said that the youth of Ramban district are talented in every field of sports and the District Administration, Ramban is trying its best to use their talent for the UT and the country. He lauded the role of the organizing committee for conducting such a big cricket tournament with discipline.

The DC said that with the help of the sports council various outdoor and indoor sports facilities are coming up in Ramban district. He also informed that the district administration has also identified the patch nearly 50 kanal at Neera for the stadium.

While educating the youth the Deputy Commissioner said that drug abuse is a serious problem that not only affects individuals but also families and communities as well.

# WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS PROGRAM

# DC Rajouri resolves public grievances at Trala Panchayat

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 12: Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Wednesday chaired a public outreach camp as part of the weekly Block Diwas program here at Trala Panchayat in Block Koteranka.

During the program, the people projected issues related to the macadamization of roads, up-gradation of schools, paucity of staff in government institutions, scarcity of water, and sought augmentation of health infrastructure.

Specific issues raised included the speedy implementation of JIM, provision of electricity poles and wires, extension of the road from Rehant to Bhas, early completion of work on the road from Soda to Galla, additional classrooms for GHSS Trala, and renovation of the Rajouri to Peer road.

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the concerns and issues projected by the people and assured prompt action. He directed the officials present to take necessary steps to resolve the issues on a priority basis. He also emphasized the importance of good governance and transparency in the delivery of public services and urged people to come forward and participate in such programs to ensure that their issues are addressed and



resolved in a timely manner.

Highlighting a number of Government schemes and programs, the DC said that the District Administration is committed to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the last beneficiary in the queue. The Deputy Commissioner assured that appropriate measures would be taken to ensure the time-bound redressal of the genuine public concerns.

In response to the issue of scarcity of water, the DC said that dedicated efforts are being made to complete the work on JIM schemes in time to provide necessary benefits to the general public. He also informed that the work on 31 JIM schemes out of 35 has been allotted in the block.

Responding to the issue of the shortage of classrooms in HSS Trala, the DC assured that two additional classrooms and one examination

hall will be developed in School.

The DC also directed officers to come up with solutions for the issues and provided them with necessary guidance and support. He assured the people that their problems would be resolved within a stipulated period of time.

The event was attended by a group of senior government functionaries, including ADC Koranaka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt; ARTO, Shami Kumar; and Tehsildar Koranaka, Sumit Kohli, among others.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also visited HSS Trala where he interacted with the students and enquired about the quality of education being provided to them at the institution.

# WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS

# ADDC Kishtwar listens to people's issues at Mughalmaidan; assures quality redress of grievances

J I NEWS SERVICE

# ALSO DISTRIBUTES CERTIFICATES TO MASON COURSE TRAINEES

KISHTWAR, APRIL 12: To address the grievances of the local people, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Sham Lal today presided over the weekly block Diwas programme here at TRC Mughalmaidan.

The programme was attended by several district and sectoral officers, including ACD/DFO, Sunil Bhatnagar; DSWO, Zubair Ahmed Lone; Tehsildar Mughalmaidan, Nayem Iqbal Sheikh; BDO Mughalmaidan Saima Ramzan Wani and CAO Amjad Hussain Malik, along with other sectoral officers and field functionaries of line departments besides Coordinator Bhavsar Foundation Shahid Hussain.

During the programme, local PRs presented their demands and grievances related to health-care, education, water, and power supply.

The demands included the issuance of ration cards to newly eligible households, new job cards, clearance of pending wage claims, augmentation of water supply, construction of bridge under NABARD, provision of free textbooks to local students, toilet facilities and staff in some schools, completion of Nicha Road, starting KV classes, land compensation for Tagoud Vadevana Road, legal heir certificates to PM Kissan beneficiaries, repair and upgrading of the school at Chaas, WWS Rahalhal under JIM, and a health centre at Rahalhal. The ADDC Kishtwar gave a patient hearing to the demands and assured the delegation that their grievances would be redressed in a time-bound manner. Many grievances were addressed on the spot in consultation with the concerned officials of the respective depart-



ments, while the remaining demands were forwarded to the concerned quarters for immediate resolution.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Kishtwar asked people to have faith in the administration, as it is committed to resolving the grievances of the people at their doorstep. He also encouraged people to use the online

services of various departments. He also urged people to visit the Apki Zamin Apki Nigrani portal and other customer convenience portals for their benefit.

