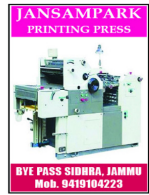




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Satisfied over lowest ever militant count in J&K, establish peace permanently: Home Minister after Security Review in Delhi

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday expressed his gratitude and satisfaction over the lowest ever count of militants in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the security top brass of the efforts to root out remaining militants to make peace a permanent feature.

The Home Minister while hailing the UT administration especially LG Manoj Sinha for massive developmental activities in J&K urged them to gear up for hosting the G-20 events in the month of May. Shah chaired the



second-leg of the high level security meeting in North Block New Delhi at 3 pm today where National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, J&K LG Sinha, DGP Dilbagh Singh, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, DG CID R Swain and other top officials of the BSF, CRPF and intelligence wings participated. Besides, Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, R&AW chief Samant Kumar Goel, NIA Director General DG Dinkar Gupta also participated in the meeting.

“The Home Minister expressed his gratitude and satisfaction over the lowest ever militant count in J&K. He hailed the efforts of police and other security forces for putting in their best to root-out militancy from J&K soil and directed them to step up anti-militancy operations to eliminate the remaining militants,” a source privy to the meeting, told news agency. The Home Minister, as per the source, directed the security agencies operating in J&K to maintain close coordination, keep a close watch on anti-national elements and ensure.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Centre explores option of tunnel for connectivity between Uri-Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 13

The Government of India is exploring the option of constructing a tunnel across Pir Panchal region for connectivity between strategically important areas of Uri and Poonch. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set the ball rolling for preparation of a detailed project report for a 5.5 kilometer long tunnel across Pir Panchal region.

Before 1947, there was direct connectivity between Uri and Poonch through Haji Pir Pass. The Haji Pir pass now falls on the other side of

the Line of Control. The pass was captured by Indian forces during the 1965 War but Pakistan regained its possession as a result of the Tashkent agreement, under which forces of both the countries retreated to their earlier positions. It began with, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through has now invited a proposal from technical consultants for carrying out detailed project report, pre-construction activities and supervision for construction of highway tunnel of 5.5 kilometer length (tentative) including approaches across Pir Panjal range between

Km 75.00 and Km 80.50 on Poonch-Uri Road. “The consultant would have expertise in carrying out similar kind of job, in similar geographical location (particularly for hill road projects),” reads documents accessed by news agency. The ambitious project is part of the Prime Minister’s Development Package for Jammu & Kashmir. In the meeting chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister to review the implementation of PMPD on September 22, 2018, it was decided that the project will be under-

taken by the Border Roads Organization as it is located on the Line of Control. In January 2021, UT administration requested Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to expedite finalization of alignment and preparation of DPR. The tendering process for alignment finalization and feasibility survey was initiated on April 20, 2021. The stretch was notified under Bharatmala Pariyojana on June 25, 2021. Later, the consultant submitted alignment options for the project. KNO

Drone from Pakistan brought down near LoC in Rajouri, searches underway

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APR 13

Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday said it recovered a drone carrying ammunition and cash in Beri Patan area of Rajouri district. An official told the news agency that a suspicious movement of aerial



objects was picked up last night in Beri Patan near the Line of Control after which a massive cordon and search operation was launched. He said during search of the area a drone carrying 5 AK magazines and some cash was recovered. The official said extensive search is underway. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Complex double heart valve surgery performed at SSH Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 13

A complex double heart valve surgery was successfully performed by the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery (CVTS) Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu. A doctor at the hospital told the news agency that a 25-year-old female patient was suffering from Rheumatic Heart Disease with Severe Mitral and Severe Aortic Valve Disease. She had multiple admissions for severe heart valve-related prob-

lems in GMC Jammu and had been advised surgery long back, he said. “The patient was very sick in advanced NYHA functional class and was bedridden. For most of the vital organs, besides oral, she needed aggressive injectable pharmacotherapy for weeks together before surgery,” the doctor said, adding that the patient was operated on under total Cardiopulmonary Bypass (when Aorta is cross-clamped and the heart is not beating) and moderate hypothermia (decreased temperature during surgery). “The patient had severely diseased, dystrophic, calcific, stenotic and regurgitant valves. Her diseased Mitral and Aortic Valve were excised, calcium was removed and both the valves were replaced with St Jude prosthesis,” the doctor added. “The Cardiac Anesthesia team was led by the Head of Cardio-Thoracic Anesthesia Department Professor Dr Pooja Vimesh, and was assisted by Dr Rasmee, Dr Vikas, Senior Residents and Residents. Senior and other technologists from CTA Vikas Sharma, Sumit and Arif were part of the team. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG greets people on Baisakhi

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 13

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday greeted the people on the eve of Baisakhi. In a message, the Lt Governor said: On the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, I convey my warmest felicitations and good wishes to all. “Baisakhi marks the beginning of the harvest season heralding happiness and prosperity. It is also an occasion to remember with gratitude about the contribution of our farmers to the progress of the nation,” the Lt Governor observed. May this festival strengthen our resolve to contribute to the nation’s progress and usher prosperity and happiness for all in the year ahead, added the Lt Governor. KNO

LG greets people on eve of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s anniversary

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 13

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday greeted the people on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. In a message, the Lt Governor has said: “On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all.” “As a scholar, journalist, educationist, legal luminary and social reformer, Babasaheb has left a lasting impression on the edifice of our democracy. His noble ideals are a beacon of hope, a source of inspiration for all to strive for a united, equal, just CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India rebuffs Pakistan’s objection to G20 events being held in Srinagar, Leh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 13

Rebuffing Pakistan’s objections to New Delhi hosting G20 events in Srinagar and Leh, India on Thursday said that holding G20 events in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is very natural as they are an integral and inalienable part of India. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arinam Bagchi, answering a query at a briefing today, said: “G20 events are taking place across India; they are being organised in every region of the country. The holding of G20



to include meetings in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Leh in Ladakh. India will be hosting a G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar on May 22-24, while two other meetings of a consultative forum on youth affairs (Y-20) will be held in Leh and Srinagar. Pakistan’s MFA said that the “irresponsible move” by India is the “latest in a series of self-serving measures to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in sheer disregard of the UN Security Council resolutions and in violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law.”

Those ridiculing Mudra Scheme have no understanding of common man’s capabilities: PM Modi

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday the “new India” is moving ahead with new policies and strategies, and his government is working proactively in matters of technology and infrastructure, shunning the “reactive approach” of the past. In a video address to a “Rozgar Mela”, Modi asserted the ‘Mudra’ loan project for small and micro enterprises has created over eight crore new entrepreneurs, and the



government’s policies and strategies have opened the doors to new possibilities. He also took a swipe at those who “consider themselves big economists” and gave “loans on phone” to “big businessmen but are “ridiculing” the scheme. “Though he named no one, his swipe was apparently aimed at Congress veteran and former finance minister P Chidambaram who recently questioned the ‘Mudra’ scheme and wondered what kind of businesses can be started with a loan of Rs 50,000. Modi said Rs 23 lakh crore loan has been given under the scheme with 70 per cent of beneficiaries being women. Microfinance does a lot in strengthening CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

43 injured as roof of house collapses in Poonch village

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APR 13

At least 43 persons were injured after a roof of a house collapsed on Thursday in Khanetar village of Poonch on Thursday. The incident took place when villagers and relatives had assembled in the house of one Zakir Hussain Shah, resident of Khanetar to condole the death of his daughter when the roof of a house collapsed, leaving 43 CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



References to Maulana Azad removed from NCERT’s new class 11 political science textbook

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 13

References to freedom fighter and India’s first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad have been removed from the new class 11 political science textbook by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). As part of its “syllabus rationalisation” exercise last year, the NCERT, citing “overlapping” and “irrelevant” as reasons, dropped certain portions from the



course including lessons on Gujarat riots, Mughal courts, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement, among others from its textbooks. The rationalisation note had no mention of any changes in class 11 political science textbook. The NCERT has, however, claimed that no curriculum trimming has taken place this year and

the syllabus was rationalised in June, last year. “Certain changes not finding mention of in the rationalised content book could be an ‘oversight’,” NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani reiterated. In the class 11 political science textbook’s first chapter, titled ‘Constitution - Why and How’, a line has been revised to omit Azad’s name from the constituent assembly committee meetings. The revised line now reads, “Usually, CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Thousands of devotees visit Subar Nag Temple in Baderwah to celebrate Baisakhi

JNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, JAMMU, APR 13

Thousands of devotees converged at the ancient Subar-Nag temple in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baderwah district on Thursday to celebrate Baisakhi. Located at a height of 12,000 feet, the doors of the 1,600-year-old temple were opened on Thursday. The festival marks the beginning of spring. The festival at this temple is considered the first Baisakhi in the country. In other other parts of the country, the festival will be celebrated tomorrow. The traditional celebrations started early in morning with the opening of doors of the temple at Subar Dhar, 35 Km from



Baderwah town that was followed by sacrificing of rams. Thousands of devotees converged at the temple after trekking 12 km steep hill to pay their obeisance to the Lord Subar Nag. On this occasion dozens of sheep were sacrificed as per ancient custom. “This festival has not only the religious importance but this is also the most ancient festival of this area. Devotees from the different parts of the valley, including CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

BJP Minority Morcha Organises Water Body Cleaning And Plantation Drive At Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Minority Morcha organised water body cleaning and plantation drive in the 'Samajik Nyay Saptah' at 'Gremation ground Shakti Nagar here on Thursday. On the occasion,

Chander Mohan Gupta state vice president and former Mayor JMC was the chief guest. "This initiative to organize a water body cleaning and plantation drive is a commendable effort towards environmental conservation. This campaign is not only aimed at improving the cleanliness of water bodies but also aims to promote afforestation in areas surrounding these water bodies, promoting biodiversity and ensuring healthy ecosystems," Said Ranjodh Singh Nalwa-President BJP Minority Morcha. He further said that the campaign is not only aimed at improving the cleanliness

through the bold moves to take action to combat climate change and tackle environmental issues facing communities nationwide. "Such initiatives help create awareness among citizens about their responsibility towards the environment while also encouraging active participation in community activities," Nalwa added. He further stated that the BJP Minority Morcha's proactive steps are sure to inspire change throughout country as we jointly strive for a cleaner, greener planet for generations to come.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Balvinder Singh (Vice President), Narinder Jain (Vice President), Bhupinder Singh (Vice President), Santokh Singh (General Secretary), Deepak Agarwal and others.

Army organises free medical camp in remote Akhnoor village

JJ NEWS SERVICE

13/04/2023: In an attempt to provide basic health facilities to people residing in remote areas, the Indian Army organized a medical camp at Marh, a remote village in Akhnoor tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of locals, children, youngsters and elderly alike, visited the camp here and consulted the doctors. Genuine medical requirements of the Awaam were addressed and free medical advice and medicines were provided to the attended from the remote villages.

Army Doctors and Nursing Assistance provided treatment to all patients hailing from far flung areas with inadequate medical facilities. Dr Geeta Dubey, MBBS, MD and staff from Primary health centre, the Chhibba worked tirelessly along with Army doctors



providing essential support.

The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from locals and around 215 persons from nearby villages including students of Govt High secondary school, Mary and

Govt middle school, Marhavailed free medical advice and medicines during the camp.

A health awareness lecture on good health and hygiene including preventive measures against ailments like Covid-19, Jaundice, Malaria, viral Hepatitis and common fever was also conducted on the occasion by the Medical Officer of the Army.

Appreciating the steps taken by the Indian Army to provide basic health facilities in far flung areas, the villagers demanded that more such medical camps should be organised across the Union Territory on a regular basis.

DCC Jammu Rural pays homage to Dr B.R Ambedkar on his 132nd birth anniversary

CONGRESS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT OF DOWNTRODDEN SECTIONS OF SOCIETY: HARI SINGH CHIB



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: District Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural today celebrated the 132nd birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar in a function organized at Muthi in Jammu North Assembly segment. Paying tributes to Dr. B.R Ambedkar, Hari Singh Chib, President DCC Jammu Rural, remembered the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in framing the Indian Constitution where in the provision for the welfare and the upliftment of poor, downtrodden and

each and every section irrespective of caste, creed colour or religion was kept and approved by the Constituent Assembly of the country. Hari Singh Chib described Baba Sahib Bhim Rao Ambedkar as one of the towering personalities of modern India who will always be remembered for his outstanding contribution for the upliftment of the downtrodden people in this country. He said that India after gained independence in 1947, Ambedkar accepted Congress' proposal to serve as the country's first Law Minister and was appointed chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee. "The Indian constitution formed under his chairmanship, is one of the best document in the World which takes care of the aspirations of the largest pluralistic society in the World, he added. Hari Singh said that Dr. Ambedkar worked closely with the Congress party leaders in delivering the Indian Constitution and his ideology of social equity and vision of a society free of discrimination is in consonance with the ideals of

Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. "Congress is the only Party that has made significant contributions towards the empowerment of downtrodden sections of the society, he added. Chib appealed to the participants to follow the path shown by Baba Sahib for equality and social justice and to bring about complete harmony and unity in diversity. He also cautioned against the forces of exploitation and hatred which goes against his philosophy and spirit of the constitution. On the occasion, Rajni Bala Corporator Ward No 60, Som Nath Sharma President BCC Patta Paloura, Om Parkash President Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Dr Raj Paul Hans former Director Animal Husbandry, Tarun Vaid, Viorender Mehta, Madan Singh Chib, Kuran Manhas and Nisha Kumari also paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and remembered for his outstanding contribution for the upliftment of the downtrodden people in this country.

"The Era of 1990": A Blockbuster Hit, Winning Hearts in Jammu and Across India



JJ NEWS SERVICE

Since its release on April 7th, "The Era of 1990" has been making waves in the Indian cinema world and has now taken Jammu by storm. This inspiring movie is a blockbuster hit, captivating audiences with

its outstanding performances and message. The film portrays the story of a Sikh police officer's fight against corruption and injustice, breaking the stereotypes of the characters in Indian cinema.

The lead actor, Jagjeet Singh Rissam, has delivered a stunning performance and emphasized the importance of the turban in his role, promoting cultural identity and diversity. "The Era of 1990" is a film that promotes positive values such as honesty and integrity, and its success is

a testament to the audience's appreciation of stories that celebrate cultural diversity. It is a must-watch for Indian cinema enthusiasts who want to be inspired by a message of hope and courage. The movie's success is well-deserved and is a tribute to the efforts of the cast and crew who have brought this inspiring story to life. With its standout performances and an uplifting storyline, "The Era of 1990" has won the hearts of many in Jammu and across India.

In conclusion, "The Era of 1990" is a movie that is winning hearts in Jammu and captivating audiences across India with its inspiring message and outstanding performances. It is a blockbuster hit that should not be missed, as it breaks stereotypes and promotes positive values that celebrate cultural diversity.

Rana hands over land allotment papers and sanctioned order for Model school Pathanateer

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Asserting that National Conference stands fully committed to upliftment of every nook and corner of Pir Panjal region, Javed Ahmed Rana, former Deputy Chairman, J&K Legislative Council and President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Pir Panjal Zone, said that as part of the said commitment he got the land for Model School sanctioned and handed over the allotment papers of the land identified for the construction of school to School Education Department. He expressed this while addressing a delegation of Block Pathanateer Mendhar that had called on today. The delegation comprising Panchs, Sarpanchs and prominent people of the Block Pathanateer was led by Sarpanch Pathanateer, Shahban Khan. The delegation members expressed gratitude to Rana for sanctioning of land for Model School for Educationally Backward Block Pathanateer. It is pertinent to mention here that Javed Rana today handed over the allotment papers of the land identified for the construction of aforesaid school to the School Education Department. The Deputy Commissioner land Poonch has allotted land measuring 9 Kanal in Kharsa No 851 situated at village Salwah of Tehsil



Mendhar to School Education Department for construction of Model School for Educationally Backward at Block Pathanateer. While addressing members of the delegation, Javed Rana said that Mendhar was literally a backward area and so far as Education system in the area was concerned it was quite poor. He asserted that it was only after becoming a legislator that he took several steps for upliftment of the area beginning with the most significant sector which is education. He said that as part of the progressive agenda of National Conference he left no stone unturned in this direction as a result of which Mendhar has one degree college, Eklavya Model Residential School, several high schools, middle schools and higher secondary schools. He said that to uplift Mendhar in education sector. He said that it is really a matter of satisfaction that by now at least there is at least one

High School and one middle school in every village. He reiterated that he as well as his party i.e. the National Conference stand fully committed to make Mendhar a number one education not only in the Pir Panjal region but across the nation. The senior National Conference leader stated that Pir Panjal region has lot of talent and potential and this needs to be utilized by taking the necessary initiatives for the welfare of youth. He stressed upon the students to make

skill education an inseparable part of their education and ensure that each and everyone receives skill education in at least one trade to increase the chances of their employability or becoming self employed. He said that National Conference has been playing a vital role in uplifting of the Pirpanjal region and assured the delegation that it will take the region to new heights especially when it comes to power in the impending Assembly elections when these are held.

