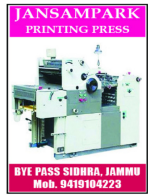




JINDRAH IMAGES



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Social infrastructure got major boost in North-East in last 9 years:

PM Modi
AGENCIES
ASSAM, APR 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dedicated AIIMS Guwahati to the nation in a function held at Changsari in Assam. Mr. Modi also inaugurated three medical colleges at Nalbari, Nagaon and Kokrajhar. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, the Prime Minister said that North East has got its first AIIMS which would hugely benefit the people of the region. Mr. Modi said that during the last nine years, connectivity got a major upliftment in North East. He said that along with connectivity, social infrastructure sector was also made a remarkable progress in the region including health and education.

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Authorities bar 'Jumma-Tul-Vida' prayers at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, APR 14

The local authorities disallowed the congregational prayer on 'Jumma-tul-Vida' - marking the last Friday of Ramadan - at the Jamia Masjid here, the grand mosque's managing body said.

Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid - the managing body of the mosque located in the city's Nowhatta area - said in a statement that the district magistrate and police officials visited the shrine on Friday morning and asked the management to lock the gates as "the administration had decided that 'Jumma-tul-Vida' prayers will not be allowed at the mosque". "The Auqaf strongly resents this move of the authorities causing great distress to lakhs of Muslims, who traditionally come from all parts of the Valley to offer prayers on the last and greatly blessed Friday of Ramadan in Jamia Masjid where offering prayers on (the) last Friday has great significance," the statement said.

National Conference (NC) President Feroq Abdullah also expressed regret over the disallowing of the congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid here.

"I regret this," Abdullah told reporters at the Hazratbal Shrine here when asked about the administration's decision to disallow the congregational prayers on the occasion of the Jumma-tul-Vida.

"If the situation is good, then why the prayers were not allowed at Jamia Masjid?" Abdullah, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, questioned.

Last month, the authorities disallowed the 'Shab-e-Barat' prayers.

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2023 62-day Holy pilgrimage to commence on 1st July

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

The 62-day long Shri Amarnathji Yatra will commence on 1st July this year and it will culminate on 31st August 2023.

Further, the registration through online & offline modes for Shri Amarnathji Yatra will start from 17th April. The Lieutenant Govern-

nor, Shri Manoj Sinha while announcing the dates for holy pilgrimage and registration today said the administration is committed to ensure smooth and hassle free pilgrimage.

"Hassle-free pilgrimage is top priority of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon'ble Home Minister

Shri Amit Shah ji. The administration will provide best-in-class healthcare and other essential facilities to all the visiting devotees and service providers. Telecom services will be made operational prior to the commencement of Pilgrimage. All the stakeholder departments are working in coordination to ensure facilities

for lodging, power, water, security and other arrangements for the smooth conduct of Yatra," the Lt Governor said.

The Yatra would commence simultaneously from both the routes - the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

The Lt Governor also

directed the officials to ensure high levels of cleanliness and to take necessary intervention for sanitation and waste management.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) will also enable live telecast of morning and evening Aarti (Prayers) for devotees across the globe. Shri Amarnathji Yatra's App

has been made available on the Google play store to get real time information about the Yatra, weather and for availing several services online.

During the 44th meeting of SASB chaired by the Lt Governor, the members and officials had reviewed various

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Ram Madhav sends legal notice to former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, seeks public apology within 48 hours

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 14

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) Ram Madhav on Thursday sent a legal notice to former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik, who alleged that he (Ram Madhav) was involved in corruption.

Madhav through legal notice stated, "You the addressee are well known in the political circles, however, lately owing your fading

Ram Madhav, Rashtriya



Karyakarini Sadasya of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in legal notice stated, "You the addressee are well known in the political circles, however, lately owing your fading

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62 injured in footbridge collapse during Baisakhi celebrations in Udhampur

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 14

Sixty two people, including several children, were injured on Friday when a footbridge collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said.

The incident took place at Beni Sangam in the Bain village of Chenani block during Baisakhi celebrations, they said.

People in large numbers were on the bridge when it collapsed, the officials said. The bridge collapsed due to overloading as large number of people were on it



at the time of the accident, Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar said. There is no causality, he

added. Police and relief teams rushed to the spot and began rescue operations, the

CONT. ON » PAGE 4

Footbridge collapse: DC meets injured at District Hospital Udhampur

AGENCIES
UDHAMPUR, APR 14

Deputy Commissioner, Kritika Jyotsna today visited District Hospital Udhampur to assess the medical facilities being provided to those injured in the Beni Sangam Foot Bridge collapse in Chenani block.

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Thousands throng fair at Ranbir Canal to celebrate Baisakhi in Jammu

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 14

To celebrate the festival of Baisakhi with enthusiasm, thousands of people from across the district and peripheries thronged the annual mela organised along the Ranbir Canal here.

Special stalls for kids and women were established at the site while children enjoyed camel rides and purchased toys.

Tight ticket security arrangements were also made for

smooth celebration of the festival.

A three-day colourful Baisakhi festival function under the title 'Basoa Baisakhi Mahotsav' is also being organised across the district.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also 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.

The day also marked the birth of "Khalsa Panth" and devotees from the Sikh community celebrated the occasion with great religious fervour and enthusiasm at many places.

The Gurudwaras were decorated and special prayers were offered by the devotees visiting these places.

In connection with the Baisakhi Festival, the famous annual Mela at the Ranbir Canal, Rajinder Park

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Raina, Jugal, Nanda, Khalsa paid obeisance at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Gurudwara

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 14

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina and MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma accompanied by former Minister Ajay Nanda, former MLC Charanjit Singh Khalsa paid obeisance at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Gurudwara at Reasi.

Senior BJP leaders also participated in the celebrations of Khalsa Shthapna Diwas.

Mandal President Ramesh



Kumar, District Vice-President Anil Kumar, Ward Member Amit Sharma, Sarpanch Bodh Raj and others also accompanied senior BJP leaders on the

pious occasion.

Senior BJP leaders listened to the 'Shabd Kirtan' and Performed 'Ardas' on the religious

CONT. ON » PAGE 4

HC refuses to quash case against college professor over WhatsApp status on abrogation of Article 370

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, APR 14

Any critical or dissenting views in sensitive matters that stir up emotions of different groups of people must be expressed only after proper analysis of the situation and backed with reasoning, the Bombay High Court has said while refusing to quash an FIR against a professor for putting a WhatsApp status on Article 370.

A division bench of Justices S B Shukre and M M Sathaye in its order of April 10 said it prima facie finds that the professor has in a very casual manner posted the

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"Meri Bhi Sun Lo": Girl from Kathua voices wish to PM Modi

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 14

Little Seerat Naaz is not happy that she has to sit on an unclean floor, along with friends, at her school and wants the holder of the country's most powerful office to do something about it.

In a video now viral on Facebook, the little girl from the Lohai-Malhar village in Kathua district of Jammu voices an adorable wish to Prime Minister Narendra Modi - "Please Modi-ji, ek achhi si

school banwa do na (Please Modi-ji, build a nice school for us)".

She opens the clip, which has a runtime of fewer than 5 minutes, by introducing herself as a student of the local government high school.

She then cuts herself out of the frame and takes a walk down her school compound, giving 'Modi-ji' a sense of all that it lacks and what she thinks the authorities could do to make it better.

Looking into the lens, she says in a complaining tone,



"Modi-ji, mujhe na aap ek baat kehni hain (Modi-ji, there is something I need to

tell you.)"

Little Seerat then pans the phone camera towards an uncovered concrete surface, right in front of two closed doors which she identifies as the "principal's office and the staff room".

"Dekho humara farsh kitna ganda ho chuka hain. Humein yahan niche bithate hain (Look how dirty the floor is. They make us sit here.)"

The chubby-cheeked girl then takes PM, Modi, on a virtual tour of the school building, saying, "Chalo mein aap

ko bari si building dikhati hoon aapne school ki (let me show you the big building where our school is)".

As she walks a further few steps and bends the lens to the right, an unfinished building comes into view.

"Yeh dekho, pichle 5 saalon se, dekho kitni gandi building hain yahan pe. Chalo mein aap ko andar se dikhati hoon (Look how unclean the building has been for the last 5 years. Let me take you on a tour of the inside of the building)".

After directing the lens to where the students sit for their classes, she once again points to the floor and the visible layer of dirt on it.

"Please, aap se na request karti hoon, aap na achha sa school bana do. Humein niche bithana pada hain aur hamari uniform gandi ho jati hain aur phir humein Mamma marti hain. Humare pas bench bhi nahin hain (I request you to build us a nice school. We have to sit on the floor because of which our uniforms get

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Dr Ambedkar gave democratic, secular set up to India: Khatana



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Dr Gulam Ali Khatana said that BJP paid real tribute to Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar by announcing a holiday on his birthday and celebrating the day at booth level all over India. Dr Ambedkar was a great visionary and rose from a poor background to the highest echelons by sheer hard work and determina-

tion, he said.

Speaking at a function to celebrate the birth day of Dr. Ambedkar organized by Atul Bakshi, Mandal president Rehari Bakshi Nagar and Pramod Kapahi here today, Gulam Ali said that Cong used the name of Dr. Ambedkar to exploit SC, ST, OBC for vote bank politics while BJP Govt led by PM Narendra Modi living upto its motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas provided real

place to Ambedkar which he deserves in the history of India.