Additionally, he informed the people that legal heirs of 179 deceased PM Kissan farmers can apply online for mutation certificates. He assured people that the online system focuses on trans-

parency and the expeditious disposal of grievances.

The ADDC appealed to parents to send their out-of-school children back to School besides encouraging eligible youth who have attained the age of 18 or 18 plus as of 1st April 2023 to register themselves as the voters in the ongoing Special Summary Revision Camps at respective polling booths or through the NVSP portal. He also called on farmers to participate in upcoming training programs starting from 24th April 2023, under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, aimed to educate farmers on the latest agricultural practices and techniques, which can help them increase their yield and profitability. The ADDC in presence of other District Officers distributed completion certificates to 120 trainees who successfully completed the PMAY- Rural Mason Training in 2020 by Bhavsar Foundation.

## DC B'gam reviews arrangements for ensuing Baisakhi, Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida & Eid-ul-Fitr festivals

**INTENSIFY MARKET CHECKING TO CURB PROFITEERING, HOARDING & BLACK MARKETING: DC TO OFFICERS**

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 12: In order to review the arrangements for ensuing celebrations of Baisakhi, Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, a meeting of senior officers of District Administration was held here today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid.

On the occasion, ADC Budgam apprised the DC about the arrangements required on auspicious occasions of Baisakhi, Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr. The DC directed the Officers of all line Departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so that people do not face any difficulty during the observance/celebrations.

In order to curb black marketing, profiteering and hoarding, the DC asked the concerned to intensify the market checking in the district and take strict legal action against the violations. He asked them to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates with standard quality and sufficient availability. He directed to joint inspections by revenue, police, food safety and FCS&CA departments so that there is no escalation of market rates.

The DC directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply of power during all the upcoming festivals of Baisakhi, Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr, while the PHED depart-

ment was asked to ensure adequate water supply to the people. They were also directed to deploy water tankers at prominent Shrinys and to the places where adequate water supply is not possible, so that people do not face any difficulty.

Executive officers of all MCs were directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements at all prominent places particularly at Charar-i-sharief, Makhama, Pakherpora, and main Imambaras for jumat ul vida, shab e qadr, and Beerwah and Sarai area of Chadoora for Baisakhi, besides installation and repair of street lights at important religious places where big congregations are expected to be held.

The DC also stressed for ensuring adequate transport and parking facilities at all imambaras and other prominent Masjid and Shrinys for the devotees visiting Religious places.

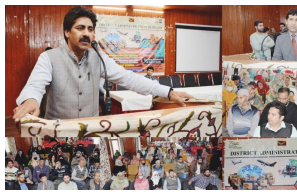
He asked the concerned authorities to prepare an adequate route plan with the Traffic Department, besides creating temporary additional parking slots so that better transport facilities will be provided to the people during these auspicious days. The DC also directed for deployment of magistrates at the Shrinys for smooth conduct of congregation prayers.

The DC directed the Health Department to install medical camps with paramedical staff, critical care ambulance and medicines at main congregation places and major Shrinys.

## Workshop on Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra held at Budgam

**ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ARTISANS TO MEET EXPORT NEEDS, BETTER MARKET LINKAGES: DC**

J1 NEWS SERVICE



J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 12: The District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications today organized a one day workshop for local artisans under Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, here. The workshop was held under the theme 'Local goes Global' and was also attended by shopkeepers and micro and small scale enterprises of district Budgam. The workshop was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid in presence of Senior Superintendent of Post

Officers, Srinagar Postal Division, J&K postal Circle Javid Ahmad Haji. During his address, the DC assured extension of full support of District Administration Budgam to artisans and MSMEs of the district. He said the aim is to fill the gap between artisans and customers at both national and international level.