BJP SC Morcha to hold glittering functions to mark Dr B R Ambedkar's Jayanti across J&K: Neelam Langeh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Neelam Langeh, President BJP SC Morcha J&K and former Legislator today expressed gratitude to the PM Narendra Modi and National President BJP, J.P. Nadda for announcing a public holiday on April 14, to commemorate the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, who is also known as the Father of the Indian Constitution. Addressing media persons here at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the BJP SC Morcha

continuously for more than seventy years. He said that the Modi Government has given a new lease of life to the aforesaid community members with the abrogation of Art 370. He said that the Government at the Centre is committed to mitigate the problems of the marginalized sections of society and for achieving this goal, no stone will be left unturned. The senior BJP leader said that BJP SC Morcha has envisaged a number of events to hold glittering Jayanti of Bhim Rao

Ambedkar in Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that on April 14, a state level function would be organized at the Kullian area of RS Pura in which BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina along with several senior leaders of the Party will mark their presence. He said the Jayanti of Bhim Rao Ambedkar would be celebrated at Mandal level, Shakti Kendra and Booth level. Langeh said that BJP SC Morcha is bound to uplift the marginalized sections of the society and for this, every single activist of the Morcha has the moral duty to fulfill this responsibility with due care. He said that the BJP SC Morcha is committed to act as a beacon of light to guide the deprived sections to avail all the benefits of centrally sponsored schemes and lead a life full of dignity and pride. Among others who were present in the press conference, include National executive member Mohan Lal Thappa, Co-Incharge Jeet Anragal, State General Secretary Adarsh Jathari and Gulshan Bhagat.

Indian Army helped in recovering body from truck

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: A fatal accident occurred near Chowki Chaura on NH 144A at 0130h when a civil truck fell into a deep gorge. At 0830h on 12 Apr 2023, the vehicle was spotted by Indian Army troops in the area. The incident was immediately reported by the army to the local authorities and the troops climbed down 25 metres into the treacherous gorge to rescue the driver. However, due to the deep fall, the driver had already succumbed by the time. The deceased identified as Mr Vikas Sharma, was a resident of Rajouri and was driving the truck.

Artists of Kashmir felicitate Balwant Thakur

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Artists of Kashmir felicitated the Cultural Diplomat of India eminent cultural figure of J&K Balwant Thakur at Tagore Hall Srinagar on his arrival in Kashmir after a decade.

Balwant Thakur served as Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages between 1995 to 2003 and later as Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Jammu & Kashmir in the Ministry of External Affairs Government of India between 2012 to 2018.

While interacting with the various groups of Rouf, Dhambali, Bhand Pather and Kashmiri Sazina, Balwant Thakur dwell in detail about the opportunities available within and outside the country for showcasing the rich culture of Jammu and Kashmir. Sharing his experience of



Diplomatic assignments in South Africa and Mauritius, he informed that there is a huge thrust amongst foreign audiences and are keen to learn, explore and observe the rarest performing art traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

To cater to that growing demand we need to infuse sheer professionalism in our approach of production and presentation of arts.

Seeing their charged enthusiasm and fervour, Balwant Thakur expressed his extreme happiness having seen over 300 artists having turned up to meet him. Prominent amongst those who attended his brief sessions included Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Mohd Sadeeq, Chairman, All Kashmir Folk Artists Association and Bismillah Khan Yuva Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Shah-

Jahan, Bismillah Khan Yuva Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Manzoor-ul-Haq, Kashmiri Dance group leaders viz. Shagufta Rahman and Group, Yemberzal Cultural Group, Ifra Ayoub Khan and Group, Lotus Cultural Group headed by Tabassum Rehman, Dhambali dance groups of Tanveer Ah. Shah, Taweed Ah. Shah and Zahoor Ah. Shah.

'Mann Ki Baat' will be listened by Lakhs of people of J&K at about 10,000 booths: Vibodh

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's AIR programme 'Mann Ki Baat' will be listened to by Lakhs of people of Jammu & Kashmir at about 10,000 booths, stated Adv. Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir.

"The 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat is definitely going to be special. This is the first ever programme of such type to be telecasted for consecutive 100 episodes", said Vibodh Gupta.

Vibodh Gupta who is also Incharge of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' team of BJP for J&K, accompanied by Co-Incharge Sanjay Kumar Baru, Co-Incharge Naresh Singh and J&K BJP Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, was addressing media persons at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Vibodh Gupta, while addressing the media, PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' is a non-political motivational programme in which the stories of real heroes from the ground level are shared by Modi ji for giving a new



direction to the masses especially the youth, women, self help groups etc. The endeavour by honourable PM has been a guiding force and inspiration to crores of people besides giving motivation to those heroes, he said.

Vibodh added that the purpose of broadcasting this program from the radio was that his voice could be reached to remote villages because TV is not accessible in every place in India, especially in rural and less developed areas that still lack all these facilities.

Vibodh further said that it is an important manifes-

ation of Modi ji's promise of a more transparent and dialogue driven government.

Reaching out to masses, often on the back of nascent technology has always been an integral part of his effectiveness as a mass leader, he said.

Vibodh said that Modi ji has used it actively to give a report card for the government's performance. Frequently updating citizens on how the existing schemes are performing and the challenges faced by the administration in delivering them.

However, most impor-

tantly he uses the platform to explain the rationale behind some of the radical changes his government has brought about, and setting the stage for some they intend to bring about.

Sanjay Baru appealed to various organizations including religious, trade, commerce, Business and NGOs to listen to the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' amongst the masses. He said that this episode would surely be a landmark in India's history, which has increased a positive participation of common masses in setting new discourses in modern India.

ATL: IIT Jammu conducts workshop on 'Design Thinking in STEM'



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Jammu) conducted a one-day workshop on "Design Thinking in STEM" for school teachers, aimed at training them for the operation of already-established Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) at Army Public Schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Dr Vijay Kumar Pal, Assistant Professor, IIT

Jammu, coordinator of the workshop, emphasized the importance of experiential and project-based learning in school education and its role in building the nation.

He stated that the Government of India has initiated the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) with its primary focus on experiential and project-based learning. The training of school teachers is crucial in this transition

period, so that they can transmit their experiential knowledge to young students and ignite their creative minds for product development.

The workshop saw various experts, including Prof. Singhai, Mr. Deepesh Patidar, Mr. Ashutosh, and Mr. Vishal, enlightening the participants on the concept of Arduino, making interesting and innovative experiments for school teaching. The experiments

included topics such as speed of sound, distance measurement, traffic light system, and robotic hands. Furthermore, the teachers also visited the Institute Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (I2EDC) lab of IIT Jammu to understand utilization of machines for tinkering purposes. This will play a crucial role in the development of STEM education.

Overall, the workshop was aligned with the vision of NEP-2020 and focused on experiential and project-based learning to ignite critical thinking and skills in students. The workshop, which was successfully conducted, saw participation of students from Jammu University and secondary school teachers. It was an excellent opportunity for school teachers to gain knowledge and expertise in STEM education and promote innovation among their students.

BJP conducts cleanliness drive at bank of river Tawi near Dounthly water filtration plant



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan team along with a large number of volunteers launched a cleanliness drive at the right bank of river Tawi near Dounthly water filtration plant. The district unit of BJP Jammu East also joined the Swachhata Speaking on the occasion, Er Dil Bahadur Singh Convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Jammu and Kashmir said that we should main-

tain cleanliness near the banks of river Tawi and appealed to the citizens to participate en masse in the cleanliness drive. He stressed the need for such programs to generate awareness among the general public.

Er T. K Sharma Co Convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Jammu and Kashmir requested the general public to keep their water bodies neat and clean especially near filtration plant as the water of Surya Putri Tawi is being used for drinking purpose after

being filtered from the Dounthly filtration plant.

Speaking on the Occasion Parmod Kapahi District president BJP Jammu requested the people of Jammu to keep their surroundings neat and clean. He also appealed to the citizens to hand over their domestic waste properly to the municipal workers so that it could be disposed properly.

Purnima Sharma Ex Dy. Mayor and Corporator ward no. 1 while speaking on the occasion also appealed to the people of Jammu to keep their city neat and clean. She also informed the public that Aarti of Surya Putri Tawi is being performed near the Dounthly filtration plant daily in the evening and she requested the people to participate in the Aarti. Others present on the occasion Smt Nath Khajuria Executive member, Sahil Sharma co convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Randip Parihar co convener, Er V. K Gupta Co Convener Jammu Swachh Bharat and Er Sunil Zailpuri, co convener Jammu south.

Photography Refresher Course concludes at PTTI Vijaypur

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Two weeks "Photography Refresher Course" organized by Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur concluded in which 14 Police personnel of Photography Cadre participated. The objective of this course was to enhance the capabilities of Police officials of Photography Cadre to handle and operate modern photography gadgets and equipments. On this occasion a Valedictory function was organized which was graced by Shri

Shiv Kumar, JKPS, SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur who emphasized the importance of Photography Course in investigation of cases and coverage of important events. Principal PTTI Vijaypur further said that this course would definitely help these Police personnel in performing their field duties more effectively as they have been trained in handling/functioning of professional video/still cameras, Handling/operation of CCTV cameras, saving of recordings & footages in Computer System, adobe photoshop, reader video editing ,

casting, dubbing of sound and video clips on system, photography of road accident cases by using DSLR camera & professional video camera, collection of Photography evidence viz. finger prints, foot prints, blood fluids, hair, fiber, tyre marks, skid marks, weapon, ammunition, tool marks, wounds marks & other clues/evidence. In addition, the trainees were also imparted special training for capturing photographs & videography through drones to meet the new challenges in present era being faced by the Police department.

Ex Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association asks Central Govt to fulfill demands



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Ex Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (ECPFWA) J&K UT has demanded restoration of pension benefit scheme and martyr status.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Nagar

here, President of the Association, S.K. Sharma has demanded restoration of the pension benefits scheme (old pension scheme under CCS pension rules 1972 for post 2004 personnel).

He highlighted that there is some error in the entries relating to the pre-revised

pay revised pay of Rs. 21820 (6th CPC Grade Pay Rs. 5400) 7th CPC Level-9 in Table 29 of the 7th Central Pay Commission concordance Table.

He said that it is the time to restore the status of BSF for OROP as the BSF personnel are performing their duties for the security of

the nation at par with other security forces.

He added that MHA declared CAPF personnel from CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB as Ex-CAPF personnel and urged Home Minister to direct J&K UT Government to extend suitable benefits extended by the state/UT government to Ex-Servicemen of Defence forces.

On the occasion, Ex. Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association J&K UT declared the New Chief Advisor Harnadar Gupta.

Others present in the press conference include D.K. Chauhan General Secretary J&K UT, Noor Mohd General Secretary Samba, Harbans Lal Sharma Vice President J&K (UT), Chahal Singh ITBP member, Hans Raj CFME, Yashpal CFMF and Kirtan Singh CFMF.

Thandi Choi villagers condemn allegation, request LG Sinha to intervene

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Today the villagers of Thandi Choi, Panchayat members addressed Press Conference and condemned the charges which were putting against them for illegally felling of Khair trees.

While addressing media conference at Press Club Jammu, Smt. Neetu Devi Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Serh, Renu Sharma Panch Panchayat Halqa Serh, Renu Devi Panch Ward No. 03, Panchayat Halqa Serh, Ved Parkash, Social Activist along with other farmers of village Thandi Choi said, as per the provisions of SRO-111 titled as "The Jammu and Kashmir Non-Forest land Khair trees 'Acacia Catechu' (Management Plan) rules" applications were invited from the farmers of notified villages and farmers of Thandi Choi applied for felling of Khair trees from their proprietary lands for the year 2022-23.

That the concerned Tehsildar after necessary verification of revenue record/documents submitted the files of applicants of village Thandi-choi to



Divisional Forest Officer Jammu for issuance of Felling order and same was issued in favour of 89 nos. of the eligible applicants by DFO Jammu, vide no. DFO-J/Khair/871-75, dated 20-02-2023, they Villagers further stated that around five fake complaints have been made by few officers with one or another name and every time when the complaint was found fake and cleared by the higher authorities after proper ground verification, they went for another complaint. That the Officers of Revenue Department and Forest Department have time and again conducted the joint verification but nothing adverse as alleged in all the complaints was found there on the ground, they added.

Villagers mentioned, "Ex-Forester namely Raghubir Singh who is mastermind behind all this is a notorious character and it also came to the notice that he has earlier (during the tenure of his service) also mislead the Authorities and got his promotion as Forester by submitting the fake degree of graduation and after his retirement also is putting bad name to the department" Villagers condemned the 12th of April 2023 a press conference which was held in Press Club, Jammu by one of the so called social activist namely Sh. Sunil Kumar R/O Gaudharwan, Akhnour, with respect to illegal felling of Khair Trees from village Thandi Choi. We the farmers of the village Thandi Choi strongly

condemn the allegations made during the Press Conference by the so called social activist, as everything has been presented by Sh. Sunil Kumar is vague and devoid of facts and also submit that no irregularity has been conducted there by any of the farmer. Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT is requested to intervene into the matter as we are all poor farmers and our life depends on farming to make our both ends meet and nurture our families. It is a ten year circle and our village has figured during the current year and farmers who were hopeful of earning their bread and butter are suffering immensely due this vague propaganda created by some mischievous elements.

DC Bandipora chairs NCORD meeting



JNEWSSERVICE BANDIPORA, APR 13

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Thursday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee under Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) Mechanism & Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Prohibition Act (COTPA), at Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting discussed in detail ways and means to curb the drug menace and the role of various stakeholders. It also discussed the alarming issue of drug addiction and abuse and strategies to tackle this issue.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the need for coordinated efforts between government agencies, healthcare providers, civil society organizations and community leaders to effectively address the drug problem.

Chairman DDC, Ab Gani Bhat also threw light on various ill effects of drug menace. He urged the participants to spread the message of "Say No to Drugs" in order to save our youth from the menace.

holders in addressing the drug crisis, including law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, educators, parents and religious heads.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration and a unified approach in order to effectively combat the drug menace.

Dr. Owais said that we must work in coordination to address this issue and ensure that our communities are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to prevent drug abuse and support those struggling with addiction.

Chairman DDC, Ab Gani Bhat also threw light on various ill effects of drug menace.

Later, an interactive session was also held in which various stakeholders and students put forward their suggestions for curbing the drug menace.

Judges are like architectural designers while deciding a case: Chief Justice

JNEWSSERVICE SRINAGAR, APR 13

The Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy organized a one day interactive programme on "order/judgment writing, application of the law, sharing best practices and finding solutions to practical problems faced by them in justice delivery" for Civil Judges (Junior Division) of Kashmir Province.

The programme that was inaugurated by Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy, Justice N Kotiaswar Singh, aims to provide a platform for Civil Judges to exchange ideas and share experiences as well as learn techniques from the experts in the field of law.

Yash Paul Bournay, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, M.K Sharma, Director, J&K Judicial Academy and Jatinder Singh Janwal, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases), Srinagar were the resource persons for the programme.

Delivering the inaugural address, Chief Justice stated that it is the primary duty of a judge to write judgement understandable by a litigant and not for the higher courts. All focus must be on the litigant who has come for justice, he said adding



that judgement should be clear, lucid and with good reasoning. He said application of mind is important to make any decision because we are dealing with human sufferings. For a good judgement the facts of the case should be properly marshalled and the law should be applied with clear reasons for accepting or rejecting any claim of the litigant, he asserted. Chief Justice emphasised that the judges are like architectural designers while deciding a case.

Though in the criminal cases, charge-sheet is the basis for decision but the facts of the case must be taken care of while deciding the case, he added.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, J&K Judicial Academy, in her special address, while quoting a Greek Philosopher said that the qualities of a judge are to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially. She emphasised that while deciding a case and writing a judg-

ment a judge must consider the arguments and claims put forth by the parties. Further quoting Justice H.K. Sema, former judge of Supreme Court of India, she said that Judgement is best when given with reasons. While quoting Justice R.C. Lahoti, former Chief Justice of India, she said that while writing a judgement don't go into the verbosity of the document.