He said that Dr B R Ambedkar laid the foundation for a secular democratic Nation and BJP led govt is taking forward the dream of Baba sahib.

Former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta, senior BJP leader Munish Sharma, Parmodi Kapahi.

Later MP Gulam Ali participated in a Sikh Samagam organized by S.

Darshan Singh at Gurudwara Bikram Chowk to celebrate the Baisakhi festival and foundation of Khalsa panth here. He said that Guru Gobind Singh laid the foundation for Khalsa panth on this day and greeted the Sikh sangat on the occasion of Baisakhi also. He said that Guru Gobind Singh laid the foundation for Khalsa panth on this day and greeted the Sikh sangat on the occasion of Baisakhi also. He said that Baisakhi festival is also celebrated coinciding with Hindu new year.

MP Gulam Ali also participated in Baisakhi celebrations at Baba Kailash temple, Ban Talab and extended new year greeting to all. Prominent present were Shakti Sharma, Sunil Kumar Raka, Baldev Singh, Hadayat Choudhary.

DR AMBEDKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN WARD 20

Dr Ambedkar dedicated his entire life for welfare of weaker sections: Rahul Kumar

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Floral tributes were paid to Dr B.R Ambedkar, Principal Architect of the Indian Constitution, in a function held at Ward No 20 of Jammu today.

On the occasion, Rahul Kumar, Corporator Ward 20 along with Satbir Singh Ward President, Rachit Khosla Mandal General Secretary and ward members paid glowing tributes to Baba Saheb.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Kumar said that Dr Ambedkar dedicated his entire life for the welfare of weaker sections and his contribution in that regard was exceptional. He said that the best tribute to Dr Ambedkar was to work for welfare of weaker sections of the society so that social inequality could be minimised.

The Councillor said that Dr Ambedkar used his edu-



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cation to spearhead the cause of equality, fraternity and liberty and we should follow his example.

He said that Dr Ambedkar used his education to spearhead the cause of equality, fraternity and liberty and we should follow his example.

He said that it was Dr Ambedkar who could bring

modern social setup based on the equality and brotherhood. Rahul Kumar described Dr Ambedkar as a world level social reformer. He said sacrifices of Dr Ambedkar are to be remembered and new generations should be made aware of the work done by this great socio-political leader. Impact of his work

is still live in the hearts of crores of down trodden people of India. He said Dr Ambedkar has died but his ideology is still live and motivating the people of deprived sections. He asked the youth to follow the footsteps of Dr Ambedkar and work for the betterment of the Nation.

Int'l class road projects will boost economy of J&K: Raj Rattan Raina

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Raj Rattan Raina, BJP leader Jammu and Kashmir has expressed profound gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah for sanctioning mega road projects for Jammu and Kashmir and termed these as engineering marvels of the nation.

In a statement issued to media here today the senior BJP leader said that the unprecedented road infrastructure being developed in J&K with substantial



projects completed while others are nearing completion, the international standard highways have transformed the whole scenario of this Union Territory laying foundation for a huge economic boost through tourism that depends on

the road infrastructure. Raj Rattan Raina said that PM Modi led government has initiated road projects worth 1,25,000 crore as a result of which Ring Roads, Green Ways, and Express Highways shall be the hallmarks of J&K.

He asserted as already acknowledged by one and all the roads are the lifeline of the people and the international level roads and highways are undoubtedly going to boost industrialization, tourism and better earning avenues for the people of J&K especially the youth.

The BJP leader said that the distances and travel time between Jammu-

Srinagar and Katra-New Delhi express highways will get drastically reduced to a few hours. Moreover, this will also bring down the figures of fatal road mishaps in J&K as a result of road widening projects, construction of new corridors, tunnels, bridges and flyovers and last but not the least it will increase connectivity in this geographically difficult terrains of the region. He reiterated that the Prime Minister and his team especially Nitin Gadkari deserve special appreciation for such projects which are undoubtedly the engineering marvels as per international standards.

Rozgar Melas providing succor to youths across India: Danish

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Danish Mishra, Vice President Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), J&K said that the Rozgar Melas have been providing succor to the educated unemployed youths as hundreds of jobs have been offered to the younger lot through this initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi.

The BJYM leader said that the Rozgar Melas are providing the much needed platform to the job aspiring youths to avail the opportunity and get the jobs of their choices with little effort.

He said that unlike in the past, when the aspirants have to run from pillars to posts for the jobs, the Prime Minister has made things easier for the people as under one roof many options are available and there is guarantee to have a secure future for



those visiting these job fairs. Danish said that second Rozgar Mela in less than five months gap in Jammu is testimony to the fact that government is committed to ensure bright future of the youths especially in the UT. He said that people should avail this extraordinary opportunity to get maximum out of it. He said that the

'Rozgar Mela' is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accord highest priority to employment generation. "The new recruits selected from across the country, will join various positions/posts under Government of India like Train Manager, Station Master, Senior Commercial-cum-Ticket Clerk, Inspector, Sub Inspector, Constable, Stenographer, Junior Accountant, Postal Assistant, Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant, Senior Draughtsman, JEP/Supervisor, Assistant Professor, Teacher, Librarian, Nurse, Probationary Officers, PA, MTS, etc.", Mishra said, adding that the Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development.

All-round development, people's welfare among top priority of Modi Govt: Kavinder

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that all-round development and welfare of the people of the Union Territory is the top priority of the Modi government.

He was stated while inaugurating a newly constructed temple hall in Shiv Mandir, Sector G Sainik Colony Jammu. This hall was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 40 lakhs. The programme was organised by Corporator Gurmeet Randhawa

On the occasion, Corporator Narinder Singh Buntiy, Vinay Gupta former District President, Narinder Koki, Ravi Bakshi and members Shiv Mandir management committee were present.

Kavinder Gupta said that it was a long pending demand of the residents of Sector G of Sainik Colony which has been fulfilled today. He said the temple hall will be a useful facility for the people of the area for holding various func-



tions.

He complemented the locals of the area for their cooperation and support besides their proactive participation in the works being executed in the ward.

The former Deputy Chief Minister asserted that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing unprecedented development in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, adding that BJP stands fully committed to

fulfill the pressing demands of the people. He said that whenever a demand is brought to our notice by the people or we notice that there is any urgent requirement in any area, the party leaders and workers take immediate initiatives to get the demand fulfilled and grievance addressed in the least possible time.

Later, the people of the area appraised the former Dy CM about their problems including lack of some basic facilities. After listening to them patiently and taking note of all their genuine demands, Kavinder assured that their concerns will be addressed

at the earliest. He asked people to extend full support of the BJP government at the centre.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta along with party workers and locals initiated a cleanliness drive in Sector G of Sainik Colony. He said that Swachhata Abhiyan launched by the Modi Government few years ago has transformed the landscape of our country.

He said that the cleanliness drive organized here today should not remain a one day affair. He appealed to all the people to make cleanliness exercise a daily routine.

GDC Thannamandi organized Cleanliness Drive in College Campus

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 14: NSS unit of Govt. Degree College Thannamandi organized "Cleanliness Drive" in the college campus. This Drive was organized under the patronage of the principal of the college Prof. (Dr) Farooq Ahmed. About 50 NSS Volunteers took part in the drive and cleaned college campus. The volunteers cleaned the college premises, administration block, parking and other adjoining areas. During drive the maintenance of plants were also taken into consideration.

On this occasion Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers. He also enlightened the students that everyone needs to



realize that cleanliness is an essential quality of life. We should maintain cleanliness at home, college and

everywhere. The event was organized by Prof. Muhammad Shoket NSS Programme Officer.

SMVDU hosted visit of Govt. Higher Sec. School Akhnoor

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Shri Mata Vaisnho Devi University hosted visit of students from Govt. Girls Higher Sec. School Akhnoor under outreach activity program.

Around 100 students along with their teachers and principal participated in the visit. The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions under the direction of the directorate of SAMAGRA Shiksha. NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, senior faculty Dr. AnshuAnand, Mr. Varun Dutta, workshop Supdt. Er. Deepak Byotra



and Deputy Registrar Mr. Samir Vohra welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction of the University. Students were motivated to join higher educational

institutes after completing their class 12th. During the event the school team visited the university library, central workshop, auditorium etc. The Principal of the school thanked University

authorities for hosting the visit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. K.K. Sinha appreciated the efforts of Dean Student Welfare team and NSS volunteers for organizing the visit.

JKRLM/NRLM Pulwama felicitates Deputy Commissioner on behalf of Mission Director JKRLM

Choudhary felicitated for timely support to the team for implementing NRLM at district level

J I NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL: JKRLM/NRLM officials of Pulwama including Arsheed Ahmad Bhat, Ajaz Ahmad Wani and

Mohammad Nadeem Bhat, District Program Manager, Managers of three verticals- IBCB, Livelihood and Financial inclusion called on Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul

Haq Choudhary at Circuit House, here and felicitated him on behalf of the Mission Director.

Officers informed that during the recently conducted SARAS Kashmir;

three product stalls from district Pulwama were displayed. The stalls showcased and were selling the hand made products, dry fruits and famous Saffron of Self Help Groups.

Machail Mata Temple : Div Com, DC, SSP pays obeisance during Official Door Opening Ceremony



J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR/ APR 14: The Baisakhi Festival which marks the onset of official Machail Mata Yatra today witnessed the presence of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sh. Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Kishitwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, SSP Kishitwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal besides other district officers of police and civil administration in the pooja ceremony of opening of Doors Shree Machail Mata ji Temple after winter break.