He said the direct market linkages shall open up enormous revenue resources for local artisans and will give a boost to both our handloom and handicrafts. S F Hamid said the one stop solution will meet all export needs for artisans and help them sell their products directly to customers not only in India but abroad also. Senior Superintendent of Posts Officers briefed the gathering about the role of Post Offices through DNKS in augmenting the business through global exports. The workshop was attended by more than 60 artisans, shopkeepers and MSMEs of Budgam district associated with Kashmir Art, Shawl weaving, carpet weaving, dry fruit exports, etc. During the workshop, officials of Indiapost explained the initiatives like Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras taken by the department to aid the MSMEs to export their products to different parts of the world. Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra is an initiative taken by the Department of Posts which acts as single window counters for MSME exporters taking care of end to end booking, transmission and delivery of their products all over the world by registering themselves on official portal of Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras www.dnk.cept.gov.in.

## NCC Cadets of GDC Kishwar participate in '10 Meter Air Rifle Firing' Competition, Motivational Lecture on Joining Indian Army

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHWTWAR, APRIL 12: The NCC cadets of Government Degree College Kishwar recently participated in a '10 Meter Air Rifle Firing' competition and a motivational lecture on 'Join Indian Army for NCC Cadets' (DJ/JW & SD/SW).

The event, organized by IRRR Dool, aimed to inspire and educate the cadets about various ways to join the Indian Army, specifically through SSB entry.

During the event, the cadets were taken to the shooting range for firing trials, where they competed with each other. A total of 47 cadets, accompanied by Lt.(Dr.) Madhu Bala and Lt. Akshay Sharma, participated in the competition.

Shiveta Sharma secured the first position, followed by Ricky in second place, while Himanshu Thakur clinched the first place among the boys.

The entire event was successfully executed under the able guidance of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal, Government Degree College Kishwar. This initiative aims to encourage and motivate the youth to join the armed forces and serve the nation.

## DM Rajouri Slaps PSA on habitual offenders

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 12: District Magistrate Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, has taken a strong stance against habitual offenders involved in criminal and anti-social activities. A habitual bovine smuggling identified as Bari Shah has been detained under the Public Safety Act 1978. The decision has been taken after the dossier was submitted by the Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri. Bari Shah's bovine smuggling operation is well-organized, and despite multiple FIRs and arrests, he has continued with the illegal activities. The administration has determined that he is a serious threat to public order in the sensitive district of Rajouri.

The District Magistrate's decision to impose the PSA on this habitual offender is a clear message that criminal activities will not be tolerated in Rajouri. The move is in line with the government's zero-tolerance policy towards criminal activities and highlights the administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the citizens.

The District Magistrate has urged the public to cooperate with the administration in maintaining peace and harmony in the area. He has assured the citizens that all necessary steps will be taken to maintain law and order in the area and ensure their safety and security. The detention of this habitual offender is a significant step towards ensuring that Rajouri remains a peaceful and safe place for all its citizens. The administration will continue to take strong action against any individual or group who threatens public order and safety.

## DDC Anantnag reviews progress of works of Jal Shakti Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, APRIL 12: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today reviewed the work progress of Jal Shakti Department. The Ex. Engineers of Qazigund and Bijbehara apprised the DDC that all most all works have been started and are under final stage of execution besides, a large number of works have been completed and schemes have been commissioned. The Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti Qazigund apprised the chair that out of 50 schemes 36 have already been completed in March and by the end of April rest 14 will be completed. Some issues related to forest, wildlife were raised by Ex. Engineers of both divisions which hampers the progress of works.

The DDC while directing the Ex. Engineers said that water being the essential requirement for sustenance of life, the department must ensure the regular and clean supply of drinking water to the habitations. He further said that every household must be connected with the tap water as part of National programme 'Har Ghar Nal Sui Jal'. He directed the Ex. Engineers to start all the allotted works and expedite the pace of works, besides he also emphasised on coordination and cooperation with DPMU and pani samiti committees.