She also elaborated that a litigant must understand that why a case is in his favour or against, that should come out from the judgement. The basic factors that should be considered, is to maintain integrity while passing a decision and it should not be influenced by any other matter even our own prejudices and biases. We have to consider the facts while writing a judgement and that should be based on the provision of law, the aspect on which we are doing and how we are going to write the judgement.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Member, J&K Judicial Academy, in his special address, citing the case of Barendar Kumar Gosh said that the trial Judge quoted from the sonnet 'On His Blindness' of a famous English poet John Milton i.e., "They also serve who only stand and wait" while turning the plea of innocence of Barendar Kumar Gosh in a robbery and murder case quoting that even if you were guard at the door still you were guilty of the crime for taking no action.

Justice Wani, citing another recent judgement of the Supreme Court of India, said while quoting Justice Roslyn Atkinson, former judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, who had said that there are purposes for any judgement that is written, i.e., to spell out judges own thoughts, to explain your decision to the parties, to communicate the reasons for the decision to the public and to provide reasons for an appeal to consider. Every judgement has to have various basic elements such as statement of material (relevant) facts, legal issues or questions, deliberation to reach at decision and the ratio or conclusive decision, he added.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, M.K. Sharma,

in his welcome address, underscored the importance of organising this programme. He said that writing judgments and orders is virtually an art and often varies from judge to judge as no form or format has been provided in law as to how judgments and orders should be written by the judges.

The day long interactive programme was divided into two technical sessions and an interactive session for feedback.

The first technical session was chaired by Yash Paul Bournay, Registrar Vigilance and M.K. Sharma, Director, J&K Judicial Academy who analysed the art of order/judgment writing and application of the law.

The second technical session was chaired by Jatinder Singh Janwal, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases) who explained by Sharing best practices and finding solutions to practical problems faced by Civil Judges (Junior Division) in justice delivery.

The interactive programme concluded with an interactive session during which the participants deliberated and discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily settled by the resource persons.

World Oral Health Day celebrated at Ganderbal

JNEWSSERVICE GANDERBAL, APR 13

The District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal today organized Dental Awareness cum Hygiene Camp here in the lawns of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal as part of World Oral Health Day.

The Camp was organized with the purpose to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene among the people.

During the program, oral health care awareness and screening was conducted for people visiting the DC office. They were taught about brushing techniques and other oral hygiene instructions. Free medicines, mouth washes, hygiene kits, toothbrushes were also distributed among the participants.

Dr. Amira Majid said the World Oral Health Day is observed annually to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene.

She said that a healthy mouth leads to a healthy body. She explained the impact of oral health on overall health and the role of a balanced diet in maintaining good health and hygiene.

Atal Dulloo inaugurates Sarson Utsav, launches Kharif Campaign-2023

JNEWSSERVICE ANANTNAG, APR 13

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today inaugurated "Sarson Utsav" (festival of mustard) Campaign-2023.

The Agriculture Department Kashmir celebrated the utsav at Subhanpora, Arwani Bijbehara.

In his address, ACS said that the department has been working on a blue print from last more than two years to bring more and more areas under the cultivation of oilseeds (mustard). In this regard, this year more than 1 lakh 40 thousand hectares of land has been brought under oilseed



cultivation. Atal Dulloo said that to minimize dependence on import of edible oils from other parts of the country, the department has planned a program under national oilseed mission wherein a number of incentives including distribution of free seed, technical assistance, farm machines are being

introduced to promote and strengthen cultivation of oilseed (mustard) in the region. "This year we are expecting a bumper oil seed crop which will contribute towards socio economic transformation of farming community of the region besides generating employment opportunities for the educated youth of the UT", he added.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Satisfied over lowest...

peace prevails in the UT. "The Home Minister stated that police, security forces besides the Central agencies including NIA should work together and maintain a close synergy to make peace a permanent feature," the source said.

Today's meeting comes a day after the Union Home Secretary took the first review of the officials at North Block. Sources in the MHA said that the Home Minister stressed on ensuring the possible arrangements for peaceful conduct of G-20 meetings in Srinagar in the month of May.

"He hailed the efforts being put in by LG Shinha in ensuring fast track development in J&K. He asked the LG Shinha and officials to maintain coordination and ensure all arrangements for the G-20 meetings are put in place," the sources said.

Pertinently, Srinagar city is going through a massive infrastructural revamp ahead of the G-20 summit. DGP Dilbagh Singh recently told reporters that for the first time the number of locals and foreigners was at an all time low in J&K and "efforts are on to eliminate the remaining ones." The Home Minister also expressed his satisfaction over massive decline in the local militant recruitment and almost zero infiltration in the year 2022. As per official figures, 187 militants were killed in 111 anti-militancy operations in J&K in year 2022. KNO

Drone from Pakistan...

search is going on in many villages and some more recoveries are expected. KNO

Complex double heart...

Anesthesia was so smooth that the intraoperative period, extubation and post-operative period were uneventful, the doctor said.

The surgical team led by Dr I A Mir included Dr Arvind Kohli, Dr Shyam Singh, Dr Mohit Arora, Dr Vivek Gandotra, Dr Javid Bandy.

The Cardiopulmonary machine (which functions for heart/lung during surgery) as usual was run by Sr Perfusionist Charan Jeet Singh and Roshan Lal. Scrub side/flooring and support services were led by Sr staff Vishaahu besides Sapna Kumari, Balvir Kour, Fareena, Renu Nathyal, Ritzen Angmo, Sonia Sharma, Arjumand Shaheen, Susheel Sharma, Sumil and Deepak.

The operating surgeon Dr I A Mir said that before the surgery, the patient needed consultations with the Department of Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Chest Disease Medicine, Dermatology and Dentistry. "Such major operations are not possible without the

complete involvement of other super-specialists, able cardiac anaesthetist, inter-departmental consultations, perfusionists, scrub sisters, supportive and ICU staff," he said, adding, "The morbidity and mortality do not depend only on the valves to be replaced, but it depends on pre-admission, perioperative, intraoperative and postoperative parameters also."

Before surgery, she was on support, diuretics, bronchodilators, anticoagulants and so many other drugs. "Her postoperative period has been uneventful and she has been discharged in excellent condition. Over a short period of time, her NYHA functional class has also improved and she is in functional class II," Dr Mir said.

The Department in a statement said it is grateful to the Principal and Dean GMC Jammu Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma "who has always been at the forefront to bring the department at par with other best centers in India". "Her ever-encouraging words, scientific approach, helping attitude, patient and staff-oriented decisions are always inspiring," it said. KNO

LG greets people...

and humane society based on mutual trust, tolerance and cooperation," the Lt Governor observed. On this most revered day, let us rededicate ourselves to preserve and strengthen our unity and build an egalitarian society, said the Lt Governor. KNO

Those ridiculing Mudra...

grassroots economy but some people who consider themselves big economists never realised this and they don't understand the capabilities of the common man, he said.

At the programme, appointment letters were given to 71,506 recruits in different ministries and departments. Modi cited many development figures to underline the scale of change since he came to power in 2014.

Only 20,000 km of rail line was electrified in the seven decades till 2014 but the figure is 40,000 km in the last nine years, he said, adding that against only 600 metre of metro line built per month earlier, it is six km now.

The rural road length was 4 lakh km till 2014 but is now 7.25 lakh km while 6 lakh km optical fibre has been laid in villages, he said.

There are 148 airports against 74 earlier and the capital expenditure has risen by four times, Modi added. "The massive infrastructure work going on is creating huge employment and self-employment opportunities, he said. (Agencies)

43 injured as roof...

persons injured. Police officials told the news agency that all the injured were immediately rushed to district hospital Poonch where they were provided medical treatment and most of the injured have been discharged after medical aid.

The injured, officials said, are stable and out of danger.

The injured have been identified as Shakeela Kazmi (40) resident of Shankar Nagar, Ruksana Bukhari (50) resident of Sathra, Naiz Kazmi (40) resident of Mendhar, Ameen Jaan (55) resident of Bainch, Tabassum Kazmi (28) resident of Poonch, Javed Akhter (45) resident of Khanetar, Shamshad Fatima (42) resident of Khanetar, Zaniib Noor (45) resident of Gulpur, Zameer Fatima (42) resident of Khanetar, Shabir Fatima (60) resident of Kaller Kattal, Farida Begum (40) resident of Sathra, Shamshad Begum (36) resident of Gulpur, Shamim Akhtar (60) resident of Gulpur, Shamim Akhtar (35) resident of Dara Dullian, Safeena Bi (48) resident of Khanetar Daler, Khatoom Bibi (75) resident of Khanetar, Nasreen Akhter (54) resident of Khanetar, Rubina Begum (52) resident of Qasba, Mehnaz Akhter (40) resident of Madana, Tasleem Begum (58) resident of Kasbalari Mendhar, Rabia Bi (55) resident of Khanetar, Narqus Naqvi (36) resident of Sathra, Shamshad Akhtar (40) resident of Khanetar, Afia (19) resident of Khanetar, Saira Bano (35) resident of Poonch, Hafiza Begum (60) resident of Qasba, Naseem Akhtar (55) resident of Khanetar, Hanifa Bi (58) resident of Khanetar, Zohben Akhter (32) resident of Khanetar, Sweety Bukhari (39) resident of Ward 04 Poonch, Saira Kouser (33) resident of Surankote, Sajida Begum (25) resident of Seri Chowhana, Shammam Akhter (50) resident of Kalaban, Mir Jaan (60) resident of Kamsar Poonch, Safeena Bi (72) resident of Khanetar, Raqiza Bi (40) resident of Khanetar, Hameeda Begum (60) resident of Dhara Sathra, Shahzad Bibi (30) resident of Surankote, Tasveen Begum (40) resident of Madana, Misra Khatoun (55) resident of Dhara Fatehpur, Gulshad Begum (45) resident of Noona Band, Ameer Fatima (64) resident of Khanetar and Misra Khatoon (55) resident of Fatehpur. KNO

References to Maulana...

Jawahar Lal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees." In the tenth chapter of the same textbook, titled "The Philosophy of the Constitution", the reference to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession has also been deleted.

"For example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union was based on a commitment to

safeguard its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution," says the dropped paragraph.

Last year, the Ministry of Minority Affairs had discontinued the Maulana Azad Fellowship, which was launched in 2009, and provided financial assistance for five years to students from six notified minorities.

"Gandhi's death had magical effect on communal situation in the country", "Gandhi's pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity provoked Hindu extremists" and "Organisations like RSS were banned for some time" are among the texts missing from the class 12 political science textbook for the new academic session.

The portions referring to Gujarat riots have also been dropped from class II sociology textbook, months after NCEERT removed the reference to the 2022 communal violence in two class 12 textbooks. (Agencies)

Thousands of devotees...

Chinta, Bhaara and Sharora, arrive here with holy mace to get blessings of Lord Subhar Nag. "The doors of 1,600-year-old temple were thrown open for the devotees this morning," Anil Kumar Raina, Head Priest said.

Locals also demanded that the ancient spring festival be brought under pilgrimage tourism circuit.

"This is not only ancient and historic festival symbolizing the unique Nag culture but the temple is also located amid lush green grasslands surrounded with snow peaked mountain," said Phulail Singh (61) head organiser of the mela.

"Having all the ingredients to attract devotees and tourists from across the globe, the tourism department and BDA (Bhadraer Development Authority) has done nothing concrete so far to project it as pilgrimage destination," Phulail Singh added.

"After four months during which we mostly remain indoors due to harsh climatic conditions and snow, this festival which marks the new spring season, not only rejuvenates us but also gives us a chance to meet our relatives and friends.

"Besides all our wishes are full filled by Lord Subhar Nag," a young devotee, Diksha (21), said. Superintendent of Police, Bhaderwah, Kameshwar Puri said elaborate security arrangements were made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the festival.

"A total of 15,000 devotees, including 9,500 women, visited the ancient temple. To keep the high altitude meadow clean and free from plastic waste, authorities had deployed men as well as kiosks were made for collection of polythene and plastic waste," said Puri. (Agencies)

Shiv Sena, SSP vows to work together, to become a better political option in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and Sainik Samaj Party have jointly assured to raise their voice and become a better political option for the people of Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to protect their rights including land, employment, education and cultural identity.

Addressing a joint press conference here at Press Club today, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K and Col. S.S Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party said that for the protection of rights, cultural identity of local people, special rights have been given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 371. He said formation of Minorities Commission in Jammu and Kashmir and removal of anomalies in the welfare schemes of soldiers and ex-servicemen



were also comes under Article 371.

Sahni said that Hindus and Sikhs are minorities in Jammu and Kashmir and the government should give all benefits of all schemes with the status of minority communities. Col Pathania demanded that removal of anomalies in reservation in government jobs to soldiers, ex-servicemen and family pensioners, one-time grants to gallantry award

winners on the lines of neighboring states and other welfare schemes.

Sahni and Col Pathania said that they will jointly go among the public and make a list of public aspirations and raise their voice on those issues and with the cooperation and support of the public, they will aim to make the best political option for the people of J&K in the upcoming Panchayat, Municipal Corporation,

Assembly elections in the Union Territory. They appealed to other like-minded political parties to get united and work together for the welfare of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others who were present in the press conference include Vikas Bakshi, Shiv Sharma, Raj Singh, Raj Kumar Sharma, Mangu Chander Bhanu, Munish Rajput, Sidarth Sharma were present.

MP Khatana asks admn to brace up for summer challenges

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana has asked the Divisional administration Jammu to brace up for summer season and put in place all the measures for meeting the demand of potable drinking water and power supply.

A large number of delegations from different parts of Jammu region including Udhampur, Samba, Jammu, Kathua today met the MP Gulam Ali and apprised him about the scarcity of drinking water and power supply.

He said that with the onset of summer season drinking water supply has been affected and power supply too has become erratic.

MP Gulam Ali said that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UTs



administration led by Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha have been acting in sync with each other and are working overtime to remove the hardships of the common masses. He said that rot of seven decades spread by the Cong, NC, PDP cannot be undone in a few years yet

lot has been done by the central government. He further said that there is no dearth of funds from the central govt for development activities in Jammu and Kashmir and recent budget has provided for adequate funds. Yet water supply has to be upgraded and new out of bus solu-

tions keeping in view the future needs of Jammu have to be devised.

MP Gulam Ali said that very shortly he would review the bottlenecks in upgradation of power infrastructure and water supply schemes with the concerned officials and seek its redressal.

Raga Bhajaneshwari – a tribute to Pt. Bhajan Sopori held



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Music Maestro Pt. Abhay Rastum Sopori has introduced a new Hindustani Classical raga as a tribute to the great music legend, the Saint of the Santoor and the King of Strings, Pandit Bhajan Sopori ji. The raga has been named after Pandit Bhajan Sopori as Raga Bhajan-eshwari.

Abhay Sopori, who represents the 300 year old Santoor legacy of the fabled Sopori – Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir, presented and introduced the new raga at the 100th year celebrations of Sankat Mochan Sangheet Samaroh 2023 at Varanasi. While explaining Raga Bhajan-eshwari, Abhay said that the new raga is basically the bhajan i.e. devotion and prayer of Eshwar; the god i.e. the ulti-

mate divine and the supreme power. And this combination makes Raga Bhajaneshwari.

Abhay presented Aalap & Jod, followed by Vilambit Gat in Jhaptaal, Bandish in Madhyalaya Ektaal and Drut Gat in Teenlaal. His performance marked melodious playing, lightning tempo, clarity and accuracy of Raga exposition and nuances of the Sopori Baaj (style), the unique format of Classical Santoor playing created by Pandit Bhajan Sopori ji with all the essential technical and stylistic nuances of both the Gayaki and Tantrakari Angs such as Meends, Gamaks, Glides, Taans, Bols, Chhand and Laya patterns, etc. demonstrating his traditional Shaivaite – Sufi Parampara (tradition). Abhay also sang the new Bandish written by him "Tore Bin Me Kuch He Nahi, Tu Hai Data, Tu He Gyaata, Kripa Karo Hai Gururur".

He was accompanied by Ustad Akram Khan on Tabla and Rishi Upadhayay on Pakhawaj.

Army organises free medical camp in remote Akhnoor village

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: In an attempt to provide basic health facilities to people residing in remote areas, the Indian Army organized a medical camp at Marh, a remote village in Akhnoor tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of locals, children, youngsters and elderly alike, visited the camp here and consulted the doctors. Genuine medical requirements of the Aawaam were addressed and free medical advice and medicines were provided to the attended from the remote villages.



Army Doctors and Nursing Assistance provided treatment to all patients hailing from far flung areas with inadequate medical facilities. Dr Geeta Dubey, MBBS, MD and staff from Primary health centre, Marh and Chhibba worked tirelessly along with Army doctors

providing essential support.

The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from locals and around 215 persons from nearby villages including students of Govt High secondary school, Marh and Govt middle school, Marh availed free medical advice

and medicines during the camp.