The ceremony also marked the shifting of the Murti of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local devotees Pehalwan Singh to

the temple with all necessary rituals and a grand fair.

Div Com & Deputy Commissioner, along with other attendees including SSP Kishitwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal JKPS, ADC Kishitwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ASP Kishitwar Rajinder Singh, SDM Paddar Rishi Kumar Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE Sunil Sharma, SHO Paddar Vikram Parihar, officials of Shree Machail Mata ji Yatra Cell, civil administration and police besides the priest, and locals paid obeisance and offering at the shrine on the occasion. The Yatra begins on July 25 every year, but owing to the significant rush of devotees, the Yatra may begin earlier this year. During the visit, Div Com

Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar assessed the infrastructure gaps at Machail Bhawan, and necessary directions were forwarded to concerned departments/authorities, including PHE, JPDC, R&B, and PMGSY, to address them before the upcoming Yatra.

Meanwhile, Div Com also listened to the grievances of locals including Repair of Kundhail Bridge and upgradation of infrastructure including the road.

Div Com said that work on Kundhail bridge has already been tendered out and will be completed in a month's time.

Div Com assured that road will be completed in time bound manner besides assured all the arrangements will be put in place well before time.

Pertinent to mention that on yesterday, Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar, along with other district & sectoral officers, concerned executing officers, and Machail Mata Yatra Cell officials trekked the route from Kundhail by foot and to reach Shree Machail Mata Bhawan late in the night.

They personally assessing all developmental projects and infrastructure needs that would ensure the convenience and safety of pilgrims en-route during the Yatra time.

Warm send off accorded to Shoket Hussain SHO Thannamandi on transfer

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 14: Shoket Hussain, Station House Officer Thannamandi, who has been transferred was accorded a warm send-off by the Chairman MC Thannamandi Shakeel Mir, DDC Thannamandi Abdul Qayoom Mir, PKRS, Civil Society & by the general public of Thannamandi and which was also attended by SDPO Thannamandi Dr Intiaz Hussain. The locals Speaking on the Occasion, termed the outgoing SHO as a good, honest and dedicated officer.

They further added that transfers are part of the services and the people of the Thannamandi wish him good luck for his new assignment. One local on the occasion said, His tenure as SHO Thannamandi will remain and be remembered as the



Golden era in police administration of area.

Locals added that he played a pivotal role in controlling crime and his anti drugs campaign aggressiveness will always be appreciated. The outgoing SHO Shoket Hussain extended his gratitude to

locals for their support and sincere efforts and cooperation. Prominent among these who were present including Arshad Nawaz Khan, trade Union President Executive officer, Mohd Qasim Chowdhary Dist sectry BJP Abdul Ghani shawl Haji Iqbal

Raina Mushtaq ahmed thaker, Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Sarpanch Maneer bhatti Mushtaq ahmed shawl Shamsir ahmed lone, Mohd fauzez khan Sardar shouket samyal, Majid mir Master Maqbool khan Mushtaq ahmed Master Hanief Kalas

Modi Govt carrying out development in J&K with exceptional pace: Dr Parneesh

Expressway, Zojila tunnel will prove to be game changers

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training BJP said that BJP Government at the Centre led by PM Narendra Modi is changing development profile of J&K with exceptional pace.

In a statement issued to media persons here today, Dr Parneesh said that upcoming Delhi-Katra Expressway and Zojila tunnel will provide new dimensions to the tourism sector in the region and it is expected that tourist influx is going to increase manifold times.

Citing the assurance given by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari that the aforesaid infrastructure shall see the light of day before Lok Sabha elections, he said that the same will prove to be as game changers for the people of J&K. He made it clear that the quantum of development which the



Jammu and Kashmir witnessed under BJP Government is unprecedented and what is in offing is also unexpected in many ways. The senior BJP leader said that no previous Government in the country took so much pain as the Modi Government, which changed the entire scenario in the country as far as

development is concerned. He said that a lot more is in offing in J&K with development touching new pinnacles and people getting those things which they have not even thought of getting in their dreams.

"The Modi Government is working on the agenda of overall development of every nook and corner of the nation with special focus on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", he said adding that this Government is potent enough to fulfill the aspirations of the people of the UT.

Lauding the synergy between the centre and the UT, Dr Parneesh Mahajan said it is the result of synchronized efforts of the Union Government and the UT administration that Jammu and Kashmir is today witnessing unprecedented number of developmental projects on ground and that too being carried out at unprecedented pace.

Tractor Union J&K pays candle light tribute to Dr Ambedkar



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Tractor Union J&K today paid candle light tribute to Dr Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. Led by Tractor Union Chairman Mohd Arif, several members of Union paid tributes at statue of Dr

Ambedkar at RS Pura. Arif, while paying floral tributes to Baba Sahib, said that he devoted himself towards the cause of freedom of India from British and at the same time he fought bravely for inducing "Samrasta" in the society.

He said that Baba Sahib will remain

as a source of inspiration to all of us for centuries and India can never forget his great contributions. He said that Baba Sahib used his education to spearhead the cause of equality, fraternity and liberty and everybody should follow his example. The great legal luminary has left an indelible mark by his remarkable service to the nation and ameliorating the lot of down trodden and weaker segments of the society, added Arif. While remembering Dr Ambedkar, Arif said that Baba Sahib was not just a Dalit leader but a true visionary who dared to re-imagine and re-cast social relations and its structures of hierarchy into a more democratic and progressive system. He said the best homage can be paid to Baba Sahib by respecting our constitution and implementing it in true spirit.

NSS Unit GDC Budhal Celebrated Dr. B.R Ambedkar Jayanti



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 14: The NSS unit of Govt Degree College Budhal celebrated the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar under the guidance of worthy Principal of the College Dr.

Mohd Mazammal Hussain. In his address, the Principal highlighted the contributions of Dr. B.R Ambedkar in framing and designing the Indian Constitution and congratulated the participants and the organizers for making the

event a grand success. The Programme began with the welcome address of Dr. Ajaz Hussain Shah NSS Programme officer. He threw light on the life of Dr. B. R Ambedkar and his immense contribution in the framing of Indian Constitution. On this occasion, a documentary on the life and contribution of Dr. B.R Ambedkar was shown to the students. Faculty members Prof. Ishfaq Ahmed Bhat, Prof. Ajaz Ahmed, Prof. Mohd Farooq, Dr. Amarjeet Singh, Dr. Syed Mohamad Javad, Dr. Muzafar Iqbal, Dr. Adris Anjum, Mr. Zahid Farooq, Mr. Iltar Ahmed and Miss. Anu Sharma were also present on the occasion. Prof. Adnan Ali Shah wholeheartedly thanked the resource person, faculty members and students for making the event successful.

SVEEP: B'pora Admin hosts Youth Convention to promote Voter Education & Awareness

J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL: The District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with District Election Office Bandipora on Thursday organised a Youth Convention under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) at Mini Secretariat, here.

The programme was organised with an aim to promote voter education and awareness among school children and the general public. The programme was attended by Chairperson District Development Council Ab Gani, Nodal Officer Coordination Mohd Ashraf Hakak, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit, Dy DEO



Bandipora Noor u din, Nodal officer SVEEP Mohd Rafiq Parry, Students and other concerned, Padmasree Faisal Ali Dar highlighted the importance of the electoral process and voting in a democratic society. Various other speakers including students also

emphasized the need for voter education and awareness programs to promote democratic values and principles.

The participants were encouraged to register themselves as voters in order to exercise their right to vote in elections. The speakers also highlighted the importance of SVEEP in order to empower our youth with the knowledge and skills they need to participate in the democratic process and contribute to the development of our nation.

On the occasion, the participants were encouraged to join hands with the government and other stakeholders to promote voter education and participation.

Memo submitted to Union Minister for Roads, Highways

Harsh Dev appeals Gadkari to ensure early completion of Udhampur-Ghordi road

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Former Minister and State President JKNPP, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh submitted a memorandum to Nitin Gadkari Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways seeking fulfillment of his commitment regarding double laning of Udhampur-Ghordi road in District Udhampur. The memorandum stated-

"while expressing our gratitude to you for visiting Ghordi during 2014 Elections held in J&K, we wish to remind your honour about the public commitment made by you for double laning of the 38 km road from Udhampur to Ghordi. You had assured immediate commencement

of work on the said project and its early completion while addressing a gathering of thousands of people assembled on the occasion.

We are aware that you had issued instructions in this regard for execution of the said road project under CRF and the work was also started but regrettably abandoned merely after straightening a few curves. The result is that out of 38 kms of single road, it is only about 8-9 kms that has been double-laned leaving the rest around 30 kms of road in shabby condition. On public agitating over the issue, it was said that funds under CRF had been stopped by the centre and that around 18 kms of single lane stretch would be black-topped under PMGSY and that double

laning of the same was not possible. It was further apprised by the local administration that there were no funds for even black-topping & upgradation of the around 10 kms of single lane road up to Kaldi which continued to be in the most deplorable condition and unfit for traffic.