The DDC further stressed joint verification of sites to sort out the issues of departments etc. The meeting was attended by the ADC (A) Anantnag, Ex. Engineers of Bijbehara and Qazigund Jal Shakti divisions, A.E.s, J.E.s etc.

## PSPS GCW organises Orientation Lecture

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Alumni Association in collaboration with Career Counselling and Placement Cell of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women Gandhinagar Jammu today organised an orientation lecture on 'Career Opportunities in All India Radio - The Roadmap for the College students.'

The Programme started with the formal welcome of the Resource Person for the day- Madhvi Sharma, Senior Broadcaster, All India Radio, the most Vibrant and Adorable Personality really blessed by the Goddess Saraswati; Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the College, the galaxy of Intellectuals and the students.

Prof. Minu Mahajan expressed gratitude to Madhvi, the Alumna of PSPS GCW Gandhinagar (1984 Batch) who readily agreed to act as torchbearer for the students in the world of Radio. She also encouraged the students to keep the flame of curiosity always on and learn by experience, recognize their strength and set the goals. Madhvi, in her mesmerizing voice, motivated the students to be part of Radio world to polish their communication skills, overall personality and maintain a connection with regional languages to bloom and grow.

## SVEEP activities pickup in Kathua under ongoing SSR-ER



J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 12: To maintain participative democracy and raise awareness regarding voter literacy, the Election Department today organized an array of activities in which PRI members, students were also roped in.

The day long SVEEP activities were held wherein concerned BLOs, Supervisors and PRIs highlighted the role of voters in the democratic set up of the Government, further urged upon all the eligible persons to get enrolled and become active participants in strengthening the democratic values of the Nation.

The day also witnessed SVEEP campaigns in colleges with the collaboration of Campus Ambassadors and Head of Institutions. Besides, a SVEEP Van has been en-touraged in Border areas of the district for the awareness of the people to exercise their right to franchise in upcoming elections. During this awareness programmes participants were apprised about the ongoing Special summary revision process Under which the registration of eligible/ new voters, removal of entries of dead and permanently shifted electors, correction of errors in elector's details is being done and were urged to register the eligible and prospective voters under ongoing SSR-ER.

## Self-employment Enrollment camps to be held in all the 520 villages: DC Budgam

**CHAIRS BLOCK DIWAS AT SHAMSHABAD, KHANSAHAB**

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid today chaired the Block Diwas programme at Government High School in Panchayat Halqa Shamsabad of Block Khanshabad.

PRIs, respected elders and local youth delegations from villages Yekbugh, Kalshpora, Shamsabad, Kralnar and other adjacent villages raised their demands during the programme with the DC.

The DC gave them patient hearing and assured that all their genuine demands shall be addressed on priority.

At the outset, the R&B authorities informed that over Rs 10 crore projects have been approved for the development of Shamsabad-Kaichet road project, inner links at Shamsabad.

The DC issued instructions that 5 inner road projects of RDD be also taken up for work execution on priority.

He directed that land for construction of primary school buildings be identified on war footing for better educational facilities to local children at primary level.

The DC said that besides overall development of people, self-

employment and cleanliness are among top priorities for District Administration in Budgam.

He urged local unemployed youth to register under different self-employment schemes to open their own business ventures and become successful entrepreneurs.

In order to ensure better public service delivery and awareness about different schemes, the DC said that a joint awareness camps shall be conducted by KPDCS Budgam and RDD Budgam on April-19, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry departments on April-22 and Agriculture and Horticulture departments on April-24 at Shamsabad.

He said concerned departments shall give awareness on different schemes including PM Kissan, PDD Amnesty Scheme, PM-Kusum and facilitate distribution of seed varieties, awareness regarding fertilizers, vaccination of livestock and form submission for various services to the general public.

Exhorted concerned to conduct regular soil and water tests, the DC instructed them to provide soil health cards to all farmers within a 15-days time period.

Emphasizing on providing better

road, transport, educational and health facilities, the DC also directed concerned for completion of ongoing works in a time bound manner.