A health awareness lecture on good health and hygiene including preventive measures against ailments like Covid-19, Jaundice, Malaria, viral Hepatitis and common fever was also conducted on the occasion by the Medical Officer of the Army.

Appreciating the steps taken by the Indian Army to provide basic health facilities in far flung areas, the villagers demanded that more such medical camps should be organised across the Union Territory on a regular basis.

Grievance camp a sincere attempt to lessen gap between Admin & public: Yudhvir

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: The Government at the Centre headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working on the mission of Antodaya and every BJP activist is working tirelessly to ensure that every needy person is able to get off the beneficial schemes launched by the PM Modi led government.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President while interacting with people during the public grievances camp held at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni Jammu. Praveen Kerni, Mandali President Jammu East; Keshav Chopra, Mandal President Talab Tillo Mandal; Karan Sharma, General Secretary Amphaballa Mandal, Kushant Daffara, General Secretary Rehari Bakshi Nagar Mandal, Madan Pal, Social Media Incharge Rehari Bakshi Nagar Mandal and Vijay Sharma Ex -Mandal President Janipur Mandal were also present during the griev-



ances redressal camp. Yudhvir said BJP has taken every possible step to ensure development of every community and every region for unprecedented growth with the target of "Antodaya". He added that such clear vision for development in every sector and development of every section has attracted every single individual to support BJP.

The senior BJP leader asserted that the Party is fully committed to address the day to day problems being faced by the people in general and that of Jammu

City in particular. He stressed on the Party's sincere attempt to have direct interaction with the masses and provide best possible solutions to their day to day administrative and development issues. He said that it is a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people and ensure that genuine issues of people are redressed in an efficacious way. Earlier in the camp, people from different parts of Jammu 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. Main issues presented were related to the non-availability of Govt ration, verification of land titles, transformer issues, electric poles, street lights, repair of lanes/ roads, job and pension issues, etc. While giving patient hearing to the deputations, Yudhvir reinstated most of the issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on phone. He assured to take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get the same resolved at the earliest.

BJP empowering common people through various policies: Sat

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) said that by empowering common people through various policies and reformative issue redressal systems, BJP has focused on prosperous India. He said this while interacting with people of Krishna Nagar area of Jammu West Assembly segment. The people were led by Corporator Ward 12 Jeet Angral.

Sat Sharma, accompanied by Mandal President BJP Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra and others was attending to the public grievances at Talab Tillo area.



The BJP leader listened to the numerous individuals who were in the meeting to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns.

The BJP leader, on the spot, addressed various issues presented in front of him related to water, electricity, lanes, drains, roads, health, revenue depart-

ments, Ration issue etc.

Sat Sharma immediately discussed their issues with the concerned officers after which they assured them that their issues would be addressed soon. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that by empowering common people through various policies and reformative issue redressal systems, BJP has focused on

prosperous India through all these years under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Government.

Keshav Chopra and Jeet Angral highlighted the major schemes of Narendra Modi led Central Government and said that BJP has done a lot for the welfare of poor and needy. They also stated about the works done by former M.L.A Sat Sharma in Jammu West Assembly segment for the welfare of the public.

Ramesh Angral, Tarun Angral, Dr Surjit, Arjun Gupta, Kaka and several others were also present.

'Nasha Mukti Abhiyan': Educating the Children at Dingla, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APR 13: Drug Addiction remains a daunting challenge which wreaks havoc at multiple levels simultaneously. At an individual level, Drug addiction makes the people dependent and robs them of their growth and self-esteem in addition to imposing a heavy financial strain. A drug addict, with his compromised capabilities, is unlikely to contribute positively and therefore, likely to be a liability for the society. The overt dependence of an addict on drugs and his urge to consume can easily be exploited by anti-social and anti-national elements for disruptive

activities including fomenting terrorism. Over the years, the menace has gradually found its way to the remotest villages along Line of Control. Keeping in view the serious repercussions of Drug Addiction at an individual, economic, societal & national level and its addictive nature, it is vital to nip the menace in the bud and curb it before it spreads its tentacles in the region. As plants need protection from pests & weeds, children also need to be safeguarded from the ill effects of social menaces like drugs to grow & develop into responsible citizens of tomorrow to serve the nation. In view of the same, An Anti-Drug addiction

event was organised at Govt High school, Dingla. The event kick started with an interactive lecture by the teaching faculty to the students on the extent of the issue and it's far reaching socio-economic consequences. An awareness rally in the areas neighbouring the school was also organised to spread the message in the environment. At the culmination, students under oath, pledged to strive towards leading a drug free life.

The successful conduct of the event will pave the way ahead in the fight against Drug Addiction leading to 'Nasha Mukti Bharat'.

GDC Neeli Nallah celebrates Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar under the mission G20 awareness

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13: To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, NSS Unit, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur today organized a symposium on the topic "Contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar towards Indian Society" under the banner G20.

The program started with the floral tribute to Dr. B. R Ambedkar by the Principal, staff members and students of the college. The whole event was

conducted under the guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj. In the symposium, students elaborately expressed their views on the theme Simran Roy, student of sem-IV secured 1st position, Rekha Devi, student of sem- VI secured 2nd position and Rameek Sharma, student of sem -II secured 3rd position.

Initiayaz, Ahmed Bhatti, Lecturer in Political Science, also spoke about the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution of India.

The Principal of the college, Prof Hans Raj, emphasised "We should

not forget the contribution of Dr. B. R Ambedkar in building India today. He is a great inspiration to all the youth and the lawyers of India." He also said that we should maintain equality among masses which will put the nation on the path of progress, peace and prosperity.

Manisha Kanchur and Prithvi Heer and Dr. Farul Chibber were the judges on the occasion. Dr. Radha Rani was the convener of the programme. The organizers of the event were Prof. Swati Dutt and Prof. Shaista Yasmeen.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Need to ramp up infra to combat fresh Covid-19 wave

In recent few days, there has been a spike in the cases of deadly Covid-19 causing an alarming situation for authorities as well. The matter of concern is that the virus has again raised its ugly head with China, the originator of the virus, reporting high infections daily while the number of daily cases has doubled in India in last couple of week. This number is expected to double in the days. It has sounded alarm bells ringing around the globe with many countries starting imposing certain restrictions. Even India has decided to go for random sampling of all international travelers entering the country while testing has been mandatory for the travelers of five nations. The Chinese government claimed that there were no Covid deaths on the mainland for the last five days despite a record surge of cases nationwide, China reported no Covid deaths on the mainland for the five days. Another matter of serious concern is that the World Health Organization (WHO) has received no data from China on new Covid hospitalisations since Beijing eased its restrictions. The organisation claims the data gap might be due to the authorities struggling to tally cases in the world's most populous country. Besides the general alert sounded over the possible spread of coronavirus in the wake of the fresh Covid wave in China has triggered a unique concern in India. With over 65 per cent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) needed by India's pharmaceutical industry imported from China, the fear of disruption in the supply of these critical raw components of medicines is quite genuine and legitimate. The possible crisis should be looked into an opportunity and act as a catalyst to ramp up the indigenous API sector. Not only will it bring down the dependence on China but also make medicines cheaper. The pandemic provided India the opportunity to showcase itself as a pharmaceutical giant. Though India currently accounts for just 8 per cent of the worldwide API market, given the huge pool of scientists, engineers and drug manufacturers, the potential for its expansion is massive. With a view to tapping into this resource, in 2020, the Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme of up to Rs 6,940 crore for the API sector as part of the Atmanirbharta initiative. However, as of March this year, the manufacturing of only 35 APIs, that are imported, had begun under this plan from 32 plants, including those in Himachal Pradesh. Notably, these 35 APIs are among the 53 for which India has 90 per cent dependence. The authorities concerned would do well to look into the hurdles blocking faster growth of the sector. Expediting the processes needed to start production at the bulk drug park in Himachal Pradesh would also help achieve this goal. At the present rate of progress, API manufacturing in the park cannot begin before three years. India stood on a par with the world's best, becoming one of the few nations to make an anti-Covid vaccine. It boasts of being a pharmaceutical hub as globally, it is the largest provider of generic drugs and fulfills 40 percent of the generic demand in the US and 25 percent of the UK's medicine demand. Tough time faced by the people of India during different waves of Covid-19 is still fresh in their mind and the government should leave no stone unturned to ramp up its facilities as pre-emptive measures to minimize the impact of fresh wave, if any, of the disease in the days to come. The states and UTs should also take precautions to make virus less effective or non-effective.

BJP'S CHRISTIAN OUTREACH HAS A G20 STRAND

MODI'S VISIT ON EASTER SUNDAY WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SYMPATHY AND REASSURANCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE BJP HAS LAUNCHED A VERY VISIBLE OUTREACH PROGRAMME TO WOO CHRISTIANS IN KERALA WITH THE HOPE OF MAKING ELECTORAL GAINS IN 2024. BUT THE PM OFFERED NEITHER, WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF HIS UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE IN CHURCH ON A DAY THAT IS SACRED FOR THE COMMUNITY.

ARATI R. JERATH

THIS year's Easter Sunday was quite extraordinary for the BJP. In the morning, its foot soldiers were sent out to Christian homes in Kerala and New Delhi to distribute Happy Easter cards from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The cards had a photograph of Jesus Christ on top and a standard closeup shot of Modi at the bottom. It was a first.

In the evening, in another first, the PM was seen at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lutynens' Delhi in the company of Archbishop Anil Couto. He lit a candle at the altar, sat with his head bowed and hands folded, listened to three hymns and planted a sapling in the church grounds.

He left in 20 minutes after handing out somewhat impolitic advice on the benefits of the drip irrigation system pioneered by Israel. There was not a word on the recent wave of attacks against Christians and their churches around the country, although the Sacred Heart Cathedral was the epicentre of a major protest by the community in February — with Archbishop Couto himself leading a huge gathering at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to demand action and protection from the government.

Given this background, Modi's visit on Easter Sunday was an opportunity for sympathy and reassurance, especially since the BJP has launched a very visible outreach programme to woo Christians in Kerala with the hope of making electoral gains in 2024. But the PM offered neither, which raises questions about the purpose of his unexpected appearance in church on a day that is sacred for the community.

Questions arise because eight years ago, in the first year of his first term as PM, a very different Modi had met a gathering of Christian clergy and leaders. The meeting took place after several churches and a school in New Delhi were vandalised.

But in sharp contrast to his recent engagement with the community, Modi in 2015 addressed head-on the issue that was at the top of the mind of his audience. Making a strong appeal for religious tolerance, he said, "Religion is a matter of personal choice. We will not allow anyone to spread hatred."

Interestingly, a leader of the community recalled that for at least one year, maybe longer, after that speech, peace reigned. Not a single church was attacked. Not a single priest was beaten, arrested or killed.

Just a few weeks before that meeting, the then US President Barack Obama had come to New Delhi as the chief guest on Republic Day. While it is not known what the two leaders spoke about when they met for a private one-on-one chat over tea, Obama did not mince words in a



speech he delivered just before flying back to Washington DC.

India will succeed so long as it is not splintered along lines of religious faith, Obama had said. Importantly, he added, "In every country, the responsibility to ensure (religious) freedom lies with the government and its people." It's easy to join the dots and see the larger picture behind Modi's stirring words cautioning against religious intolerance and violence at that gathering with Christian leaders in February 2015. The PM was on the cusp of strengthening his relationship with the US and other Christian-dominated countries in the West. It was vital that he soften his Hindu hardliner image and promote a vision of inclusivity and open-mindedness.

Since then, he has been at pains to seal his place alongside leaders of the democratic world. Never more so than today when he leads the country that is the G20 chair this year and he has portrayed India as the 'mother of democracy'.

More than promoting his party's electoral fortunes in Kerala, the impetus for Modi's Easter Sunday outing seems to be the desire to refurbish his image and his government's credentials before the September Summit when leaders of the G20 nations will gather in New Delhi.

He can ill afford waves of violence against minority institutions, particularly churches, to continue in the run-up to the Summit. And he certainly wouldn't want a repeat of the communal riots that broke out in Delhi while the then US President Donald Trump was visiting in 2020.

The unfolding geopolitical matrix is narrowing India's options. While navigating choppy international waters stirred by China's rise, Modi has to maintain common narratives with the US and other western allies. Democracy, religious tolerance and inclusivity are key words to strengthen linkages.

Modi probably hopes that his church visit on Easter Sunday has driven home the message he wants to convey without having to put it into words. The fact that there was no outcry from right-wing fundamentalist groups so far suggests that he had alerted the RSS before he went. However, there is a fine dividing line between symbolism and tokenism. For Modi to get the kudos he so desperately wants from the western world, especially at this juncture when a G20 Summit looms, his government will have to deliver on the ground by cracking down on extremist organisations that earn it negative international publicity. The recent dragging of a priest out of church in Ghaziabad during Mass is bad optics for the government.

The recent attacks on churches and the huge protest at Jantar Mantar, followed by a candlelight procession at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, were widely covered by the western media. The reports must have been noted with dismay by the PMO as it gears up for the all-important G20 Summit.

The question is: With crucial state elections approaching and then the big one in 2024, can the government call off the hounds that help in polarising voters in favour of the BJP just because an international meet of global leaders is happening in New Delhi in September?

New trade body to step up exports welcome

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

India will face external headwinds amid its efforts to push up exports in the current fiscal as the geopolitical scenario continues to remain grim. The Ukraine war is continuing without any pause, while the oil cartel, OPEC Plus, has cut output to push up crude prices. Recessionary trends continue in major western markets, even as worries over a global banking crisis have not gone away after the takeover of the Swiss flagship bank, Credit Suisse. The US Federal Reserve is continuing with its aggressive rate hikes in a bid to contain inflation and central banks of other countries will follow its lead.

It is in this backdrop that the World Trade Organisation expects trade flows to be subdued in 2023. Its latest projections are that the volume of merchandise trade will grow by 1.7 per cent this year, following the 2.7 per cent growth in 2022. The reasons given for the sub-par growth this year are basically external factors as outlined above along with the stubbornly high inflation. The trade volume increase for last year was weaker than earlier projected owing to elevated global commodity prices, tightening of the monetary policy and Covid outbreaks that disrupted production in China.

According to the WTO, the forecast for 2023 is based largely on the same

Existing agencies, such as the India Trade Promotion Organisation, have so far been involved largely in arranging trade fairs. A trade promotion body needs to do much more, especially to help millions of small and medium exporting enterprises as the share of MSMEs in the exports is an overwhelming 42.67%. But the problem with setting up new public sector agencies is that these tend to get embroiled in red tape, thereby reducing efficiency.

factors that impacted trade and output in the previous year. These include rising geopolitical tensions and weaknesses in banking systems due to interest rate hikes that could lead to wider financial instability if left unchecked. The impact of these factors on India's merchandise exports has been to keep growth contained to 7.5 per cent for the period for which data is available, from April 2022 to February 2023. Exports over these 11 months have touched \$405.94 billion compared to \$377.43 billion over the same period in the previous fiscal.

Yet, the increase has been largely in petroleum products along with gems and jewellery as the other sectors have been stagnant. What is more worrying is that February recorded a dip of 8.8 per cent in growth following a marginal rise of 1.5 per cent in January and a fall of three per cent in December. As many as 16 of the country's top export products showed a decline, including engineering goods which have been rising at a rapid rate in recent years. The slowdown in exports this year has dampened last year's euphoria when exports crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time. It was then felt that India's



exports had reached a pivotal moment and trade flows were finally set to take off in a big way.

One of the biggest contributing factors to the lull in growth in fiscal 2022 was the pent-up global demand following the pandemic.

It could thus be compared favourably to the pre-pandemic year, 2019-20, when \$313-billion exports had been recorded. It was also heartening that manufactured products like engineering goods, including electronics, occupied a major share of the export basket and rose by as much

as 50 per cent.

However, the bubble burst with the onset of the Ukraine war in February-end last year. The momentum continued for the first half of the financial year but the slowdown in global demand as a result of abnormally high inflation rates and tight monetary policies led to a 16.7 per cent fall in exports in October. Dips in growth occurred in the following months, indicating that export growth has reached a plateau.

It is probably in the light of the challenging external environment

that policymakers are now thinking of setting up a specialised trade promotion organisation. It is reported that the new trade body would be on the lines of such institutions in Japan and Korea. The Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and the Korea Trade Promotion-Investment Agency (KOTRA) are known for their efficiency and productive capabilities in guiding export efforts in their countries.

A similar body is now proposed in place of the existing individual export promotion councils and would mean the winding up of the longstanding India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

While the concept must be welcomed, it can only be hoped that the new trade body will be as effective as JETRO or KOTRA. The Japanese agency has a large presence in many countries and supports both exporters and investors. The Korean organisation focuses on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and helps foreign buyers connect with them for contracts.