Most shocking however is the fact that there is no bridge on river Tawi at Salmay falling on the alignment of the said road. Around 1000 vehicles ply every day on the said road catering to a population of over 1.50 lacs. In the absence of a bridge, all the said vehicles are using an aqueduct to cross over the river. The said aqueduct constructed by PDC has been declared unsafe for

traffic around 20 years back. The same however continues to be used thus risking the lives of thousands of people commuting on the said road every day. Strange however that despite the matter being in the notice of authorities concerned has failed to elicit appropriate response.

Sad that even your commitments and directions has been taken non-seriously resulting in public uproar and resentment". Harsh Dev appealed to the Union Minister that double lane from Udhampur to Ghordi alongwith the Bridge on its alignment at Salmay be constructed as assured and committed by him in the public rally held in 2014 so that the public of the area could have a sigh of relief.

Director Horticulture visits Anantnag; inspects FPN Bijbehara

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL : The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G.R. Mir today visited Anantnag and inspected Fruit Plant Nursery (FPN) Bijbehara. During the visit, the Director conducted a comprehensive review of the different developmental initiatives and thoroughly analyzed all the management techniques being implemented in the said nursery.

He urged the staff to pri-



oritize orchard sanitation and the production of premium planting material, while instructing them to expedite the spraying, fertilizer application, and

other nursery activities. He further instructed the staff to follow safety protocols and use appropriate protective gear when handling chemicals or operating

machinery. The Director emphasized the importance of utilizing the land and other resources in the nurseries to their fullest potential. He instructed the officers to take necessary measures to ensure that these resources are utilized to the maximum extent possible. The Director was accompanied by Secretary JK Advisory Board of Development of Kisans, Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag and other officers of the department during the visit.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

62-day Holy...

aspects of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023, including registration, provision of helicopter services, service providers, camps, langars and insurance cover for Yatrins.

Ram Madhav sends...

popularity and relevance, and to stay relevant in the social life of this country, for the sake of gathering public attention through sensationalism you have made certain untrue, defamatory, and incriminating statements on the said YouTube channel in an interview on 08.04.2023 in conspiracy with the interviewer of a Youtube channel."

Madhav seeks immediate issuance of an open and public apology from Malik within 48 hours of receipt of this Notice, for the mental agony and harassment faced by him.

A legal notice sent through Advocate Ayush Anand stated, "Malik deliberately and maliciously conspired to defame my client Ram Madhav."

It stated, "In a conspiracy to defame my client the editors and interviewer have deliberately and maliciously defamed my client by impugning his involvement in some health insurance scheme."

Madhav stated that the claim made by Malik are baseless, disgraceful, and utter falsehood. This is nothing but an attempt to influence, albeit maliciously, an ongoing investigation into the matter related to Hydrel Power Project that the CBI is conducting.

Ever since your interview was broadcasted, my client has been receiving phone calls and Twitter messages regarding the same. It is deeply disturbing for his regular work of nation-building of great importance. He is also receiving calls from many media groups and other organisations because of your act of gross misrepresentation of the facts and speaking untrue conjectures, stated the legal notice.

"Because of the baseless and unacceptable allegations made in the video interview his political image and credential among the masses are severely tainted, which may hurt him in future by creating negative prejudice," stated the lawyer through legal notice. Recently Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera targeted Ram Madhav in Satyapal Malik's interview on a YouTube Channel and said, "Malik had claimed that a senior RSS functionary had offered him a bribe to clear two files related to 'Ambani' when he was the Jammu and Kashmir governor. Satyapal Malik in an interview had claimed the RSS functionary as Madhav." (Agencies)

62 injured in...

officials said. The injured have been admitted to Chenai hospital, they said. Four of the injured are being taken to District Hospital Udhampur, the officials added. Videos and pictures purporting to show the extent of damage in the far-flung Chenani block have become widely circulated on social media.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna, said that total 62 persons were injured out of which 25 shifted to District Hospital Udhampur out of 25 in Hospital Udhampur 6 critical injured referred to GMC & Jammu, she added that the Rescue operation is over. She added that as soon as the information received the District administration as well as Police launched Rescue operation and shifted all injured to Community Health Center Chenani .

Footbridge collapse...

The incident occurred during a crowded gathering during Baisakhi Mela. The DC interacted with the injured and instructed hospital authorities to provide the best treatment to the victims.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that district administration is monitoring the medical care being provided to the victims. A total of 62 people were injured, of which 25 were shifted to the district hospital and 5 critically injured have been referred to Government Medical College Hospital Jammu.

Thousands throng...

attracted many where temporary shops and stalls were installed.

During the three-day festival, the Dogra village is also set up at historic Mubarak Mandi Complex that encompass all the components of the traditional dogra ethos like Dogra Cuisine, Display of local costumes, art/craft, handloom products, narration of local folklores among many more.

At Mubarak Mandi a Dogra village and a dogra exhibit titled "Mere Desae Da Shalpepa" with live painting, live poetry, basohli painting, Basohli shawl among other Dogra Art and Craft forms has been set up for tourists and guests.

At Kathua the Baisakhi festival was celebrated with traditional fervour that marks the beginning of the Sikh New Year and the harvest season.

The main celebrations were held at the Gurdwara in Jasoora, Kathua, where devotees gathered to offer prayers and seek blessings. The Gurdwara was decorated with lights and flowers and the atmosphere was filled with the reciting of devotional hymns.

Meanwhile at Reasi the two day annual mela organised on the eve of Baisakhi concluded at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine.

Thousands of devotees paid obeisance at the historic Gurdwara of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Bairagi in Dera village of Reasi district on the second day of the Baisakhi festival.

The devotees hailing from different parts of Jammu province and adjoining States of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi participated with great enthusiasm in the Mela and sought blessings of Dera Baba Bandha Bahadur shrine.

Raina, Jugal, Nanda...

occasion. Raina, while remembering the roles of Khalsa seers in giving new direction to the society, highlighted the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh ji, Guru Teg Bahadur ji, four Sahibzada's of Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj and other great seers of Khalsa Panth. He said that the Shapna Divas celebrated on Baisakhi as it was on this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru

Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth.

Raina said that with the foundation of Khalsa Panth, Guru Gobind Singh Ji eradicated all existing social divisions. The Khalsa Panth states that the lowest of the low have the right to stand with the highest; all are one and have the right to drink "Amrit" from the same vessel. Jugal Kishore remembering great Banda Singh Bahadur said that he was an example of self-sacrifice, which none else in history has excelled. The patience with which Baba Banda Bahadur and his associates bore all the tortures, they were subjected to, and with all the severe persecutions and their bold refusal to give up their 'Dharma', they have become the epitome of sacrifice for humankind.

Ajay Nada said that Baisakhi is a festival for the farmers in the country. It is a festival that marks the harvesting of the first Rabi crop or the summer crop and is hence celebrated in North India with great fervor.

Charanjit Singh Khalsa said that the pious occasion of Khalsa Shapna Divas and Baisakhi gives us the important message that the religion of humanity is above all. We should stand together and spread kindness and happiness.

Rahant Jatinder Singh Sodhi, Dr. Shiv Shankar Singh, and other prominent felicitated Ravinder Raina, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Ajay Nanda, and Charanjit Singh Khalsa on the occasion.

BJP leaders also planted saplings in the sacred garden to mark the occasion.

HC refuses to quash...

status message about the abrogation of Article 370, which ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. The court dismissed the petition filed by 26-year-old Javed Ahmed Hajam seeking to quash the first information report (FIR) registered against him by Hatkanangale police station in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district under section 153 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for promoting enmity.

Hajam, originally from Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, was a professor at a college in Kolhapur. The allegation against Hajam is that between August 13 and 15, 2022 he had put a status on his WhatsApp 'August 5 Black Day Jammu & Kashmir' with a message below saying 'Article 370 was abrogated, we are not happy' and '14th August Happy Independence Day Pakistan'.

Hajam, in his plea in the high court, said he had not circulated any messages that would promote enmity or bring disharmony or feeling of hatred between religions. He claimed that he had merely put his view on his WhatsApp status.

The bench, however, opined that the first status message on Article 370 constituted an offence under section 153A of the IPC, but the second status message on Pakistan's Independence Day did not.

"The first message which has been posted on WhatsApp by the petitioner (Hajam) is without giving any reason and without making any critical analysis of the step taken by the central government towards abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution," the court said in its order.

"In our view, this message has the tendency to play with emotions of different groups of people in India as there are strong feelings of contrasting nature about the status of Jammu and Kashmir in India and therefore, one has to tread cautiously in such a field," the high court said.

If any criticism is to be made, it must be upon evaluation of all pros and cons of the situation and backed by reason, the court added.

"No doubt, in a democratic country like India where there is a fundamental right in the nature of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, every word of criticism and every view of dissent is important for maintaining democracy in a good state of health," HC said.

"But we may add that at least in sensitive matters any critical words or dissenting view must be expressed after proper analysis of the whole situation and must provide the reasons for which the critique or dissent is made," it added.

This is more so when the emotions and sentiments behind a particular thing or aspect being criticised run high with different shades and hues among different groups of people, the bench said.

"In such a case, the criticism, disagreement, difference of opinion, dissent, whatever one may choose to call, must be expressed upon an in-depth analysis and accompanied by reasons so that the appeal that such critique makes is not to the emotions of groups of people but to the reason; the logic; the rationale of the groups of people," the order said.

It added that when appeal is to the reason then there is least possibility of stirring up emotions, but when the appeal is to the emotions then the reason is the casualty.

"When reason falls victim to the emotions, there results ill-will, hatred, public disturbance and negativity all around," the high court said.