He instructed PDD authorities to ensure execution of improvement works and installation of poles, street lights on war footing.

To ensure better sports facilities to youth, the DC stressed that work on the playground be expedited for its timely completion.

The DC also took assessment of road development, drainage network and facilities related to drinking water, Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and other allied sectors being provided to locals by concerned offices.

Directions were given for development of Amrit Sarovar, Public Park and other facilities in the village.

Later, the DC also visited High School Shamsabad and interacted with students and appreciated them for their hard work and participation in both academics as well as co-curricular activities.

Among others, SDM Khanshabad, Syed Ahmad Kataria; AD Planning, ARTO, BDO, Tehsildar, ZEO, BMO and concerned offices were also present on the occasion.

## 17th Management Development Programme concludes at SMGS Hospital

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: The two day State Level Management Development Programme of doctors and Nursing Professionals organised at the Stephens College of nursing concluded today with a grand Valedictory Function.

The event was organised in association with the Academy of Hospital Administration, India. Chand Kishore Sharma, Additional Secretary to Government Health & Medical Education Department was the chief guest. Sainder Saini, Director Stephens college for nursing and Dr. Arun Sharma Medical Superintendent Maternity Hospital Gandhi Nagar (General Secretary AHA Jammu Chapter) were also present on the occasion. A cultural programme was presented on the occasion followed by distribution of certificates among the programme coordinators, volunteers and staff of Stephens College and AHA who organized the programme, along with participants. Sadiq Khan, Mass Media Officer and national trainer and member of AHA was the main stage coordinator for the valedictory function. Ritu Gupta, stephens college presented vote of thanks.

The participants were from Jammu Division including Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals, and District

Hospitals under Directorate of Health Services Jammu. More than 140 participants took part in the training, besides students etc. Resource persons and moderators of sessions were from all over J&K. In J&K, since June 2022, the AHA India has organized 17 training programmes (MDP's) including 5 day Management Development programme (MDP) for medical officers - 1 at Jammu; Two day MDP - 7 (SMGS Hospital, ASCOMS Sidhra, GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda, GMC Kathua, Bee Enn college of nursing, SMVDNSSH Katra); One day training programmes of nurses - 3.

In Kashmir, Kashmir, AHA hosted a 5 day Management Development programme (MDP) for medical officers - 1; Two day MDP at GMC Anantnag; Baramulla Dhoibawan RIHFV and Women's Hospital. The inaugural programme was held on 11th April 2023 where Dr. Yashpal Sharma Director (Coord) New Medical Colleges, Paramedical & Nursing colleges J&K (National President AHA India) was the Chief Guest. Kam Saini Chairman, Stephens College for nursing was also present. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yashpal Sharma dwelled on the importance of conducting such programmes to enhance the management capabilities of the healthcare professionals and stressed

that since healthcare has become a very demanding profession, such programmes become very important to enhance the skill-set of healthcare professionals to offer the best possible patient care besides maintaining highest standards of professionalism. He further stressed that such conferences are helpful in pooling the wisdom of the many branches of healthcare which serve as guiding beacons for adopting best practice in every field. He also cited the examples of states like Kerala which have successfully achieved self sufficiency in healthcare and no longer depend on procuring medicines and other health related equipment from outside sources. He also stressed upon the ethical and legal issues involved in the profession and also the importance of public relations in Hospital and healthcare institutions. He further exhorted the healthcare professionals to focus on quality assurances and other challenges in management of clinical and emergency services. He further suggested that all healthcare professionals should invest their time to re-learn the importance of communication and soft skills which has assumed critical importance in today's healthcare scenario. Topics of Two Day State Level Management Development Programme (MDP) for Doctors & Nursing Professionals (Govt. & Private) included