The problem with setting up new public sector agencies here is that these tend to get embroiled in red tape, thereby reducing efficiency and

effectiveness. This could be avoided by having a meaningful partnership with the private sector while setting it up. The new trade body could also emulate KOTRA by keeping the SMEs in its sight and helping them to enter export markets as larger companies do not need such assistance. It will also be helpful to have a network of branches abroad if it is to emulate the Japanese agency's system of gathering business intelligence from other countries.

The creation of such a contemporary trade promotion body is in line with plans to reach a target of exports worth \$2 trillion by 2030. The existing agencies, like the ITPO, have so far been involved largely in arranging trade fairs around the world and in India. A trade promotion body needs to do much more, especially to help millions of small and medium exporting enterprises.

This is essential as the share of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country's total exports stands at an overwhelming 42.67 per cent.

A new trade body assumes greater significance in the light of the challenges that the country's export efforts will face now.

Suhana Khan responds after Shah Rukh Khan takes credit for her being 'well brought up'

Suhana Khan recently earned praise from her fans as well as her superstar father Shah Rukh Khan on becoming the brand ambassador of Maybelline and attending the brand event in a red co-ord set. She has now responded to Shah Rukh Khan's Instagram post in which he showered her with praise.

Sharing a video of Suhana from the event, Shah Rukh had written on Wednesday, "Congratulations on Maybelline beta. Well dressed...well spoken...well done & if I may take some credit, well brought up! Love you my Lil Lady in Red!" Reacting to the post, Sara wrote in the comments section, "Awww love you! So cute," kiss emojis and heart emoticons.

While Shah Rukh's post garnered 2.3 million likes, Suhana's comment itself

received more than 35000 likes. A fan even reacted to Suhana's comment, "@suhanakhan2 always gearing up the competition with the esthetic look of yours (p.s: Shah Rukh sir clearly has the credit of raising this beauty gem in this world)."

Suhana was the star of the Maybelline Squad Reveal event in Mumbai on Tuesday, along with Eksha Kerung and Ananya Birla. All of them were dressed in red or pink. In January, Shah Rukh had praised Suhana's all-black look at the grand launch of the luxury hotel Atlantis The Royal in Dubai's Palm Jumeirah. Sharing her picture in a black gown, Shah Rukh had written, "Too elegant baby... so contrary to the pyjamas you wear around the house!" She had simply responded with a "thanks" in the comments section.



Ayushmann Khurrana To Perform Live In Chandigarh, Dubai



Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is known for films such as 'Vicky Donor', 'Article 15', 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' and 'Andhadhun', is also known for his singing prowess. Who could forget 'Paani Da Rang'? The actor is set to perform live in concert in his hometown Chandigarh, and Dubai.

The actor took to his Twitter handle on Thursday and shared two pictures from his jamroom session in which he can be seen rehearsing and having fun working along with his fellow musicians.

He wrote in his tweet, "Jam room. Two gigs lined up. 16th April in Chandigarh. 23rd April in Dubai (sic)".

Ayushmann started his acting career in films with 'Vicky Donor' which became a surprise hit and made him a breakout star.

The film was directed by Shoojit Sircar, who is known for his work in films like 'October', 'Sardar Udham', 'Piku' and 'Madras Cafe'.

Meanwhile, on the cinema front, the actor is currently busy with 'Dream Girl 2', which is set to bow in theatres on July 7, 2023.

Mrs Undercover director recalls a technician kept saying 'cut' on sets, Radhika Apte had to interrupt

Writer and director of Mrs Undercover, Anushree Mehta, talks about her first film as a director, and more in this exclusive interview with Hindustan Times. Filmmaker Anushree Mehta makes her directorial debut with the spy comedy Mrs Undercover. In this exclusive interview with Hindustan Times, she talks about the troubles she navigated while making the film, how Radhika Apte came on board, and much more. Before Mrs Undercover, Anushree wrote a few episodes of CID, and a few other projects. The new film is slated for a digital release on ZEE5 on April 14.

You have been writing, but this is your first project as a director. How different are things in terms of the way the team



treats you, and the remuneration you get? Misogyny is such a big part of our exis-

tence. And, it is not about India, it is a global phenomenon and both men and women are conditioned to be part of it.

There are times when I need to check myself, how I perceive myself. And, I'd say Abir is the bigger feminist that way.

One day, we were shooting an intense part and it was late at night. This one gentleman, who was a technician, there was something going wrong in his department, and every time, he would say 'cut'. I finally had enough as the time was running out and I had to shoot the scene. I told him 'I am here to say cut, let me decide if it is okay or not. I think if a man was here, you wouldn't have dared to say this'. He did that when Radhika Apte and a senior Bengali actor were performing. Radhika immediately jumped in and said 'she is right. Please do what you are supposed to do and do not interrupt her. Do not do this'.

Kartik Aaryan-Shraddha Kapoor's film, Bhediya and Stree sequels, SRK's Dunki announced as Jio Studios unveil slate

Jio Studios on Wednesday unveiled its upcoming slate in India that features over 100 movie and web-series titles including Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Dunki, a film with Amitabh Bachchan and sequels to Bhediya and Stree. Jio Studios, the media and content arm of Reliance Industries Limited, announced that they are collaborating with noted filmmakers including Raj Kumar Hirani, Sooraj Barjatya, Dinesh Vijan, Ali Abbas Zafar, Aditya Dhar, Prakash Jha, Amar Kaushik, and Laxman Utekar among others for their upcoming titles.

The studio has lined up ready to release over 100 stories across genres of films and original web series in multiple languages including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, South and Bhojपुरi. The stellar film line-up includes Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Dunki, Bloody Daddy featuring Shahid Kapoor, an untitled film with Shahid and Kriti Sanon, Bhediya 2 with Varun Dhawan, Bhul Chuk Maaf starring Kartik Aaryan and Shraddha Kapoor, Stree 2 with Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Section 84, R Madhavan-led Hisaab Barabar, Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, starring Vijay Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan, Blackout with Vikrant Massey and Mouni Roy, south star Vijay Sethupathi's Hindi movie, Mumbaikar, The Storyteller with Paresh Rawal and Adil Hussain, Dhoom Dhaam with Pratik Gandhi and Yami Gautam, Taapsee Pannu and Arvind Swamy's Empire are also part of the line-up.

Did You Know Shehnaaz Gill Blocked Salman Khan's Number When He Called To Offer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'?

Shehnaaz Gill shares a warm bond with Salman Khan ever since she featured on 'Bigg Boss 13'. So it did not come as a surprise when she became a part of 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. But did you know that Shehnaaz blocked his number when the actor called her for the part?

Well, the cast and crew of the film recently shot for an episode of 'The Kapil Sharma Show', and during that, Shehnaaz revealed that she was in Amritsar, when she received calls from an unknown number. So she ended up blocking the number, only to be later informed that it was Salman Khan's call. Sharing details about it, Shehnaaz said, "I was in Amritsar visiting the Gurudwara when I received a call from an unknown number. And I have this habit of blocking unknown numbers, so I did the same.

Then after a few minutes, I got a message that Salman sir is trying to call me. Just to verify, I put the number on the Truecaller app and



found out that it was actually Salman Khan calling me! I immediately unblocked him and called him back; it was then that he offered me the film and that's how I got the film."

Meanwhile, at the trailer launch, Shehnaaz thanked Salman Khan for trusting her with the film. "When I went to shoot for my first music video, I was rejected. I was told, 'Ye kaunsi bachchi leke aaye hai, we don't want to shoot with her.' Take her back.' I came back and

cried a lot at home, that I've been rejected. My mom told me why am I crying, one day I would be in a Salman Khan film. Sir gave me a chance and proved that mom's words always come true," she said.

Joining Salman and Shehnaaz on the sets of 'The Kapil Sharma Show' were Pooja Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Raghav Juyal, Palak Tiwari, Jassie Gill, Siddharth Nigam, Vinali Bhatnagar, and Sukhbir. 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' will release in cinema halls on April 21.

RAHUL VAIDYA SINGS 'MEHNDI RACH GAYI' FOR LAKHNEET WEDDING



Playback singer Rahul Vaidya has lent his voice to the original song, 'Mehndi Rach Gayi' for the wedding of the internet sensations Lakhan Rawat and Neetu Bisht Rawat also known as the Lakhneet Wedding.

Singer Priya Mallick perfectly complements Rahul's voice in the song. The track is soulful yet upbeat and symbolises the bride and the groom's anticipation to unite.

Commenting on the track, Rahul said, "Weddings are one of the most monumental occasions of a person's life. It was a delight to create a song for such a special and personal event. When I was approached for the song, I was excited to be a part of something which will touch people's hearts. 'Mehndi Rach Gayi' is the coming together of eagerness, and the dreams of two people in love. Kudos to Lakhan and Neetu for wanting to share their special moment with fans."

The fun-loving duo, Lakhan Rawat and Neetu Bisht Rawat of Lakhneet Vlogs fame have earned great fame for giving major couple goals to audiences while playing pranks and capturing daily vlogs with their family and friends.

Speaking on the release of the song, Animeta Creators Lakhan and Neetu commented: "We are grateful to Rahul Vaidya for creating such a beautiful song. We were so emotional when we heard it for the first time. It fills us with memories of our beautiful day when we listen to it. We hope couples and their families fall in love with 'Mehndi Rach Gayi' in the same way we did."



Samantha Ruth Prabhu on doing action in Citadel despite myositis: Not every day you get a tag 'she is good at action'

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she was excited to reunite with her The Family Man directors Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK for the Indian chapter of Citadel, a globe-trotting spy drama, is a complete package full of action and emotion. The 35-year-old actor features alongside Varun Dhawan in the Indian original series within the Citadel franchise, whose flagship show, featuring Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden, launches on Prime Video on April 28. "I am privileged to work

with Raj and DK again, they are (at) the top of their game, they gave me such an amazing character with Raji (in The Family Man 2). With Citadel we are pushing the boundaries even further, with action, with emotions, it is quite a package. It is like working with family, there is equal amount of fun and challenge," the actor told PTI in an interview. In an interview as a "local original spy series", the project hails from Priya Video and ACGBO, the production banner co-founded by Hollywood filmmaking duo Russo Brothers. Samantha said

even though her health posed a major challenge, she enjoyed doing action for Citadel. She is grateful to the team for being patient and understanding of her. The actor was diagnosed with myositis, an autoimmune condition, in October last year. "Physically, the show is very intense, there is a lot of action in Citadel and we recently shot something and we are very happy and proud to show it to the world, I am really looking forward to that. "Considering the challenges that I am facing health wise, I am glad I am able to do what I

am doing in Citadel. Everyone is being patient and kind and I am truly grateful for that," the Yashoda star said. Asked whether she took special precautions to avoid injuries during the action sequences, Samantha said she has often been warned for not being too careful in such scenes. "I am the worst at that, I just think, 'I just have to go and do and do my best'. I have been told by other actors that, 'It is not cool, you should be better prepared, you should protect yourself better'. "But I am all very eager to

divo into it, especially for a girl to do action and it is not really every day that you get a tag that, 'she is good at action'. So, now you want to do better and you want to push it, and you don't want that tag to go away. I think that is what is pushing me to my maximum capabilities." The Indian Original Citadel series marks the streaming debut of Varun. Working with the Bhediya star, Samantha said, has turned out to be a great collaborative experience, as they both often push each other to perform their best.

4 Yoga asanas and Pranayam technique to prevent chronic health conditions



Yoga is an ancient practice that has been shown to improve physical, mental and emotional health as it involves a series of postures, breathing exercises and meditation, which can help reduce stress, improve flexibility, strength, balance and promote relaxation and fitness experts believe that it is a safe and effective way to prevent and manage chronic health conditions. A 2017 study found that practicing Yoga for six months reduced body weight, BMI and waist circumference in overweight and obese adults.

A 2016 study found that practicing Yoga for 12 weeks improved bone mineral density and reduced bone turnover in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis while a 2013 study found that practicing Yoga for eight weeks reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety in patients with major depressive disorder.

Another 2016 study found that practicing Yoga for six months improved glucose control in patients with type 2 diabetes while a 2014 study found that

practicing Yoga for three months reduced systolic blood pressure in hypertensive patients. However, it is important to consult with a healthcare provider before starting a new exercise program, especially if you have a chronic health condition or are pregnant.

In an interview with media Lifestyle, Himalayan Siddha Akshar, Founder of Akshar Yoga Institutions, suggested 4 Yoga asanas and Pranayam technique to prevent chronic health conditions:

Bhastrika Pranayam

Technique
Method - Sit in any comfortable pose (such as Sukhasana, ArdhaPadmasana or Padmasana) Straighten your

YOGA IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS. HERE ARE 4 YOGA ASANAS AND PRANAYAM TECHNIQUE THAT YOU SHOULD ADD TO YOUR FITNESS ROUTINE

back and close your eyes. Place your palms on your knees facing up (in Prapthi Mudra). Inhale and fill your lungs with air. Exhale completely. Inhalation and exhalation should be done in a 1:1 ratio. For example, if you breathe in for 6 counts, you must take 6 counts to exhale

Duration - You may begin by practicing this breathing technique for five minutes a day and gradually increase it with time.

Paschimottasana

Method - Begin with Dandasana. Ensure that your knees are slightly bent while your legs are stretched out forward. Extend your arms upward and keep your spine erect. Exhale and empty your stomach of air. With the exhale, bend forward at the hip and place your upper body on your lower body. Lower your arms and grip your big toes with your fingers. Try to

touch your knees with your nose. Hold the asana for 10 seconds.

Utkalāsana
Method - Begin with

Samasthithi. Join palms to form namaste at your heart chakra and raise your arms up. Bend your knees and slowly lower your pelvis. Ensure that your pelvis is parallel to the floor with a 90degree bend at the knees. Align your ankles and knees in one straight line. Focus your gaze towards your namaskar. Ensure that your spine remains erect and avoid hunching of the back. Hold the posture for 10 seconds.

Naukasana

Method - Lie down on your back. Bring your upper body 45° off the floor. Pivot your body weight on your hips and lift your legs 45° off the floor. Your toes must be aligned with your eyes. Try to prevent a bend in the knees. Keep your arms parallel to the ground and pointing forward. Tighten your abdominal muscles. Straighten your back.

How to Do Face Pulls, One of the Best Exercises to Protect Your Shoulders



Face pulls are an underrated movement that targets the shoulders and back. One of the older-named exercises in the gym, conjuring images of legendary guys like Jack LaLanne pulling cars and boats with their teeth, the exercise gets its name from pulling a cable handle to the face, not the neck or upper chest. Here's how and why to build cable face pulls into your upper-body routine.

Many machine exercises contribute to shoulder instability, overuse, and injury. Face pulls, however, when done correctly, do the opposite.

The exercise strengthens all the stabilizer muscles around the shoulder, enhancing scapular stability, and preventing injury. While most guys spend some time stabilizing their hips and put a ton of focus on their abs, they don't devote enough effort to their shoulders, which take a beating from everyday life hunched over computers and steering wheels.

Shoulders also take a lot of abuse in the weight room. There's a reason it's called shouldering a burden. Face pulls improve posture, prevent shoulder issues, and even enhance your pullup ability since they develop many of the same muscles used for the king of all body-weight moves. Plus, if you want to build that impressive V-shaped back, the face pull is one of the best moves you can do.

What Do Face Pulls Work?

Face pulls target and develop the shoulders and upper-back muscles such as the rear deltoids, middle trapezius, rhomboids, and rotator cuff muscles (like the infraspinatus), which improve scapular stability and strength.

Stabilizing the rotator cuff muscles is crucial not just for guys who hammer their shoulders in the weight room, but also for baseball pitchers, quarterbacks, and swimmers, who are especially prone to shoulder overuse. Not only will face pulls strengthen and stabilize your shoulders and back, which is valuable in and of itself, but that stable upper body will produce bigger lifts, better posture, and overall musculoskeletal health.

On the cable pulley system, use the rope attachment and set the weight to an appropriate setting. Note: Use light weight until you master proper form. Going too heavy will likely shift momentum and turn this into more of a back exercise.

Stand facing the cable machine in an athletic stance with your feet shoulder-width apart and your body leaning back about 20 degrees.

Grip the rope with both hands, then step back, so the stack of weight plates rises.

Keeping your back straight and knees slightly bent, begin the movement by inhaling and squeezing your shoulder blades together as if trying to bring them toward your back pockets.

Bring the cable to your face at eye level—not the chin or neck, where it becomes more of a biceps movement.

At the end of the move, your upper arms and forearms should form a 90-degree angle.

Face pulls require a specific form with limited variation to make them either easier or harder (aside from adjusting the weight), and are best performed with a cable pulley machine.