The court, however, noted that the second status wishing Pakistan a Happy Independence was not covered by section 153A of the IPC as "no reasonable person with a strong mind would see anything wrong in celebrating Independence Day of other countries without denouncing the celebration of Independence Day of one's own country".

The bench refused to quash the FIR and dismissed Hajam's petition. (Agencies)

Reconsider decision...

manner on the erroneous assumption of direct or indirect links with militants," Mehbooba wrote in the letter.

She said a cursory glance at the list reveals that most of the contractors were not even militants to begin with. "The fifty-odd, who were, have shunned militancy a long time ago whereas the majority of those disqualified are related through ties of blood but are not involved in any form of violent activity," she said.

The former chief minister said the previous elected governments in J&K and K successfully created a rehabilitation policy for such persons.

"The purpose it served was to ensure their acceptance amongst society with dignity and remove the stigma of 'association'. It also had a larger contribution

in strengthening the reconciliation process despite the fact that their decision to do so was fraught with dangerous consequences. Many were gunned down for making a choice that was viewed as a betrayal," she said.

Mehbooba said it was during former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure when her father and PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as chief minister had advocated and implemented a package to provide financial aid to the victims of militancy.

"This also extended to orphans of insurgents who bore the brunt for a situation that was beyond their control," she said.

"Today after toiling for a life of dignity for decades, these people have been reduced to mute bystanders as their lives are being uprooted. Therefore, I urge you to reconsider your decision on humanitarian grounds," she added. (Agencies)

"Meri Bhi Sun Lo"...

dirty. My mother often scolds me for this. We don't even have benches to sit on."

The little one pans her lens out towards the first floor and pans her lens towards the corridor, which has a similar unclean appearance as the ground floor.

"Please Modi ji, mein aap se request karti hoon ki achha sa bana de yeh school. Meri bhi baat sun lo (Please Modi ji, I am requesting you to make my school better. Please grant my wish)".

She then skips down the stairs and proceeds to the outer compound with her lens firmly directed towards the unclean surface.

She then directs her lens out towards the "toilet", which barely has the appearance of one.

"Dekho, humara kitna ganda toilet aur tut gaya hain (Look how filthy and broken our toilet is)".

She then points to an open area where she says a new school building is coming up.

Giving a further first-hand view of the glaring lack of amenities at the school, she shows how the students don't even have functional toilets and have to relieve themselves in the open.

She then directs her lens towards a pit where the students go to relieve themselves.

"Humein iss naali mein jana parta hain (We need to head to this pit to relieve ourselves)."

The munchkin closes her video with a fervent appeal to PM Modi. "Modiji, aap poore desh ki sunte ho. Meri bhi sun lo aur achha sa humara yeh school bana do. Bilkul sundar sa school bana do taaki humein niche na bithana padhe. Taaki Mamma na mare. Taaki achhe se padhai karein. Humara school please achhe se bana do (Modi ji, you listen to all the countrymen. Please listen to me too and build us a good school. The school should be such that we don't have to sit on the floor. So that my mother doesn't scold or cane me. So that we could all study well. Please have a nice school constructed for us)," she signs off saying. (AGENCIES)

Social infrastructure...

The Prime Minister said that for decades North East was facing challenges due to corruption, instability and regionalism. He added that after 2014, 300 new medical colleges have been set up all across the country. He mentioned that works on 15 new AIIMS are on and most of them have already started working.

Modi said that India is committed to make the country free from TB. Citing examples of various government schemes, Mr. Modi said that technology also played a positive role in uplifting the health sector of the country. Mr. Modi mentioned that, India's role during COVID vaccination was appreciated by all. He said that it was because possible to the efforts of all people.

He laid foundation stone of Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute at IIT Guwahati from the same event. Prime Minister ceremonially distributed Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY card to 1.1 crore beneficiaries of Assam. CNS

Authorities bar ...

congregational prayers at the mosque. Reacting sharply to the development, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said the administration was betraying its own claims of normalcy in the Valley by locking the gates of the grand mosque.

"We are constantly treated to claims of normalcy in J&K and yet the administration betrays its own claims when it resorts to locking up one of our holiest mosques thus depriving people the chance to offer prayers on the last Friday of Ramadan," Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, wrote on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Hurriyat Conference said the closure of the mosque "belied" the government's claim of normalcy in J-K.

"The prolonged house arrest of chairman and Mirwaiz of Kashmir Mohammad Umar Farooq since August 2019, even in the holy month of Ramzan despite appeals from all quarters for his release, barring him from his religious obligations as the Mirwaiz is greatly regrettable. It defies the authorities' claim that 'all is well now' in Naya Kashmir," the Hurriyat said in a statement here.

The separatist amalgam said the repeated closure of the historic and central Jamia Masjid Srinagar by the authorities also belies these claims.

"Not allowing Jumma-tul-Vida prayers at the historic mosque on such an important religious day when lakhs of 'namazis' from all over the valley traditionally pray at the Masjid for its great religious significance, is commendable," it said.

The Hurriyat termed it as "a direct violation of people's fundamental right to practice their religion".

"Such measures are a reminder that things on the ground in Kashmir are not what is being propagated to (the) outside world by strictly controlled narrative and huge number of forces on the ground," the Hurriyat said.

The NC president also demanded Mirwaiz's release from house detention.

"The first thing that should be done is to release Mirwaiz. The time has come, when they say the situation is right, that he should be released so that he offers Namaz and preaches to the people," he said.

Abdullah said it is important as the situation is such that today we have forgotten God, and have left the right path.

High level US delegation meets Dr Jitendra, seeks deeper bilateral cooperation



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 14

A high level US delegation, led by US Senator Todd Young, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and sought deeper bilateral cooperation with India in wide range of areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum, Cyber Security, Semiconductor, Clean Energy, Advanced Wireless, Biotechnology, Geosciences, Astrophysics and Defence, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh told the US Delegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the last 9 years, took personal interest in Science, Technology and Innovation, and tried pro-actively to implement social sector schemes through science based solution to bring Ease of Living for the common man.

The Minister said, the patronage received from Modi has opened new opportunities and possibilities in all areas of scientific endeavours, but more so in areas of Space, Biotech, Geospatial and Sustainable StartUps. He pointed out that since 2014, in every Independence Day speech, PM Modi has flagged key scientific challenges and projects like Cleanliness, Hydrogen Mission, Digital Health Care system, Deep Ocean Mission, Clean Energy and StartUps.

Senator Todd Young suggested scaling up collaboration and exploring opportunities to partner in quantum technology, ocean science, nuclear energy, semiconductors, supercomputing and other latest emerging technologies.

An official from the Department of Science and Technology informed the Minister that a total of 35 joint projects have been identified which will be implemented by the Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) and research institutions from the USA. Six TIHs under NM-ICPS have been identified for collaborative research and development with NSF-supported institutions. The Hubs are part of a five-year, nearly \$430 million investment by DST under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems and comprise academic researchers and industry partners.

Additionally, the Indo-US joint Clean Energy R&D programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and the US. Department of Energy which has been ongoing.

Senator Todd Young informed that the US looks forward to a greater synergy and collaboration between the DST launched Technology Innovation Hubs and National Science Foundation as NSF has a foundation of academic expertise and core commercial competencies.

Talking about another area of collaboration, Dr Jitendra Singh said that he was happy to inform that the Union Cabinet has approved the LIGO-India project to build an advanced gravitational-wave detector in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore. The facility's construction is expected to be completed by 2030. The observatory will be the third of its kind, made to the exact specifications of the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories (LIGO), in Louisiana and Washington in the US. LIGO-India will work in tandem with them.

The Minister and the Senator were also informed about five potential areas of collaboration between Geological Survey of India and United States Geological Survey for setting in place an MoU.

Dr Jitendra Singh also promised complete support from the Science and Technology Ministry for Indo-US collaboration in budding and promising StartUps in Bio-tech, Dairy and Agri-tech sectors. Dr Jitendra Singh said, these are the best of the times for both India and America to forge a durable and strong bond for global leadership in fighting global challenges. He said, there is much of ease in the relationships and a clear sign of willingness and optimism to achieve the desirable goals.

The Minister hoped that the US will come to the aid of its natural ally (the oldest and largest democracies of the world) when it comes for technology transfer in critical areas, as there is no other option but to collaborate.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and other senior functionaries of the Department of S&T and Department of Atomic Energy joined the meeting.

"So, it is important that he (Mirwaiz) comes and preaches to the people and prays for all of us so that we tread the right path," the former Union minister, said. Meanwhile, Muslims in Kashmir offered Jumma-tul-Vida prayers – the last Friday of Ramadan – with the biggest congregation was held at Hazratbal Shrine, on the banks of Dal Lake, which houses a relic of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Devotees from different parts of the valley prayed at the shrine and were preached about the importance of the day and the month of Ramadan.

The preachers highlighted the social evils prevalent in the society and asked the people to desist from such evils like drug addiction. (Agencies)



Braham Jyot pays Tribute to B.R. Ambedkar on his Birthday Anniversary

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) and Shakti Dutt (Vice President Vishav Hindu Parishad) Paid Floral Tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his Jayanti (Birth Anniversary) and distributed sweets and edibles among Children at Village Malpur and Baba Kailakh Nath Temple, Nardini Jammu.

Programs were also organized by Sunil Dutt Raka (District Spokesperson BJP).