Medical Negligence, Communication & Soft Skills, Women Empowerment & Development, Role of Nursing in Prevention of Hospital Infection, Ethical & Legal Issues Related to Nursing Management in Hospitals, Challenges in Management Clinical Services (Accident and Emergency Services Operation Theater), HR & Conflict Management, Disaster Management Role of Nursing Staff, Skill Based Methods of Teaching and Learning & Bridging the Theory and Clinical Gap, Quality Assurance in nursing. Resource persons included speakers from state Dr. Vanilla Chopra HOD & Sr. Consultant Department of Critical Care (SMVDNSSH) Katra; Dr. Yashpal Sharma Director (Coord.) New Govt. Medical Colleges, Paramedical & Nursing Colleges, J&K; Dr. Sonia Khajuria Associate Professor Govt. College for Women Parade Jammu; Dr. Arun Sharma Medical Superintendent MCH Jammu; Dr. Beena Jai Senior Consultant & Head Laboratory Medicines SMVDNSSH, Katra; Prof. Murni Dhar Principal Stephens College for Nursing, Kavita Barua, Associate Professor Stephens college for nursing; Shilpa S Shivanna Nursing Superintendent SMVDNSSH, Katra; Dr. Shaista Ganai Medical Officer JKMSCL; Jony Kutty Joseph Assistant Professor SMVD College of Nursing, Kakryal Katra.

# ACS chairs SLTC meeting regarding approval for SoF of Agriculture, Horticulture Crops for 2023-24

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dullo, today chaired a meeting of State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) regarding approval for Scale of Finance (SoF) of different Agriculture and Horticulture Crops for the year 2023-24 here at Civil Secretariat.

ACS held a three-day deliberation on all related aspects of each line department with regard to finalization of Scale of Finance as per cost of cultivation for all the KCC crops including Horticulture Crops/KCC Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and Floriculture activities in Srinagar district to extend the KCC facility to the farmers.

After detailed discussion on existing and proposed Scale of Finance (SOF) for various KCC



Crops and allied activities, the SLTC finalized SoF of different Agriculture and Horticulture crops for Kissan Credit Card (KCC) holders of J&K districts under different crops including Cereals, Vegetables, Pulses, Rapeseed, Mustard/Potato, Addressing the meeting, Atal Dullo said that fixation of Animal/ Sheep Husbandry, Poultry, Fisheries etc. During the meeting, it was

proposed to increase 10% Scale of Finance (SOF) in Agriculture, 10% in Horticulture and 10% under Animal/Sheep Husbandry. Similarly, increased SOF was also proposed under Fisheries, Floriculture and other allied sectors for year 2023-24.

maximum advantage of various types of free credit in a hassle-free manner. He also said that the fixation of finance shall also create employment opportunities in the District through Agricultural Entrepreneur activities. He also stressed on active involvement of all the stakeholders in arriving at proper scales of finance and the necessity of accurate field data. He stressed the need for close coordination

among all stakeholders to ensure adequate and timely credit flow to the farmers.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Director General Planning APD, Special Secretary (BR/R/F/TK) APD, Director Finance APD, Director Horticulture P&M, Director Agriculture, Director Animal Husbandry, Director Sheep Husbandry, Director Fisheries, Director Sericulture, Director Floriculture, CGM NABARD Jammu, President/Convener ULTBC, Regional Director RBI Jammu, representatives from SKUAST and Additional MD, State Cooperative Bank (Convener SLTC) were present in the meeting.

Later, ACS chaired a procurement plan review meeting under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP).

## WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS

### DC Jammu conducts extensive tour of Bishnah, listens to public grievances



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: To get first-hand account of the public grievances, Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa today conducted an extensive tour of the Bishnah area and listened to issues of locals.

BDC members, PRIs, public delegations besides scores of individuals apprised her about the problems being faced by them in day to day life

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated rejuvenation work of a pond under Amrit Sarovar Program at village Majua Luxmi panchayit Khoojipur being executed by RDD with an estimate of Rs 214 lakh.

Afterwards, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated a cricket tournament followed by prize distribution among the winning Teams.

The Deputy Commissioner also planted a sampling during a plantation drive by the Forest department.