If you don't have access to one, it's possible to use resistance bands—hanging them on a bar and pulling them to your face. Other movements that target similar muscle groups include lat pulldowns, pullups, dumbbell flies, and dumbbell rows.

How Old Are You Really? Our Three-part Fitness Test Will Reveal Your Gym Age

THERE'S MORE TO YOUR AGE THAN THE DATE ON YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE – INCREASED GRIP STRENGTH WILL ENSURE YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOUR SQUEEZE...

A firm handshake has long been considered a marker of self-assurance. A paper published in the Journal Of Personality And Social Psychology found that first impressions are often built on it, and John F Kennedy, who sensed its importance to his political career, went as far as commissioning a study into how best to do it.

But the muscles in your hand express more than just confidence: scientists are increasingly using measurements of grip strength as a proxy for your overall physical condition. And, according to researchers at the University of Michigan, a weak grip suggests low muscular strength across your whole body – which, in turn, indicates a more advanced biological age.

This matters because your chronological age – that is, how



many birthdays you've had – doesn't fully reflect the reductions of physical capacity associated with growing older. Smoking and a nutritionally poor diet, for example, can accelerate this decline, making a sedentary 40-year-old who lives on nicotine and cheeseburgers biologically 'older' than a fit 50-

year-old who balances his vices. The University of Michigan study supports prior research, which found muscular strength to be a predictor of longevity and provides the strongest evidence yet of the relationship between muscle weakness and biological ageing. The paper's most significant

implication, however, is that building – or at least maintaining – your muscle strength throughout your life could help to arrest the development of many age-related illnesses. In other words, the pursuit of muscle isn't just for showboating 25-year-olds. Consider it a lifelong endeavour.

How Old Are You Really?
Use this three-part test to assess if your body is older or younger than its years.

Total Strength
Deadlift & Carry
Stand inside a loaded trap bar, grab its handles and lift. Walk 30m without dropping it. No trap bar? Use heavy weights instead.

Body Weight (%)
17% - 25
150% - 35
125% - 45
100% - 55

<100% - 65
Relative Strength
Press-up
How well can you manage your body weight? Fire off as many press-ups as you can, touching your chest to the floor on each rep.

Total Reps
28 - 25
21 - 35
16 - 45
12 - 55
11 - 65

Functional Strength
Turkish Get-up
Lie with your back flat, then hoist a weight in your dominant hand overhead. Reach and stand; keep the weight overhead at all times.

Max Weight (kg)
24 - 25
20 - 35
16 - 45
12 - 55

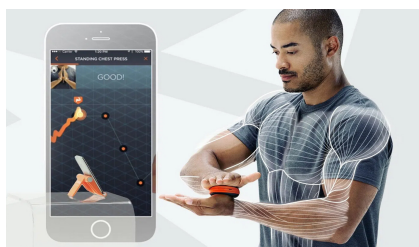
Health and Fitness Gadgets That Your Smartphone Can Replace

From smartphones to fitness gadgets, there seems to be a device for everything. While these gadgets can be helpful, it's easy to get carried away and collect more than you need. If you're trying to simplify your setup, look no further than your smartphone for a multi-tool that can take the place of many health and fitness gadgets. Further, by doubling up on your smartphone's functionality, you can save money and reduce clutter.

1. Running and Cycling GPS Devices

Running and cycling GPS devices such as the Garmin Edge 830 are popular tools for tracking workouts and improving performance. What I like about the Garmin Edge 830, for example, is that it features turn-by-turn directions and can be mounted on your mountain bike's handlebars. It's also designed to withstand the elements and bumps of the trail.

To use a dedicated GPS tracker, you simply turn it on, select your activity (running, cycling, etc.) and start your workout. The device will track your route, speed, distance, and other metrics, providing you with



real-time information. While dedicated GPS devices can be handy tools, many smartphones have built-in GPS capabilities that can do many of the same tasks, including tracking your route, speed, calories burned, distance covered, and more.

Additionally, handlebar mounts such as the Quad Lock provide a reliable, secure way to mount a smartphone on a bike's handlebars. And with smartphones coming in rugged and waterproof versions, it might make more sense to replace your tiny-

screened cycling computer with a dedicated biking smartphone app. Strava is one of the most popular apps for runners and cyclists.

With over 50 million downloads on the Google Play Store, the app features everything you'd expect in terms of metrics tracking but also offers features like challenges, leaderboards, and personalized training plans.

If you're a mountain biker, Trailforks is an essential app. And for runners, check out Nike Run Club or

MapMyRun.
Download: Trailforks for iOS | Android (Free, in-app purchases available)
2. Smart Mirror Home Gyms

YOUR SMARTPHONE IS PACKED WITH FEATURES, AND IT CAN EVEN TAKE THE PLACE OF SOME POPULAR HEALTH GADGETS. SIMPLIFY YOUR SETUP WITH THESE APPS.

Smart mirror home gyms are a new and exciting trend. They are feature-rich and nice if you can afford them. They consist of a high-tech mirror that doubles as a workout screen and allows you to stream live and on-demand workouts directly from your home. Popular brands include Mirror and Tonal.

To use a smart mirror home gym, all you need to do is turn on the device, select a workout type and length, and start exercising.

Some mirrors provide feedback on your form and progress, and many devices also offer personal training plans and progress tracking.

Woman using Mirror fitness mirror/Apple Credit: Mirror
While smart mirror home gyms offer a unique and immersive workout experience, they can also be

expensive and require dedicated space in your home—even if it's just a space on an empty wall.

As an alternative, there are many fitness apps for smartphones that

can be clipped onto your clothing or carried in your pocket. They use accelerometers to track your steps, as well as distance traveled and sometimes calories burned.

offer similar features and can even be used with smart TVs. By adding a few free weights, you can create a workout experience that is almost as good as the very expensive smart mirror home gyms.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the fitness apps that offer live and on-demand fitness classes, as well as other apps with guided workouts using nothing but your body weight. One popular fitness app is Nike Training Club, which features everything from high-intensity interval training to yoga and Pilates. The app integrates with multiple Apple devices and can also be streamed to your TV using AirPlay.

3. Pedometers
Pedometers are small devices that track your steps throughout the day. These devices are small and light-

Some devices, including the popular Fitbit Zip, let you sync with companion apps on your smartphone to see your step count and other data. While pedometers can be useful for tracking your activity, most smartphones have built-in accelerometers that can do much of the same thing. By using a pedometer app on your smartphone, you can track your steps and other activity data without the need for an additional device.

The Step Counter - Pedometer app has over 50 million downloads and 4.9 stars on the Google Play Store. After downloading the app, you don't even have to open it to track your steps—you can instead install a widget on your home screen that shows your step count. Other popular options include Google Fit and the Pedometer - Step Counter.



DC Kathua reviews arrangements for roll out of 'Kissan Sampark Abhiyan' under HADP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 13: To review and finalize the arrangements for smooth roll-out of farmers' orientation programme (Kisan Sampark Abhiyan) under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a meeting of concerned officers was today convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey here in the Conference hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kathua, Uttam Singh; ACD Kathua, Kishore Singh Katoch; ACR Kathua, Vishav Pratap Singh; CAHO, Head Krishna Vijayan Kendra Kathua and other officials from Agriculture and Allied departments.

During the meeting, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kathua apprised the chair regarding the arrangements put in place for the successful conduct of farmers' orientation programme under the HADP which will be held from 24th April up to 31st of August 2023.

It was given out in the meeting that a 3-day awareness camp shall be organised in each panchayat across the district so as to sensitize and acquaint farmers with opportunities offered under different schemes of Agriculture and allied sectors.

The DC emphasised upon the Sectoral Officers of Agriculture and allied departments to give the programme a wide publicity so that mass participation of the farming community can be assured. He also instructed the farmers about modern tools and techniques besides generating awareness about the schemes of self



employment that have been incorporated in HADP to overcome the prevailing constraints and use different extension methods to motivate the farming community in adoption of proposed interventions in the approved projects.

The DC assured all possible help from District Administration for the successful implementation of the programme in the district to uplift the livelihood of the farming community.

The DC said this revolutionary step of the Government can prove a game changer as it has the potential to transform the agrarian profile of the district.

Pertinently, Govt. of UT of J&K has recently accorded approval to projects under HADP for Agriculture and Allied Sectors with an aim to increase the farmer's income and to make the UT of Jammu and Kashmir a leading Agrarian Economy in the country.

Kathua Admin intensifies Voter Awareness Campaigns to Bolster Electoral System

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 13: In furtherance to its resolve to Bolster Democratic System, District Election Office Kathua is taking varied measures to encourage voter participation through systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

The district has already launched several initiatives, which will continue till 20th April 2023 under the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR-2023).

As part of the SVEEP program, the district election office is organizing a series of awareness campaigns and initiatives to increase voter participation. These activities include awareness rallies, Pledges, signature campaigns, and door to door campaigning, among others.

The district election office has also set up Voter Facilitation Centres at all the Polling Stations where citizens can register to vote, update their voter ID cards, and find other election-related information.



The centres are equipped with trained personnel to provide necessary assistance to voters and it also provides a platform for the dissemination of voter awareness literature.

Furthermore, the District Information Centre Kathua has also launched a social media campaign to reach out to young eligible & Prospective voters by sharing information about the ongoing activities besides disseminating information about the Electoral Process. The campaign includes the use of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp to engage with the youth and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.

Besides, the district election office has partnered with local schools and colleges to spread awareness about the importance of voting among students. This initiative aims to encourage students who have attained the age of 18 to get enrolled and participate in the upcoming elections.

Pertinently, the SVEEP program is receiving tremendous support and enthusiastic response from all the citizens who have pledged their support to become an active participant in the electoral process.

SMDA celebrates Baisakhi festival at Mansar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13: To promote Tourism in General and cultural and heritage Tourism of the J&K UT in particular, the Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority, in collaboration with Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and District Administration celebrated Baisakhi Festival at Mansar here today.

The main highlights of the festival were Punjabi Bhangra, Gojri, Pahari Dances, Dogri dances, Punjabi Songs and Punjabi Folk by the Artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and languages, Jammu and Folk Music by Ms Rinku - a local Folk Singer.

An Exhibition exhibiting the sale counters by Handloom and Handicraft Department, Industries Department, Tourism Publicity Counter and local Ethnic Food Stalls etc was another highlight of the event.

The function was inaugurated by lighting of the traditional lamp by Dina Nath, Chairman BDC Majaita; Amit Sharma, DDC member; Sunita Devi Sarpanch panchayat halqa Mansar and Showkat Ahmed sarpanch panchayat Halqa Pati Bari Garh in presence of Ved Parkash CEO, SMDA and other officers of Surinsar Mansar Development Authority, different Departments and Panches of the Mansar/surrounding Panchayats.

The Cultural Programme was witnessed by tourists of different states, local tourists of the state and local visitors.

Sunil Kumar Tagotra, Executive Engineer, SMDA (Nodal Officer Baisakhi Festival) presented vote of Thanks on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner pays rich tributes to martyrs on Rajouri Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 13: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today visited ALG ground to pay tributes to the brave civilians who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Rajouri from Pakistani invaders, marking the occasion of Rajouri Day.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the families of the fallen heroes as well as with the civilians and Army officers present at the event. He expressed his gratitude for their contribution towards the overall development of the region and emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among all stakeholders for maintaining peace and harmony in the district.

"Rajouri Day is a solemn occasion to honor the memory of the brave civilians who fought valiantly for the liberation of Rajouri. Their sacrifices will always be remembered and serve as an inspiration for generations to come," said Deputy Commissioner Kundal.

The event was attended by DDC Member Rajouri, Sai Abdul Rashid, Army officers, PRI members, veterans, and the public in large numbers, highlighting the significance of Rajouri Day in the hearts and minds of the people.

The Deputy Commissioner's call for collaboration towards the region's development is a timely reminder of the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving progress. Rajouri Day is not only a day to honor the sacrifices of the past but also a day to pledge our commitment to working towards the development and progress of the region.

The day concluded with a solemn ceremony, paying tribute to the fallen heroes with a promise to continue their legacy of bravery, and with a renewed determination to work towards the prosperity and well-being of Rajouri.

Change of Land Use: DLC approves 02 cases in Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 13: The District Level Committee (DLC) on change of land today approved two cases of conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use here at its meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, which held a thorough discussion on the applications received online from across the district. The Committee, after a threadbare discussion, approved 02 cases of conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes.

Necessary directions were also issued to the concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion Regulations, 2022.

Officers who attended the meeting included DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; CEO RDA, Vivek Puri; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SE PWD(R&B), Kamal Kishore; SE Hydraulics, Bhanam Jyoti Sharma; DO PCB, Anupam Koul; CAO, Sohan Singh and other concerned officers.

Bandipora Admin conducts market checking; realises fine of Rs. 12900

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 13: In order to curb over pricing and illegal profiteering, a market checking team under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit today conducted market checking of Bandipora town.

The team realised an on spot fine of Rs.12900 from erring traders and warned of strict action against traders involved in over pricing and illegal profiteering.

The ADC said the drive shall be intensified in coming days keeping in view of the holy month of Ramdan and auspicious occasion of Eid al-Fitr.

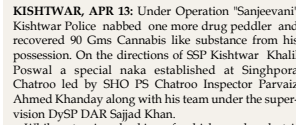
He urged the traders to follow the rules and regulations, ensure quality commodities besides displaying rate lists.

He also stressed on maintaining hygiene and urged the business establishments to restrain from hoarding, over-charging and adulteration.

The ADC was accompanied by ACR Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani and other concerned officers.

Kishtwar Police arrests Notorious Drug Peddler

JJ NEWS SERVICE



KISHTWAR, APR 13: Under Operation "Sanjeevani" Kishitwar Police nabbed one more drug peddler and recovered 90 Gms Cannabiss like substance from his possession. On the directions of SSP Kishitwar Khalil Poswal a special naka established at Singhpora Chatroo led by S/O PS Chatroo Inspector Parvaiz Ahmed Khanday along with his team under the supervision DySP DAR Sajjad Khan.

While extensive checking of vehicles and pedestrians naka party observed a suspicious moment of one pedestrian who seeing the naka party and trying to flee from naka but alert cops of naka party overpowered him and searched was conducted and recovered Cannabiss (Charas) like substance weighing about 90 gms and accused person was arrested from the spot.

The accused disclosed his identity as Ab Rashid S/O Bahar Ahmed Malik R/O Singhpora Chatroo.

In this regard a case FIR No. 23/2023 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act registered at F/S Chatroo and investigation taken up. SSP Kishitwar Mr. Poswal/JKS appreciated the cops who were performing Naka duty at Naka point Singhpora Chatroo and advised all the Naka Points to perform their legitimate duties with same zeal and dedication so that the social evils viz-a-viz other crimes are not allowed to flourish in the District.

District Administration, JK Tourism, Indian Army, BRO come Together to celebrate Baisakhi Utsav in Paddar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 13: The Baisakhi Utsav celebration was today kicked off with multifarious activities in Paddar by District Administration Kishitwar in collaboration with JK Tourism, Indian Army & BRO.

The event was graced by the august presence of Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ASP, Rajinder Singh, ACR Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Paddar Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma along with Tehsildar Atholi Satish Kumar, BDO Nagsemi Anil Singh, BDO Dachhan Ravi Kumar, Officers of the Indian Army Lt. Col. 17 BR Anshuman Fatil, 2 OC BRO besides District and sectoral officers besides PRIs & Locals.

The celebration featured a range of activities, including River Rafting, Wrestling (Dangal), Beach Volley Ball, Rapling & Zip line near the river bank of Gosi, Paddar.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar, in the presence of Sarpanch Gulabgarh, DYSSO Kishitwar Kharrati Lal, inaugurated the maiden Day-Night cricket competition at the prestigious Sports Stadium of Gulabgarh. In all 7 local teams will lock their horns in the tournament. The finale



of tournament will be held tomorrow on 14th April 2023.

The local cuisine stalls, showcasing the local and traditional taste of Paddar, were also put up by NRI/MSHG members which were inspected by Deputy Commissioner and other dignitaries and officers during the event.

Pertinent to mention that on April 14th, the Bikers of CRPF & Bike club Group, Jammu will take the Bike Rally across the cliff Hangar (Asia, 2nd hazardous Road) on the Galhar-Sansari axis via Sohal and Tiwari, starting from Gulabgarh in the morning. The Bullet Bike rally from Jammu will carry Nasha Mukht message en-route.

In addition to these activities, the Baisakhi Utsav celebration also featured a musical programme that saw performance of local artists and musicians.

The performances included traditional folk songs and dances, which were received with much enthusiasm by the audience.