It was supported by Ravi Mehra (Vice President BJP OBC Morcha) and Parshotam Kumar (District Secretary BJP OBC Morcha).

Kewal Verma (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Raman Chalotra (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Perveen Badyal (Dist Sec BJP OBC Morcha), Subash Singh (Social Activist) were



present on the occasion. In the programs they paid Floral Tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and briefed life story of him to general public. They also reminded the works of Baba Sahab. Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot Satti said that Baba Sahab was born in a middle class family but he never compromised with education. He was Chairman of drafting Committee who made our Constitution. Later on

awarded with Bharat Ratna. He said Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar. He is the architect of the 'Constitution of India'. He was a well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes.

He said that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar has did alot for society and break various social ill practices which were not suitable for

public. He fought for people's right and succeeded. He fought for education. His whole life is a lesson for us and Everyone should follow his teachings.

He said that Baba Sahab never compromised with education. He was Chairman of drafting Committee who made our Constitution. Later on awarded with Bharat Ratna BJP always follow his principles and he remain alive in our hearts, he added.

Baba Sahab brought revolutionary changes in the lives of underprivileged people: Manjit

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Apni Party today celebrated the 123th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar ji at separate across Jammu region especially at Vijaypur, Jammu, and Akhnor respectively.

The programs were organized at Vijaypur to remember the contribution of Dr Ambedkar ji on his Jayanti. Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh along with other leaders in Samba district had attended the program.

During the program, the Apni Party leaders garlanded the photo of the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar on his 132th birth anniversary.

In his address, S. Manjit Singh remembered the contribution of Dr Ambedkar who worked for the upliftment of the marginalized section of society to upgrade their living standard.

He also said that he worked for all sections of society including those who were considered untouchable and helped in eradication of social evils from the society.

"His fight for equality in social, educational, political, economic and other sectors enabled the neglected class of society to get their rights under reservation rules which were provided by the Constitution of India," he said.

He said that "These people were



socially and economically so marginalized that without reservation, they could not have achieved in professional life after getting an equal education equivalent to others who belong to an economically and socially good background."

He said that "The Indian constitution as framed by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar till date protects the rights of the neglected class and the Govts are bound to provide reservation to achieve equality in society for the economically and socially backward society." He, however, advised the people to follow the footsteps of Baba Sahab and work for the marginalized section of society.

"Baba Sahab is an example that education brings prosperity and a good future for the generations to come. We shall encourage education and empowerment of the weaker section. The society shall treat the neg-

lected class of society with dignity," he said.

Meanwhile, the Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh also greeted people on the eve of Baisakhi.

Prominent among those who attended the Ambedkar Jayanti include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, State Coordinator SC wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, District Vice President, Ram Lal Sharma, District President Legal Wing, Adv Sahil Bharti, Lovely Mangool, Block President Vijaypur Mohan Lal Sharma, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, Block President Bari Brahmanna, Babu Ram Bhagat, Block President Samba, Harjeet Singh, Block President Youth Wing, Sumb, Darbari Lal, District President Youth Wing, Mangat Ram, Block President Youth Wing Bari Brahmanna, Irshan Choudhary and others.

Truecaller Introduces LiveCaller ID for iPhone

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Truecaller, the world's leading global communication platform, has announced the introduction of a major update of its product on iPhone. The update brings new, exciting features which will provide an improved and more secure communication experience for iPhone users worldwide. The complete Live CallerID experience is now on iPhone for the first time ever, which uses a simple Siri shortcut to tell you who is calling. How to setup Truecaller Live Caller ID on iPhone: Go to the Premium tab within the app and click on 'Add to Siri'. This will add the shortcut with one tap. The first time you use this feature you will be asked to allow access for Truecaller; choose 'Always allow' to avoid being prompted again. After you have set up the Siri shortcut in step 1, whenever you get an incoming call, simply say 'Hey Siri, search Truecaller' and Truecaller will instantly tell you who is calling. Speaking about the new update, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, Managing Director, India at Truecaller, said,

"We are witnessing strong adoption on iPhones and we are constantly innovating within the platform. Our team applied a lot of creativity to

build this Siripowered Live Caller ID experience. Finally our community can get to experience Live Caller ID during an incoming call by saying 'Hey Siri, Search Truecaller'. We are very excited with this global release and will continue to innovate on the iOS platform. New Features: Live Caller ID through Siri: For the very first time, Truecaller is introducing a Live Caller ID experience on iPhone by integrating with the operating systems' reliable virtual assistant: Siri. Now, whenever an iPhone user receives an incoming call from an unknown number, they can activate Truecaller with their voice by simply saying

"Hey Siri, Search Truecaller". The app will then quickly capture the number, find out more information about the caller, and present it on top of the calling screen. This new feature is exclusively available to premium subscribers of Truecaller on devices with iOS 16 and newer. It leverages Siri Shortcuts and App Intents to deliver fast and accurate results within seconds.

This update provides a new level of convenience to those using Truecaller on iPhone, as they no longer have to manually search for numbers or copy-paste into the widget. Importantly, Live Caller ID with Sirisearches the

entire Truecaller database, thereby providing the same quality of information as Truecaller on Android. 2X Better Spam Detection: As a part of this new update, Truecaller has also enhanced its spam detection capabilities to better identify and protect users from spam calls. Premium subscribers will receive automatic updates to the spam list, while free users can manually update the spam list to ensure best safe and efficient communication.

Comments on Spam Numbers: This update also introduces an important community-based feature: the ability to view and add comments on spam marked numbers. To be able to view user feedback on a spammer instantly provides more context into the true nature of the spammer. It also empowers users to report on their own experience while further enhancing Truecaller's spam detection capabilities with valuable community input. Revamped SMS Filtering: Now, incoming SMS messages will be automatically categorized into Finance, Orders, Reminders, Coupons, Offers and Junk.

This feature is now live for iOS 16 and newer in India, South Africa and Nigeria and will soon be rolled out to other countries.

GLORIOUS TRIBUTES PAID TO DR B R AMBEDKAR Making India Vishwa Guru is best tribute to Babasaheb: Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Describing Dr B R Ambedkar as Yugpurush and a great reformer, Senior BJP leader Mr. Devender Singh Rana today called for working towards strengthening the unity, harmony and brotherhood to steer India to become the Vishwa Guru.

Leading a 15 kms rally from Dornai Chowk to Kapotha in Nagrota constituency in paying homage to the architect of the Constitution of India after the culmination of a grand rally, Mr Rana said the unity in diversity is India's greatest strength.

He also addressed a largely attended gathering at All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha at Dogra Hall, Jammu organized to pay homage to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Ambedkar. Mr. Kali Dass Panotra, President All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha, Mr. Narsing Dass Rajwal, Darshan Lal Vice President BJP SC Morcha, J&K and others.

Rana said the great legal luminary, visionary and statesman has left an indelible mark by his remarkable service to the nation while working towards creating a society based on social justice and ameliorating the lot

of down trodden and weaker segments of the society. He said the Messiah of the poor and downtrodden is also being remembered for laying a sound and stable base of democracy in the country. The ideology of the legendary leader is humane which needs to be emulated and carried forward by working for fulfillment of his ideals, he added.

Rana said Babasaheb had an unflinching commitment towards national pride and his tireless contribution brought about a revolutionary transformation in Indian social order and helped in carving out a society based on equality, justice with opportunities to prosper and progress for all. His contribution in the evolution of democracy and framing up of the Indian Constitution helped hugely in creating opportunities in every sphere of activity for the poor people in general and weaker sections in particular, which made a big turnaround in the politico-social landscape of India.

"Let's resolve to carry forward the mission of Babasaheb and imbibe the spirit of oneness which alone can lead the nation towards peace, progress and prosperity. He said Babasaheb belonged to India, who lived for India and envisioned a great future for the

nation. He urged the people to work for a harmonious society and shun the tendencies of discriminating the people on the basis of religion or caste. "We should not forget that we are humans", he said and referred to the glorious civilization of India that remained a torch bearer of human values and inclusiveness in the true spirit of Vasudeva Kutumbakam. Mr. Devender Rana also participated in Baisakhi Parv at Aap Shambu Temple at Malpur in Nagrota constituency and greeted the people on the auspicious occasion and prayed for peace, progress and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others who were present on these occasions included Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Co-Convenor BJP Panchayati Raj Cell, J&K, Er. Dilbahadur Singh Jarnwal, Incharge BJP's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Kulbushan Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Mohd Sadiq, Pt. Kuldeep Sharma (Sukha), Sohan Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Deepu, Balwant Singh, Shiv Ram, Pritam Singh, Arjun Rajwal Birbal, Chaman Lal Marwal, Som Nath, Tarsen Chand, Capt Ramesh, Kamal Kishore, Tilak Raj, Vijay Mangotra, Shammii Naryal, Keshav, Suraj Narayan, Vashno Dutt, Ashok Kumar and others.

AAP pays glowing tributes to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Dr Ambedkar will always be remembered for his outstanding contribution for upliftment of downtrodden people: Tony, Kundal



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Aam Aadmi Party Jammu and Kashmir unit today paid glowing tributes to the architect of Constitution and Bharat Ratna, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, on his 132nd birth anniversary during a function held at Kunjwani area of Jammu.