During the grievance redressal camp at Panchayat Khoojipur, the sarpanch apprised the DC regarding major issues including link road to local playground, development of local pond, up-gradation of Local Government High School to higher secondary level, drinking water supply under JIM scheme etc.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the PRI member and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for quality redress of their genuine grievances. She assured that the highlighted issues of public importance will be taken up with higher authorities besides all the pendency and public service delivery slacks shall be reviewed thoroughly.

## Ms Prerna Puri inaugurates Conference Hall at Directorate of Information, Media Complex, Jammu

'THE CONFERENCE HALL WILL BE A STATE OF THE ART VENUE FOR CONDUCTING SEMINARS, PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS, SAYS, DIRECTOR INFO LABROO'



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Commissioner Secretary Information & Information Technology, Ms Prerna Puri today inaugurated the state of the art Conference Hall at the Media Complex, Directorate of Information & Public Relations here. The inaugu-

ration ceremony took place in the presence of Director of Information, Akshay Labroo and other senior officers and staff members of DIPR. The newly renovated conference hall is equipped with state of the art facilities and shall serve as a productive space for the government to reach its people through seminars, conferences, out-

reach programs, media interaction etc. On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary was briefed about the timelines within which the conference hall was put in place and was also briefed about the ongoing campaigns and projects.

She congratulated the team at DIPR for completing the work in a short span of time. During the ceremony, Ms Puri emphasised on the need to integrate newer technologies with information dissemination mechanisms to reach out to people on a real time basis. The meeting was also attended by Joint Director Information (Hqrs), JDI Kashmir, JDI Jammu, Deputy Director Information (C), Deputy Director Information (AV), Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir/ Jammu and senior officers and officials of the department.

## DC Kupwara flags-off SRTC Bus for Keran

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 12: In order to provide better transport facilities to the people of border area Keran, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doitode Sagar Dattatray today flagged-off newly allotted SRTC Bus to Keran area here from D.C Office Kupwara. DDC Member Kralpora, Adv. Masrat BDC Chairperson Keran, Mohd. Syed Khoja, Officers and employees of SRTC Kupwara, besides Keran bound passengers were present on the occasion.

Talking to media persons, the DC said that the bus service is aimed at providing a better transport facility to the Keran area located on the banks of Kishanganga River. He said that the bus which offers luxurious travel experience will facilitate tourists going to beautiful Keran valley and Farkyan top, Meelyal, Kachama, besides, benefitting the local people in their to and fro journey. Dr Sagar further said that more buses will be allotted to other border areas of Kupwara district during the current financial year which will give a boost to tourism activities and help in exploration of new tourist destinations in the district. He said that as the tourist footfall has increased in the district, transport services, road connectivity, homestay and other related facilities are continuously being improved by the District Administration on priority to give a boost to the tourism sector in Kupwara district.

## DC Kathua presides over Public Outreach Programme at Aspirational Block Duggan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 12: Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rahul Pandey today chaired a grievance redress camp at Duggan as part of the weekly Block Diwas programme.

BDC Chairperson Duggan, Neelam Devi; DDC Bani, Reeta Thakur; SDM Bani, Satish Sharma; District Officers and a large number of people were also present.

During the program, several deputations met with the DC Kathua, including Sarpanches of adjoining Panchayats, besides locals. They highlighted various issues of public importance and sought immediate redress of the same. They demanded up-gradation of schools, meeting shortage of teaching staff, compensation of land, requirement of technical staff in SDH Bani etc. The DC assured that all the

genuine grievances of the public will be redressed on priority basis.

The DC further said that all the grievances in his competence shall be taken into account on priority, and those requiring intervention at higher level will be forwarded to the concerned authorities for appropriate and timely response.

Referring to development of twin blocks of Duggan and

Duggan under Aspirational Block Development Programme (APDP), the DC said the development in these blocks are being carried out with a focus on augmentation of public infrastructure including Roads, Health and Educational Institutions besides providing skill enhancing opportunities to the locals.

Stalls of different departments were also put up for public convenience wherein field

functionaries distributed leaflets besides briefing the locals about schemes and other initiatives offered by the government.