The participation of the Indian Army and BRO added to the festive spirit of the event and their involvement was greatly appreciated by the people of Paddar and Kishitwar. The event also provided an opportunity for the Indian Army and BRO to interact with the locals and learn more about their customs and traditions.

DDC Kupwara chairs DLRC/DCC meeting

ASKS OFFICERS TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE IN AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 13: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC)/District Consultative Committee (DCC) organised by District Lead Bank Office Kupwara, here.

Addressing the meeting, the DDC who is also Chairman of District Level Review Committee, advised all the banks and the sponsoring agencies to work with greater cooperation, coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of development and progress besides generation of employment for the unemployed youth of the district.

He directed them to reflect and register every improvement and performance on the financial indicators.

He also directed all departments and banks to conduct



awareness programmes at village/block levels to generate proper awareness about the schemes among the people. He said employment generation for youth is the top most priority of the Government and urged upon the sponsoring agencies and banks to work with added dedication for the betterment of youth.

The DDC asked the concerned officers of agriculture and allied sectors and heads of banking institutions to improve the indicators of agriculture and allied sectors and prioritise the saturation of the financial inclusion schemes of agriculture and allied sectors.

He emphasised upon the con-

cerned officers to reflect the improvement of indicators and achievements in proper time so that the Aspirational District Programme dashboard is timely updated. DDC asked the heads of banking institutions and chief agriculture officer Kupwara besides officers of allied sectors to saturate the KCC coverage and pay special attention to double cropping, animal husbandry and Fisheries.

He directed for the constitution of committee comprising of Lead Bank Manager, Cluster head of Bank and Chief Agriculture officer to submit a detailed report regarding the steps to be taken for improvement in agriculture schemes and

inclusion of financial schemes within one month and make an action plan suggesting how agriculture and allied sectors are improved.

The DDC directed AMO, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing to sponsor at least 5 cold storage cases in Kupwara district as there is huge potential of cold storage in the private sector.

While highlighting the overall performance for 3rd quarter under Annual District Credit plan , Lead District Manager, Kupwara Mehboob Ellahi Khan informed the house that against the National Credit Plan of Rs.1305.02 Crores for 2022-23, the achievements under priority sector advances were to the tune of Rs.546.68 Crores against target of Rs.1574.99 Crores for 3rd quarter 2022-23 which constitutes 35% while as under non-priority sector the achievements are to the tune of Rs.756.34 Crores against target of Rs.226.09 Crores which consti-

tutes 33%.

He further informed that the deposits of the banks in the District were to the tune of Rs.2915 Crores as on 31.12.2022 compared to Rs. 2915 Crores as on 31-12-2021.

The advances of the banks stood at Rs.3778 Crores as on 31.12.2022 against Rs.3399 Crores as on 31-12-2021 thereby registering an increase of Rs.379 Crores which works out to 11%.

The CD ratio of the District as on 31.12-2022 stood at 130%.

Rs.1553.01 crore has been disbursed by the banks amongst 76159 beneficiaries under PM Mudra Yojana Scheme till 31-12-2022 since inception. The District has already sanctioned 3277 cases under various govt sponsored schemes & disbursed Rs.97.1 Crore.

Under the new KCC scheme for Animal husbandry, Sheep & Fisheries, the banks have sanctioned 12639 cases & have disbursed Rs.74.23 Crores to the beneficiaries.

BLOCK DIWAS HELD AT DRABGAM, PULWAMA

Massive public participation in Block Diwas, a reflection of People's confidence in Govt. & Admin: DC

J1 NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 13: The District Administration Pulwama held Block Diwas at Eidgah Drabgam-A to assess the local issues and listen to the grievances of the people for speedy disposal of the same with the intervention of senior government officers and representatives of panchayat institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary chaired the public outreach programme and redressed hundreds of grievances on the spot.

Several public issues including road connectivity to uncovered areas, macadamization of interior roads, availability of sports stadium/ playground for youth, establishment of Post office, Boundary wall around higher secondary school, completion of

under construction building in HSS, providing of bore well and better drinking water facilities, allopathic primary health centre in the area, establishment of timber sale depot, Bridge at Nallah Romshi, development of irrigation khul and augmentation of the health infrastructure were projected by the local people and PRIs. The DC gave a patient hearing to the grievances raised and assured quality disposal of genuine issues in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned department heads/ officers to resolve the same expeditiously and submit the action taken report before next scheduled block diwas. The various hurdles and bottlenecks in the local security schemes were also resolved on the spot with the convergence of multiple departments. He also gave on-the-spot directions for the redressal of



many issues of urgent nature as per the competence of concerned Departments. The DC further added that District Administration is ensuring to provide all facilities to the people at their doorsteps and in this regard necessary instructions are already given to line departments. While interacting with the local people, Sarpanchs, Panchs, and the delegations, the DDC said that the Block Diwas is being

organized across the length and breadth of the District Pulwama, with the sole objective to provide more transparent, accountable, public-friendly and responsive administration to the people. On the occasion, the DC said that Block Diwas is a regular feature now and appealed to people to become active participants so that the issues of daily importance are redressed in the minimum possible time.

The DC directed the District and sectoral officers to ensure service counter of their respective Departments at Block Diwas meetings so that the public can reap the benefits of different government schemes without visiting offices repeatedly.

He directed the concerned officers to exert for the completion of ongoing projects, roads and bridges. He urged officers to complete the work within the shortest possible time.

The DC was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr Sheikh Abdul Aziz; ASP Pulwama, DDC Members, PRIs, ACD Pulwama, En KPDC, CMO Pulwama, CAHO Pulwama, Officers from Agriculture and Horticulture Depts, Tehsildar Rajpora, BDO Shadimarg, and all other District officers.

DC Ganderbal visits proposed venue for Youth Entrepreneurship Festival

REVIEWS INFRASTRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS AT VENUE FOR CARRYING VARIOUS EVENTS

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambr inspected the available infrastructure in GDC Ganderbal where many events related to Youth Entrepreneurship Festival are to be held.

During the visit, the DC took a round of available infrastructure at GDC and gave necessary instructions for carrying out various activities during the Festival.

The DC directed for making the Youth Lane alongside the venue where a number of Youth Engaging Mural Paintings shall be painted on the walls.

He also directed for setting up an Entrepreneurship Development Cell in GDC where Innovation Labs, Idea Incubation Labs and Tinkering Labs shall be set.

Shyambr said that a committee shall be framed which will make the Entrepreneurship Development Cell functional. The committee shall comprise experts of innovation and entrepreneurship and representatives from college administration.

The DC also checked the venue for Success and Innovation talk events in which experts of innovation and successful entrepreneurs of the district shall deliver their sessions and share their success stories.

The land for the Public Library was also identified and it was directed to submit the plan and start the construction of the building as soon as possible.

The DC said that the Youth are the backbone of the district and they must be empowered and exposed to these types of activities for the progress of the country.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; ExEn R&B and Tehsildar Ganderbal during the visit.

GDC Ramgarh Organizes Seminar on Mental Health, hazards of Drug abuse

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 13: Eco Club & RRC of Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday organized a Seminar on Mental Health and fall-out of drug abuse to commemorate India's presidency in G20.

The event was organized under the leadership and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur, the Principal of the College.

In her address, she laid emphasis on the three sides of the Health Triangle- social, physical and mental. She said that social health is about our relationships and how we communicate with those around us, physical health is our body's ability to function normally, and mental health is our ability to manage thoughts, emotions and behaviours. She added that ultimately, social, physical and mental health requires physical activity or exercise. She also said that the conceptual foundations of drug abuse prevention historically have been imported from behavioral and social science research and public health promotion.



Large differences in the scale and nature of severe drug problems experienced in different communities makes the community-specific approach seem especially applicable to drug abuse prevention, insofar as it is oriented to investigating population differences and community variations, and to mobilizing resources accordingly.

Dr. Yogesh, Medical officer, CHC Ramgarh, the resource person of the occasion, in her lecture said that the

World Health Organization defines health as a "State of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. At times of mental health issues most of us do not think of exercising. Sometimes our reactions to emotional stress are the farthest from physical activity Individual Substance Abuse Prevention, also known as drug abuse prevention involves numerous different sessions depending on the individual to help cease or reduce the use of substances. The time period to help a specific individual can vary based upon many aspects of an individual.

A question-answer session was held in the end. The event was attended by the faculty members and a large number of students of the College. The event concluded with the oath that to keep away from drugs and also to make society aware to keep aware about 'Say No to Drugs'. The faculty members present were- Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Shansher Lal, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Prof. Risha Kumari.

Meeting on NEP-2020 implementation convened at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, APRIL 13: In order to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in its true essence in the district, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Dr S.M Ashraf today convened a meeting of heads of Government institutes and other stakeholders.

The ADC emphasised upon the heads of institutes to ensure that no violation of NEP 2020 is taking place in any of the institutes run by the government or private agencies. Taking strong note of overburden of school bags on innocent children, the ADC said that the books must be as per the prescribed syllabus and as per the rules and provisions of the NEP 2020.

He said while there are guidelines laid down in the NEP 2020 for syllabus, tuition fee, school hours, timings, qualification of teachers, age for admission, curricular activities etc and violation of these specified rules will invite action under law.

Quoting teachers as nation builders, ADC said that it is our moral as well as social duty to provide the better and result oriented education to our future generation. He authorised the Task force committees of the education department to take the necessary and appropriate action against the violators of NEP 2020.

The heads of the institutes put some suggestions before the ADC and three-hour discussions were held for implementing the NEP.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Education South, CEO Anantnag, principals of institutes, ZEO, lecturers and teachers.

DLSA Kathua hosts sensitisation program on "Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage"

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 13: Under the aegis of NALSA and as per the Action Plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, (JKLSA) for April, 2023 and also under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Kathua,

(also Principal District and Sessions Judge Kathua) Jaffer Hussain Beg, a Sensitisation program on "Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage" was organised by District Legal Services Authority Kathua at ADR Centre, District Court Kathua today. The program was organ-

ised in collaboration with Department of Police Kathua. Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Kathua Advocate Puneet Kumari, was the resource person in this program. The resource person explained in detail about the NALSA SOP on Early Access to justice at Pre-

Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage to the needy suspects and arrestees during interrogation and other early stages of investigation, to decrease the vulnerabilities of suspects and arrestees, to assist in avoiding unnecessary arrests and to assist the arrestees in filing bail applications and furnishing bail

bons. She also discussed the guidelines/directions issued by the Hon'ble Apex Court in case titled Armesh Kumar Vs State of Bihar Citation 2014 (8) SCC 273. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Kathua Rekha Kapoor Nischal, also spoke on the occasion.

Book on 'History of Nagdevata Bawa Tallan Dev Ji' will dispel misconceptions about snakes: Sham Lal



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: The book titled 'History of Nagdevata Bawa Tallan Dev Ji' written by Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, President Mahant Rohit Shastri was released by the former Minister and BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma in a function held here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the former minister said that Jammu and

Kashmir is the land of Vasuki i.e. Ashtakuli snakes. He said there are temples of snake deities at many places here. It is clearly known from mythology, proverbs and legends that snakes have been beneficial to mankind in every way. He said that Mahant Rohit Shastri's book will enhance the knowledge of the readers and Nagdevata Bawa Tallan Dev Ji's book 'Itihaas' will dispel misconceptions about snakes. Trust mem-

ber Ajay Sharma said that the temple of Nagdevata Bawa Tallan Dev is in Nagbani Domana. A grand fair is held here on the next day of Baisakhi, he added. On the occasion, Uttam Chand Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma, Mandeep Singh, Surjit Singh, Tirth Ram Sharma, Temple Priest Sahil Sharma, Priest Surinder Sharma, Aryan Sharma, Adarsh Sharma, Bablu Sharma and Davinder Sharma were also present.

2-day Baisakhi Festival begins at Dera Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Shrine Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 13: Like other parts of the country, Baisakhi festival also known as "Harvest festival" is being celebrated with traditional fanfare and gaiety in Reasi, specially at Dera Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Shrine.

A mega 2-day festival was organized at Dera Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Shrine by District Administration Reasi along with other religious and social organizations to mark the Baisakhi celebrations.

During the inaugural function, a 'shobha yatra', was also taken out in which hundreds of devotees took part and paid obeisance at the revered Shrine of Dera Baba-situated approximately 30 km from the Holy town Katra. The devotees from



across the UT and also from neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana visited the Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine on the occasion of Baisakhi Festival. They prayed for peace, progress, prosperity and well being of one and all. The Pilgrims enjoyed a unique bond and blend of spirituality and secularism. DDC Chairman Saraf

Singh Naag was the chief guest on the occasion. He said Reasi district of J&K is unique for many reasons as it is bestowed with unique religious and scenic spots for which it is one of the favourite destinations amongst tourists and pilgrims and every year lakhs of devotees from across the UT and neighbouring states visit this unique district.

World Oral Health Day celebrated at Ganderbal

HUNDREDS ATTENDED DENTAL AWARENESS CUM HYGIENE CAMP AT DC OFFICE

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 13: The District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal today organized Dental Awareness cum Hygiene Camp here in the lawns of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal as part of World Oral Health Day.

The Camp was organized with the purpose to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene among the people.

During the program, oral health care awareness and screening was conducted for people visiting the DC office. They were taught about brushing techniques and other oral hygiene instructions. Free medicines, mouth washes, hygiene kits, toothbrushes were also distributed among the participants.

Dr. Amira Majid said the World Oral Health Day is observed annually to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene.

She said that a healthy mouth leads to a healthy body. She explained the impact of oral health on overall health and the role of a balanced diet in maintaining good health and hygiene.

DC flags off Jal Jeevan Mission Prachar Rath at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13: To spread awareness among the general public of the District about Jal Jeevan Mission "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal," Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna flagged off a Prachar Rath in presence of SE and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department.

While briefing the media persons, the DC said that the prachar Rath carries a message to create public awareness about the Jal Jeevan Mission and other related activities among the people of the District.

The DC informed that the Prachar Rath will create awareness among the general public about different components of JJM. Water testing role of pani samitis and water conservation.

The DC added that the Prachar Rath will cover Udhampur, Ramnagar and Chenani Sub Division to inform people about the JJM schemes launched by the Prime Minister of India to provide safe drinking water to each household with the theme "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal".

The SE apprised the DC that of the total of 159 schemes sanctioned under Jal Jeevan Mission for Udhampur District, work on 73 schemes is going on so far. He said that the tendering process of 153 schemes have been completed. He further elaborated that the work on most of the taken up schemes is in progress and every effort is being made by the department to complete the schemes in the district within given time line.

Margan Top Road opened after winter halt

VEHICLE MOVEMENT TO BE ALLOWED WITHIN ONE WEEK

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, APRIL 13: After a long winter halt, the Margan Top Road in district Kishitwar has finally been opened officially. The road connects the remote regions of Marwah and Warwan with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir. The road was cleared of snow with the tireless efforts of the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Projects of Marwah (Kishitwar) and Yailoo (Anantnag).

The road's opening is a significant achievement that will bring much-needed relief to the people by easing mobility and transportation of essential goods.

Making the announcement, Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar Dr Devansh Yadav shared that the road would be opened for light vehicular movement from next week. "The opening of the road will facilitate intra-district movement of people and essential services, bringing much-needed respite to the region" he said.

Starting next week, the Margan Top Road will be made operational in a phased manner, enabling hassle-free travel and commute well before the auspicious Eid-ul-Fitr 2023 celebration.

Kathua Admin discusses preparations for upcoming Ed-ul-Fitr and Parshuram Jayanti

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 13: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey today chaired a meeting to discuss the preparations for the forthcoming festivals of Ed-ul-Fitr and Parshuram Jayanti.

The meeting was attended by officials from various departments, including the police, municipal committees and representatives of the civil society.

During the meeting, the DC said that these festivals should be celebrated peacefully and with due respect to the religious sentiments of all communities.

The officials discussed various arrangements that needed to be made, including security arrangements, traffic management, fire tender, medical facilities and the provision of essential services such as water and electricity during the festivals.

The DC also urged the officials to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are put in place well in time.

The meeting decided to form a committee to oversee the preparations for the festivals and to monitor the implementation of various initiatives. The DC instructed the officials to work closely with the representatives of the Muslim and Hindu communities to ensure that the festivals were celebrated in a spirit of communal harmony and brotherhood.

Baisakhi celebration: PPSG GCW Gandhi Nagar hosts Kite making Competition

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Department of Botany, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev, Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar today organized a "Kite Making Competition" to celebrate Baisakhi Festival. The programme was held under the patronage of Principal Prof. Minu Mahajan and supervision of Prof. Mala Bhasin, Head Department of Botany.