On the occasion, Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman AAP, J&K for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and DDC Member Suchetgarh; Yashpal Kundal, Chairman ST, SC OBC Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir and former minis-

ter, Surinder Singh Shingari, Women's Wing President, Namrata Sharma, Subhash Sharma, Anil Kapoor, Ravi Shastri, Sham Lal Bhagat, Advocate Gaurav Sarangal, Pratap Singh Jarnwal, Ch Jagdeep Singh profusely garlanded the portrait of Bharat Ratna 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.

They also greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi which is also celebrated as the for-

Constitution wherein 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. He 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.

They also greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi which is also celebrated as the for-

mer of Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He appealed to the people to follow the path shown by Guru Gobind Singh ji. He appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain communal harmony and brotherhood, with traditional fervour and gaiety, and strengthen the secular and social fabric of the union territory at all costs.

Yashpal Kundal said that Dr Ambedkar was a great reformer who dedicated his entire life for the welfare of weaker sections and his contribution in that regard was exceptional. "There is greater need for collectively working for welfare of weaker sections of the society so that social inequality could be minimized," he maintained.

The senior AAP leaders said the best tribute to the great leader would be an imbibe spirit of oneness which alone can lead the nation towards peace, progress and prosperity. "The best tribute to Baba Sahab would be to work for carving out a society where opportunities of progress are available to all irrespective of caste, creed, and colour," they added.

JKFFC chairman should order to refund excess collected fees: Kapoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14: Parents of children led by President of All Jammu Parents Association Amit Kapoor today staged a vigorous protest against the education department outside Hari Singh Park. The protesters were raising slogans against the looting charge by the nexus of the education department and private schools. He also shouted slogans against the arbitrary private schools and the director of the education department.

Expressing his views on this occasion, Amit Kapoor said that the schools which have collected more fees from the children than the fees fixed by JKFFC, should be given back immediately. He hoped that the new chairman of JKFFC, understanding the agony of the parents, would immediately issue an order to refund the excess fees collected. He alleged that looting of private schools has created a furor at present while the education department and its directors have failed to take any action against these schools.

He said that if the High Court has also said that even the schools which are under stay cannot charge more than the fees fixed by JKFFC, then why are those schools arbitrarily

charging more fees from the children. He said that understanding the seriousness of the matter, the DCs of Jammu and Rajouri have issued orders to the parents to register their complaints but why are the rest of the DCs not doing so, is everything going well in their districts. He alleged that they are busy in setting up with all the schools.

Kapoor said that why private schools are not using NCEERT books and why are they not taking back the books of the children who have taken more books. Along with this, why the fees of the children from whom more fees have been collected are not being given back.

He also asked why private schools are not implementing the Right to Education Act under which 25 percent free admission will be given to poor children. Kapoor did not hesitate to put the commissioner of the traffic department in the dock regarding the looting in private schools. He said that the matter is not only of looting in the matter of books and uniforms, but huge money is also being collected from the children in the name of transport and the Commissioner of the Transport Department is turning a blind eye to this matter. He said that the officials of the traffic department should also

take cognizance of this matter and crack down on the schools which charge more money from the children in the name of transport. He said that if they fix the fare of passenger vehicles on kilometer basis then why they are not fixing their fare in case of loot by private schools.

Kapoor further said that if a shopkeeper charges a customer more than the MRP, strict action is taken against him and even his shop is sealed. But even private schools are concerned about charging more than the fees fixed by JKFFC, then why such schools are not seized in this case. He said that this clearly shows that in the case of robbing the parents of the children, along with collecting books, uniforms and high fees, all the cases of looting in the name of transport are connected. Kapoor said that this is a huge mafia in which the education department as well as the transport department is in collusion with the private schools and this open looting has created havoc in the entire Jammu and Kashmir while the concerned authorities are yet to take any such concrete steps. He completely failed to restore the faith of the common people on the administration. He asked LG Manoj Sinha that a tragedy to this looting there has been a due and where are you sleeping.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Improving healthcare in J&K

Ensuring better healthcare services should be the top priority of any government. Over the years, successive regimes have shown least interest to take necessary reforms to provide better medicare facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in rural areas. In recent times, there has, however, been significant improvement in healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir and it could be well-gauged from the fact that the Jammu and Kashmir government, at present, spends Rs 2 crore every day on the treatment of common people and 97 percent of the population of the Union Territory has insurance coverage. The government has provided SEHAT Golden cards to 80 lakh citizens, with 28,000 hospitals extending treatment facilities to them across the country. Today, dialysis facilities have been made available in all districts. Geriatric and Pediatric wards have been established in all district hospitals. All these facilities have been made available during the regime of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha whose administration has shown determination and commitment to take better healthcare to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Several reforms have been undertaken to implement the system of 'Any Treatment, Anywhere, Anytime'. The 'e-SAHAJ' initiative entails online appointments from doctors and the digitization of patients' medical records. As many as 575 health facilities are covered under these initiatives. According to the official statistics, Jammu and Kashmir government has issued Golden Cards to over 16 lakh families under the Ayushman Bharat scheme that has transformed the healthcare facilities for residents of the union territory. Around 17 lakh families have been covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. It has removed the burden of out-of-pocket expenses as the PMJAY aims to make the entire process of paying for healthcare cashless. The major beneficiaries of the scheme are the people in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as they were, until now, unable to get quality treatment due to paucity of funds. With the major transformation in the healthcare sector, all public and empanelled private hospitals have been directed to not charge any extra payment for medical care from all PMJAY beneficiaries to reduce corruption or delay in services. The government has started the AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in convergence with the Central Government's AB-PMJAY scheme to provide free-of-cost 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage' up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family on a floater basis. The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has rightly claimed that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K's health sector has gone through a sea change ensuring high-quality affordable, accessible healthcare for all. The need of the hour is to remove all the regional imbalances which existed earlier in the field of health care. As J&K's health sector has been performing better than the national average on several parameters, the efforts should be further stepped up to further achieve quality and accessible healthcare.

BAISAKHI HAS TURNED INTO A GRIM AFFAIR

FESTIVALS TODAY DO NOT CREATE THE ANTICIPATION THEY ONCE DID; THEY NOW CREATE APPREHENSIONS. BEFORE ANY MAJOR FESTIVAL, ADVISORIES ARE ISSUED, ALERTS ARE SOUNDED, ADDITIONAL CENTRAL FORCES ARE SENT, FLAG MARCHES ARE HELD. IN SOME PLACES, VIOLENCE TAKES PLACE, CASES ARE REGISTERED AND SOME MISCREANTS HELD.

GURBACHAN JAGAT

Baisakhi is here - Baisakhi, the season and the festival associated with the harvesting of the wheat crop in Punjab and the start of the traditional new year. Bihu to the Assamese and Pongal and Ugadi in the South are similar festivals of the harvesting season and the new year.

Baisakhi used to be a season of joy, a season of fulfillment, a season of activity and, of course, it was on this day in 1699 that Khalsa Panth was born. Before mechanisation, farming was purely a manual effort - the cutting, the threshing, the winnowing, the separation of the grain from the chaff. The farmers proceeded to the mandis, and the mandis buzzed with the activities of the arhtiyas and the buying-selling. Money changed hands and the farmers and traders went home with jingling pockets and goodies for the children. It was time for bhanga and other joyous activities, provided the weather and the gods remained friendly.

However, each passing year shows us the fragility of our agriculture sector, which today is further threatened by climate change. Things have gone awry this rabi season in the north of our country because of a drought in the winter of 2022-23, followed by a wet March. The drought stunted crop growth and the rain as well as high-velocity winds swept the crop to the ground, thereby spoiling the quality and quantity of the grain.

Since farming has been mechanised, the combine harvesters on which the farmers have become dependent are not functional wherever the crop has been flattened. Manual labour is the only alternative, but there is a shortage of labour and the rates have shot up. All in all, it is a losing game for the farmer because the mandis will not easily pick up the grain spoiled by the rain. The political leadership, as usual, is promising the moon, but I'm not sure about the delivery of the promises. By now there should have been a methodical outreach to the farmers, the mandis and the buying agencies. MLAs, ministers and bureaucrats should have reached the countryside, inspecting and delivering on the ground. On the surface, this should have been the minimum reactionary process, but how about finally waking up to and implementing a more thought-out approach to agriculture? Climate change is here, as is the damage done to our water table, the soil - not to mention our health - by this continuous nurturing of rice and wheat cultivation, fuelled by the extensive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Most of our heirloom seeds are lost today, as are the traditional crops of sorghum, millets, barley, groundnuts and pulses. The age-old crop rotations, patterns and seeds were lost to the Green Revolution and a nation striving for food self-sufficiency. A new plan was needed to

migrate to sustainable farming. Sadly, this plan to be busy coping with rioting linked to festi-



was never developed and the farmer has been left to plough his lonely furrow and we the people are losing out on the variety and bounty which our land can give. The quality of the produce on our table is intrinsically linked to the farm; we ignore it at the cost of our health and that of future generations.

Baisakhi was also the season when the faithful thronged gurdwaras and temples. These were pilgrimages and added an air of a great joint celebration. All roads leading to these holy places were dotted with langar sites where volunteers made you stop and partake of the food. Even otherwise, festivals today everywhere do not create the anticipation they once did; they now create apprehensions. Before any major festival, advisories are issued, alerts are sounded, additional Central forces are sent, flag marches are held. In some places, violence takes place, cases are registered and some miscreants held, but how about the plotters of this violence, what about the hidden hand? As far as my knowledge goes, no significant leader or group has been picked up in the hundreds of riots that have taken place since Independence. Commissions of inquiry have been set up and their reports are likely gathering dust in the corridors of power or secreted in vaults where no light falls upon them. Such inquiries normally bring out the causes of the riots and suggest remedial measures for the future. There must be underlying causes for situations that are triggered by the flare of a single matchstick, the raising of a single slogan.