The DC gave away kits of hybrid seeds to local farmers as a hand holding by the Agriculture Department.

Similarly, Block Diwas program was also held at Billawar Sub Division wherein the officers listened to the grievances of the general public.

## Justice Tashi Rabstan visits Central Jail Srinagar, Juvenile Observation Home Harwan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 12: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Member Secretary, J&K LSA, Joint Registrar (Judicial) Srinagar and Secretary DLSA Srinagar today visited Central Jail Srinagar and Juvenile Observation Home Harwan to have first-hand information about the facilities being provided to inmates of Central Jail Srinagar.

On his arrival, Justice Tashi Rabstan received Daljit Singh, Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar alongwith Deputy Superintendent and other jail staff including Medical Officer.

The Executive Chairman, J&K LSA enquired about the number

of convicts serving their sentences and also the Undertrial Prisoners belonging to UT of J&K as well as other States and foreign nationals upon which the Justice Tashi Rabstan was informed that 15 UTs of Burma were lodged in the said jail.

Thereafter, Justice Tashi Rabstan visited the male as well as female blocks and interacted with the inmates to enquire about the medical and other facilities provided to them. Subsequently, Justice Tashi also visited the V.C facility available in the jail and witnessed the court proceedings that were going on through virtual mode in which the jail inmate was appearing. Justice Tashi also appreciated the new initiatives introduced like installation of Prison Inmate Calling System for prisoners so that prisoners

can contact their family and lawyers at any time. He also inspected the kitchen, vocational centers, barber shop, wet Canteen run by jail inmates, gymnasium, e-mulakat center and Legal Aid Clinic also manned by a jail Inmate (PLV).

Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts made by the Govt. in general and Dept. of Prisons in particular for maintaining the standard of living in jail and providing all the basic necessary facilities like hygienic food, medical facilities and skill training etc to the inmates.

Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan visited Juvenile Observation Home Harwan to take stock of the present status of the said Home. Sameena Mir, Superintendent alongwith Home-father, Probation cum Child Welfare Officer and Para

Legal Volunteers received Justice Tashi and accompanied him to the rooms of the juvenile staying in the observation home and showed other facilities available there like dispensary, recreation hall, library and the room meant for offering prayers.

Justice Tashi also visited the

kitchen where the evening meal was being prepared.

Where he was informed that for every inmate of the Observation Home, Rs 100 per day is being provided by the concerned department for food and other basic needs and the said amount has not been revised since 2011.

## Power shutdown

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL has informed that the power supply to Bishnah, Sarore, Deoli, Kotti, Kheri, Rehal, Pandorian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bantalab, Radio Station, CRPE, Lakshimpuram Chhinore, Exchange, AYUSH Hospital, Keran, Baiter Nagar, Durga Nagar, Janipur Police Station, Bhalwal, Kangarmohr, IRP, Hospital Bhalwal, Kopte, Thater, Nardani, Pooja Colony and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 13 from 7 am to 1 pm.

## Full Court Reference held to condole demise of Justice A Q Parry

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 12: A Full Court Reference was held today in the courtroom of the Chief Justice at Srinagar wing of High Court to condole the demise of Justice A Q Parry, former Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On the occasion, Advocate General, D C Raina, in his condolence address, remembered the contribution of Late Justice Parry as Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Advocate General on his behalf and on behalf of the State, Government Advocates and Bar offered condolences on demise of Late Justice A Q Parry. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Son of Late Justice Parry Dr. Fazl Qadir Parry and daughter Tabassum Qadir Parry were also present.

Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, in his condolence address, shared contribution of Late Justice A Q Parry saying that he was among those legal luminaries who spoke patiently through his judgments and had proficiency over the art of erudition and language skills with a phenomenal legal acumen and strong penchant for witty anecdotes during his discourses. "Justice Parry worked tirelessly and left indelible footprints on the sands of time because of his discerning intellect, sharp understanding, sound reasoning and speedy disposal", he added. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family of to bear the irreparable loss.