A total of 23 students of the Botany department participated in the event. A range of colourful kites were made by the students of BSc, Semester-2, with full zeal and enthusiasm. The programme was judged by Dr. Harjeet Kour Sodhi and Dr. Anju Koul of Department of Botany.

The first prize was clinched by Surbhi Gupta, while second prize was bagged by Baljeet Kaur. Sujasha Magotra got third prize while consolation prize was shared between Khushi and Zehra Batool.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sania Hamid. The whole programme was successfully coordinated by Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Swarn Singh, Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Mr. Bilal Ahmed and Mr. Rampal were also present.

DDC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting; reviews performance of Banks

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 13: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary today convened the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting of the district here.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on CD ratios of the banks, identification of beneficiaries, flow of credit, assistance under Government sponsored schemes, performances of banks under District Credit Plan (DCP), achievements made under the above said

Quarter, monitoring initiatives and Credit Plus activities.

It was given out that under Agriculture, Education and Housing Sectors, banks have disbursed an amount of Rs 650.33 crore, 3.69 crores and 84.12 crores respectively. Under medium, small and micro enterprises, Rs. 226.43 crores have been disbursed against the annual target of 239.38 crores. An amount of 616.29 crores of loan has been sanctioned to weaker sections.

Regarding the Year-wise achievements

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAVURGES STAKEHOLDERS TO FOCUS ON PRIORITY SECTOR



of targets under priority & non-priority sectors, an amount of 1556.75 crores have been disbursed by C3 (FY2022-23).

The DDC impressed upon the bankers to put in added efforts to increase the CD ratio by focusing on potential areas and stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio.

He directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread awareness with regard to the wel-

fare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development.

The DDC stressed for a self-reliant and sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture sector. He hailed the role of agriculture and horticulture sectors in creating self-reliant and sustainable employment in the district. He emphasized on the priority sector lending with a special focus on education, women development and agriculture allied sectors and directed concerned officials to organize the financial literacy camps in every block of the dis-

trict and stressed upon the bankers and concerned officers to adopt public friendly approach and work in coordination so that good results are achieved at the grass roots level.

The DDC praised the credit planning exercise of NABARD for preparing Potential Linked Credit Plans (PLPs) for the district.

Furthermore, in this meeting JKB RSEI was instructed to diversify the courses for productive results and also provide a platform for training Khidmat centers and CSCs.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pulwama, Dr. Sheikht Abdul Aziz, ADC Pulwama, Awantipora & Tral, ACD Pulwama, ACR Pulwama, Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, ACP Pulwama, Lead District Manager, Cluster Head JK Bank, NABARD, representatives of various banks, DIC, KVIB, KVIC, Deptt of Agriculture, District Coordinators, all Tehsiladars, BDOs, other Heads of various Government Departments and sponsoring agencies.

DDC Chairperson Ramban reviews progress on development works, discusses District Capex Plan 2023-24

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 13: Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban Shamsad Shan today chaired a meeting of sectoral officers here to review the status of development projects undertaken in the district besides discussing the District Capex Plan 2023-24.

DDC members and Chairpersons of Block Development Councils besides Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajinder Sharma, CPO Dr. Kasturi Lal and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the status of work of the upcoming projects of RDD, R&B, PMGSY, PHE, JPDC and other Departments was reviewed thoroughly.

After a comprehensive discussion, the officers briefed the chair about the current status of developmental activities undertaken in the district by their concerned departments.

The Chairperson impressed that



plan formulation is essential for planned development of the district and exhorted the DDC members to carry out a detailed gap analysis to identify works of community benefit.

All Departments were asked to share the list of ongoing and upcoming projects to be taken up during the financial year and also progress reports with the DDC.

It was also reiterated that DDC members & other public representatives be taken on board both during the planning as well as the implementation phase of the projects for better outcomes.

The DDC Chairperson strongly

recommended that Gram Sabha must be conducted in each Panchayat to discuss and finalize the Plan Proposals under all the sectors and implementation of the schemes on ground.

She said that overall development keeping in view welfare of all the people particularly from the vulnerable sections should be the driver for identifying works.

The ADDC assured full support of the administration and said that coordination between PRIs and administration, besides interdepartmental coordination is critical for smooth execution of development works.

Special Summary Revision-2023: Students of GDC Budhal participate in Poster Making competition to Promote Electoral Literacy

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 13: On the directions of the District Election Officer Rajouri, Vikas Kunal, a poster making competition was today organised by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, Narinder Kumar, at Government Degree College Budhal.

The competition was held in

collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club of the College and the Department of Botany with a number of students participating in the event.

The competition was organised as a part of the Special Summary Revision 2023, and to promote electoral literacy among the students. The event was a great success, with the stu-

dents showcasing their creativity and talent through their artwork. The Jury members were Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Bhat, Prof. Mohd Ferooz and Prof Adnan Ali Shah.

Principal GDC Budhal, Dr. Mazammal Mohammad Hussain extended his full support to the Election authorities and applauded the efforts of the

Nodal Officer SVEEP and the Electoral Literacy Club for 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.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

District Youth Services and Sports deptt Samba organises Cycle Rally

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 13: A mega cycle rally was today organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Samba here in Zone Ghagwal under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The event was held as part of the annual Activity Calendar circulated by the YSS Directorate and under the overall supervision of DYSSO, Chander Kanta Sharma.

The cycle rally aimed to promote fitness, health, and the spirit of patriotism among the youth. It was a part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, which commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence. The

event witnessed enthusiastic participation of local youth, sports enthusiasts, and members of the community.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

DEN-TRACK-FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date: 11.05.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.irps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.irps.gov.in

Tender Title	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
13.04.2023	27.04.2023	11.05.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
08-2023-24	TR-2023-24	Reconditioning of worn out 60Kg/52kg/90R etc. Switches, SECs and CMS Crossings on various sections under DEN
	TR-2023-24	Track over Fropzard Division
1.	Advertised Value (Rs.)/ Earnest Money/ Validity of Offer/ Period of Completion	
	99.96/613.42/-	1,99,900/- 60 Days 12 Months
	Similar Nature of work:- Reconditioning of tongue rail/CMS crossing/SE/J Wheel burns of rails	

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No. 770-W/1630/W/172/2023-24 Date: 13.04.2023

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NOTICE

For and on the behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Sealed Quotations are invited from firms dealing in Optical Eye Glass Wear/Optician for Customized Spectacles for patients under RBSK/NPHCE in this hospital. The Quotations should reach within seven(07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

S.No.	Particular of Item
1.	Customize spectacles as per requirement and specifications

Terms & Conditions:-

1. Rates are for Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu
2. Rates quoted should be for each piece.
3. The quotation should be legible and without cutting/overwriting
4. The undersigned reserves the right to reject quotations without assigning any reason thereof.
5. Other Terms & Conditions shall be framed after receipt of Quotations.

No.-GNH/ 355 -39 SD/-
 Date:- 11 / 04/2023. MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,
 D/P/J-362/23 GOVT. HOSPITAL GANDHI NAGAR
 JAMMU.

Div Com Jammu inaugurates Mega "Basoa Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023" at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Under the overall guidance of Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in its major initiative to highlight the cultural vibrancy of Jammu region kick started its three days mega festival being held w.e.f 13th April, 2023. The Baisakhi Mela "Basoa" shall be organized from 13th-15th April 2023, all across the Jammu Division and shall encompass all the components of the traditional dogra ethos like Dogra Cuisines, Display of local costumes, art/craft, handloom products, narration of local folklores and much more.

The Grand Mahotsav was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, from Maharaja Hari Singh Park, in presence of Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta and ADC Jammu, Sandeep Secintra from where a



colourful carnival of ethnically dressed artists depicting a rich display of the great Dogra culture was flagged off.

Hundreds of people joined the mega walk from the said venue to Mubarak Mandi enroute Dogra Chowk, Vivekanand Chowk, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, Purani Mandi, Jain Bazaar Pacca Danga, reaching the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex.

The participants including officers of Tourism Department, prominent citizens of the area,

beautifully decorated elephants, horses, camels, chariots and folk dancers were given warm welcome by local citizens of the old city by ways of showering petals, garlands etc. At Mubarak Mandi a Dogra village and a dogra exhibit "Mere Desae Da Shalapa" with live painting, live poetry, basohli painting, basohli shawl among other Dogra Art and Craft forms has been set up for 03 days for all visiting tourists/guests.

While inaugurating the mega carnival, the Chief Guest for the

occasion Ramesh Kumar, congratulated the Department for creating an atmosphere reverberating with vigor and energy, folk songs/performance, dhol beats etc. in the entire Jammu province. Speaking on the occasion, Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, briefed that the Baisakhi Mahotsav is being celebrated across Jammu Division. Special events are being organized at Gulabgarh-Paddar Kishwar, Mansar, Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Reasi, Gurudwara Nangali Sahibji Poonch, JiaPota Ghat Akhnoor, Maharaja Hari Singh Park Jammu and Mubarak Mandi Complex Jammu along with prominent chowks of Jammu city during the 03 days Mahotsav being celebrated w.e.f 13th-15th April 2023. He appreciated the cooperation being extended by the local market associations, Travel Trade Associations and local stakeholders for the successful organization of Baisakhi Festival. While interacting with the media

Joint Director Tourism, briefed that the main aim of organizing this festival was revival of Rich Dogra Culture, Heritage and Tradition. The Department has also made elaborate arrangements for showcasing 360 3D experiential videos of tourist destinations of Jammu Division i.e. Surinsar, Mansar and Bhaderwah for all visitors at Mubarak Mandi.

The main highlights of inaugural event was Chariot Rides, Nukkad Nataks, Dhol Beating, Army Band, Mega Cultural evening at Mubarak Mandi etc. While Jammu di Kudi Varsha Jambal mesmerized the audience with her soulful voice while the father son duo Ravi Sharma and Rohit Sharma enthralled the audience with their Santoor playing. Shubam Shiva with his power packed performance propelled the program to its crescendo. Similar, cultural evenings were organized at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, Rajinder Bazaar, Indira Chowk etc.

Advisor Bhatnagar extends Baisakhi greetings

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Baisakhi.

In his message, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this great occasion marks the commencement of the harvesting season in the North India.

The Advisor observed that the celebration of Baisakhi festival symbolizes the spirit of glorious pluralistic traditions of our country.

The Advisor also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Voters' awareness rally held at Majalta

J I NEWS SERVICE



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13: A voters' awareness rally was held at Government Higher Secondary School Majalta to educate the public about the importance of the election process in democracy. The rally was organised under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Udhampur and Electoral Registration Officer for Udhampur West-59 and East-60 Constituencies, Rafiq Ahmad Jara; BDC Chairman, Dina Nath; DDC Member, Amit Sharma; and Tehsildar, Majalta Uttam Palsar participated in the rally along with representatives of other departments, students, staff members and the general public.

The objective of the rally was to disseminate information about Special Summary Revision 2023 to achieve 100% enrollment of eligible voters. The focus is on registering all youth who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years on 1st April 2023. Prospective voters who will attain the age of 18 years on 1st July 2023 and on 1st October 2023 may also submit their documents for enrollment.

The Summary revision commenced on 5th April and will culminate on 20th April 2023.

Women College Gandhinagar celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti at Adopted Village; screens documentary on water crisis in India under G 20 awareness

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APRIL 13: A group of forty-two students along with the faculty of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women Gandhinagar, Jammu on Thursday celebrated B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti in the Adopted Village

Chanduchak, R.S.Pura. The collaborative initiative of organising a field visit to the village to interact with students of Government High School and Panchayat members was taken by the Department of Political Science, Electoral Literacy Club and Umat Bharat Abhiyan team of the College. To commemorate the birth

Anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, a Nukkad Natak was performed by the College students to spread awareness among the masses and school students about their social and political rights.

Students and teachers of the College also interacted with the school children and informed them about the contribution of Baba Saheb in the uplift of the underprivileged section of the society by framing the Constitution of India to enjoy equal rights. To make the visit more fruitful, the students paid visit to Panchayat Ghar of the adopted village and interacted with Sarpanch and other members of Panchayat about the working system at the grassroots level followed by a visit to Abdullian BSF Post, the last border of J&K.

Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Sattani, Jaganoon and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Thadhri, Changa, Gundoh, Bhatyas and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 15 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Satwari, Nai Basti, Ashok Nagar, Shastri Nagar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Chaatha, SKUAST, Indira Nagar, Bhour Camp, Khandwal, Gurah, Mandal, Purmandal, Utterbehni, Sandhi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 15 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ratmunchak, Birpur, Saunik Colony and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 15 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to PHE Rakh, MES, Kali Bari, Ramnagar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 16 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industries under Feeders 2nd, 3rd and PHE Rakh Feeder shall remain affected on April 16 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Reasi: Rich tributes paid to General Zorawar Singh on 237th Birth anniversary

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 13: District Administration Reasi, along with General Zorawar Singh Memorial Education Trust Reasi, today organised a tribute paying function to mark the 237th birth anniversary of General Zorawar Singh.

On the occasion, floral tributes were offered to the statue of the great warrior by Deputy

Commissioner Babila Rakwal, Prominent Citizens and other civic society members. GOC Mukesh Trivedi, SMCIF (R) was the chief guest and DC Reasi was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

In his address, Mukesh Trivedy said that General Zorawar Singh was known for his valour and he conquered and expanded the Dogra state upto Lhasa and established strategic forts at

Reasi, Leh and constructed Mata Chandi Temple at Kishitwar, Machail. GOC also remembered the martyrs and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the mother India.

DC Babila Rakwal said the sacrifices and devotion for the motherland is still relevant and everyone should follow the path laid down by legends like Gen Zorawar Singh.

The DC also threw light on the

life history of General Zorawar Singh and said it was Gen Zorwar of the Dogra Army who with his sword drew the borders in the Himalayas and included Ladakh, Skardu, Balistan and conseral territories upto Lhasa.

"To commemorate the valour, selfless service and sacrifice of Zorawar Singh, his birth anniversary should be celebrated every year", she added.

Folk Dance, Cultural pro-

gramme and a short film depicting life history of General Zorwar was also screened at the DC office complex auditorium.

On this occasion, Brig. Vijay Sagar, DIO Rajinder Diga, Tehsildar Reasi, Suresh Singh, AD Handloom, Social Activist and prominent Citizens were present.

Handloom and Handicrafts department's Bamboo Jewellery Stall was a major attraction of the day.

Jyotirao Phule dedicated his entire life for upliftment of farmers, poor: CM Khattar

J I NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA: Pritam Singh Saini, National Vice President GSS and President All Jammu Kashmir Saini Sabha along with Tara Chand Saini, President GSS J&K and General Secretary All Jammu Kashmir Saini Sabha and Sukhdev Singh Saini, Vice President GSS and Secretary All Jammu Kashmir Saini Sabha participated in the 196th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Saini at Kurukshetra.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar was the Chief Guest who inaugurated the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Chowk and unveiled his statue.

The programme was organized by Saini Samaj Sabha Kurukshetra in which Member



Parliament Nawab Singh Saini, Jaswant Singh Saini, MoS Uttar Pradesh; Gurnam Singh Saini, President Saini Samaj Sabha, Kurukshetra, Dr Pawan Saini, General Secretary and former M.L.A. S. Gurdal Singh Saini, former Member Parliament and several dignitaries participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Manohar Lal

Khattar said social reformer Jyotirao Phule dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of farmers and the poor. He said Phule took the initiative to educate women and today people need to imbibe his teachings in their lives.

On the occasion, Chief Minister announced Rs 31 lakhs for the welfare of Saini Samaj Sabha Kurukshetra. Similarly,

MP Nawab Singh Saini announced Rs 21 lakhs and Pardeep Saini, businessman gave Rs 11 lakhs to the Saini Samaj Sabha Kurukshetra.

Extending wishes to the people, Pritam Singh Saini said Mahatma Phule was a social reformer in the true sense. He said that there is nothing without education and the person who will not be educated, his life will not be successful. He worked throughout his life to educate women and worked tirelessly for the empowerment of deprived communities.

After concluding of the state level programme, threadbare discussions were held to bring all the communities under the single platform of Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan.

Pritam Singh Saini said that our roots belonged to Maharaja Shoor Saini.

He asserted that many such people are not known about our ancestors who belonged to the Maharaja Shoor Saini, who was a Rajput King.

He said at present people of Saini communities are not feeling comfortable to use Saini as their surname in several parts of the country. He asked people to be confident to write and use Saini as their surname which is our real identity.

Gurnam Singh Saini, President Saini Samaj Sabha, Kurukshetra presented vote of thanks. He asked youth to follow the footsteps of Mahatma Phule and fulfill his dream by educating our children.

GSS WORKING FOR WELFARE OF COMMUNITIES: PRITAM SINGH