The governments, on the other hand, appear

vals, especially during processions, where agents provocateurs have instigated trouble; this has been observed in West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar, etc.

In Punjab, a new threat has loomed on the horizon and an organisation, practically non-existent till a few months ago, is making headlines and becoming the focal point of political discussion. The people are yet to be taken into confidence regarding the origins of this so-called movement, its organisation, its membership and leadership.

Also, where is the financial aid coming from? Where are the arms, if any, coming from? All these questions need to be answered urgently because all kinds of conspiracy theories are floating around. Hundreds of young men have been picked up and released and a few of them have been sent to a jail in Assam. What does their interrogation reveal? Finally, what about the leader who is on the run and why do the police seem to be on a wild goose chase? He seems to be seen everywhere, but found nowhere. All these questions need to be answered because to the common observer, there does not appear to be any great movement going on in Punjab. The vast majority of people are busy with the harvest. The least the government can do is to call a meeting of all political and religious bodies, take them into confidence and seek their cooperation in handling whatever problem the government foresees. From the harvesting of wheat to the 'looming danger' to the state, Baisakhi - a festival of joy and prosperity - has turned into a grim affair.

Master Tara Singh opposed Punjab's division

KIRANJOT KAURARATI R JERATH

IN the article 'Kairon gave precedence to region over religion' (The Tribune, April 11), M Rajivlochan has built the argument that Master Tara Singh raised a demand for Khalistan before the Partition and that the narrative continues with Amritpal Singh today.

This has created a twisted narrative against Master Tara Singh in particular and Sikhs in general. In pre-Partition Punjab, Sikhs were 13 per cent of the total population, a minority in their homeland. They were a minority even during the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. There is no doubt that Master Tara Singh was an unapologetic Sikh who was worried for the Sikhs when Punjab was being viewed through a communal lens. His politics was aimed at ensuring that the Sikh community did not get dominated by Hindus and Muslims. He succeeded in bringing Sikhs to the British negotiating table as the third community in Punjab.

The people responsible for the partition of Punjab, including Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, were not Punjabis and they did not have the interests of Punjabis at heart. The composite culture of Punjab was communalised by them. Master Tara Singh, a Punjabis, was opposed to the break-up of Punjab, well understanding how it

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MASTER TARA SINGH WAS AN UNAPOLOGETIC SIKH WHO WAS WORRIED FOR THE SIKHS WHEN PUNJAB WAS BEING VIEWED THROUGH A COMMUNAL LENS. HIS POLITICS WAS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE SIKHS DID NOT GET DOMINATED BY HINDUS AND MUSLIMS. THE GEOPOLITICS OF THE POST-WORLD WAR II ERA WAS AN IMPORTANT TRIGGER FOR THE DIVISION OF PUNJAB. AS LATE AS MARCH 3, 1947, HE RAISED THE SLOGAN OF 'PAKISTAN MURDABAD' OUTSIDE THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY IN LAHORE.

would impact Punjabis. During the freedom struggle, the Sikh stand was evident from the resolutions passed in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) General House, a body that was constituted at the culmination of a mass Sikh movement against the British Government.

The SGPC General House, in its meeting on February 12, 1940, under the presidency of Master Tara Singh, "strongly opposed the Pakistan scheme proposed by the Muslim League to divide Hindustan into Hindu and Muslim areas, and expected Muslim members in the Punjab ministry to disassociate themselves from the Muslim League, else the Sikh ministers from the party (Akali Dal) would disassociate themselves from the coalition government."

In the SGPC House meeting on February 27, 1943, a resolution was passed that "to ensure safety and security in practising Sikh dharma, it is important to constitute a state in which maximum number of Sikhs should reside and in this state, Sikhs, Hindus or Muslims, none of the communities should be in majority. It reit-



erated its opinion that the creation of Pakistan will be extremely damaging."

On October 26, 1945, it was noted that the then Governor-General of India, Lord Archibald Wavell, had announced the Constituent Assembly after the state Assembly elections; Sir Stafford Cripps, minister of the Labour Party, had indicated acceptance of the demand for Pakistan; and the Muslim League had announced to contest elections on the Pakistan issue. On March 9, 1946, the SGPC passed a resolution seeking a Sikh state in the changed political circumstances. As late as March 3, 1947,

Master Tara Singh raised the slogan of 'Pakistan murdabad' outside the Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

The geopolitics of the post-World War II era was an important trigger for the division of Punjab. The Soviet Union had emerged as a superpower; the British became financially bankrupt and lost power. They had to free many colonies they ruled. They left India in a hurry; in order to block Kremlin's access to the Karachi port, they gave it to Pakistan. On May 12, 1947, Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, accompanied by senior Generals and diplomats, met the then UK Prime Minister Clement Attlee.

They claimed that India was primarily a socialist country; if a religion-based Pakistan was not established, Kremlin's influence would reach the Indian Ocean, they argued. On June 3, 1947, Viceroy Louis Mountbatten announced the Partition of India on the basis of religion.

A historian should take into account what kind of motivation comes from religion. While referring to the history of the West, one has to understand that Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - advocate their religion as the 'only way'. However, eastern religions such as Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism accept differences and see religion as a way of life.

After Independence, the states were to be reorganised on a linguistic basis. Master Tara Singh and the Akali Dal had to agitate to get the same rule applied to Punjab, and Punjabis recognised as the official language of the state. But a section of the Arya Samajis gave it a communal colour and called it a veiled demand for a Sikh state.

It was during the agitation against the ban on the slogan 'Punjab Suba zindabad' that Chief Minister Bhim

Sen Sachar sent the police into the Golden Temple in July 1955 on the advice of Partap Singh Kairon, who was then a minister in his Cabinet. A week later, the ban on the slogan was withdrawn. Kairon then complained against Sachar, terming him a weak administrator. Sachar apologised to the Sikhs at Akal Takht for sending cops into the Golden Temple and later resigned. Arya Samajis gave a call to Punjabis Hindus to register their mother tongue as Hindi in the 1951 and 1961 Census.

Kairon started his political career as a personal assistant to Master Tara Singh in the 1930s, became an Akali MLA in the Constituent Assembly and let loose repression on the Akalis as the Congress Chief Minister of Punjab in the 1960s.

In the 1980s, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale did not raise a demand for Khalistan; it was attributed to him by a narrative set by the Congress government. He supported the Akali demand on the Anandpur Sahib resolution, which sought to redefine Centre-state relations through the grant of more powers to all states, not just Punjab. Bhindranwale did not oppose Khalistan either.



Shehnaaz Gill says she blocked Salman Khan's number: 'I was in Gurdwara, when I received call from unknown...'

Shehnaaz Gill has revealed that she since blocked Salman Khan's number, unknowingly. She later realised who it was, and unlocked him and returned the call. Shehnaaz was talking about getting a call from an unknown number on The Kapil Sharma Show. Shehnaaz and Salman will soon be seen together in the upcoming film Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan. Shehnaaz, along with the team of Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan was on The Kapil Sharma Show to promote their new film. "I was in Amritsar visiting the Gurdwara, 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 mes-

sage that Salman sir is trying to call me," Shehnaaz said. She added, "Just to verify, I put the number on the Truecaller app and found out that it was actually Salman Khan calling me! I immediately unlocked him and called him back; it was then that he offered me the film and that's how I got the film." On the show, Pooja Hegde, Palak Tiwari, Raghav juyal, Jassie Gill, Vinali Bhatnagar, Siddharth Nigam, and Sukhbir accompanied Salman and Shehnaaz. Earlier this month, Shehnaaz had revealed she was initially rejected for her first music video, but Salman showed faith in her.



BLACKPINK IS SET TO ENCORE 'BORN PINK' WORLD TOUR TO L.A. AND SAN FRANCISCO

Starting from October 15, 2022 to June 21, 2023, K-pop group Blackpink is with their ongoing Born Pink world tour covering Chicago, London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and more. The K-Pop group's label, YG Entertainment had expressed that this tour would be the biggest world tour ever by any individual group in the world. Last year the K-Pop group featured two brand new music videos with a full album release last September.

On April 14th, Blackpink's official twitter account posted a six second teaser announcing their return to North America. It is also revealed that they will be performing at Dodgers Stadium, Los Angeles and Oracle Park, San Francisco. But the exact date and time of the shows are yet to be announced.

Fans can register for a Blink Membership at blackpink-live.com, so they will be notified once the ticket goes live. Membership holders will also get their first hand on presale tickets. There is only two days left before the tickets will go live.

Blackpink went viral after their VMA performance, becoming the first female K-Pop group to perform in the award show. The "Born Pink" single made a record on its debut as No.1 on Spotify's global list. Just a day "Flower" by Jisoo became the biggest debut song Spotify by a K-Pop individual. It secured 25.3 million streams.

Last year YG Entertainment expressed their thoughts about BlackPink's comeback, "The combination of the two words, the color that symbolizes Blackpink and the word poison, is strong." This tour was Blackpink's comeback after almost two years. The last album they released was in October, 2020.

Soppana Sundari movie review: Aishwarya Rajesh film never takes itself too seriously, unlike most crime comedies

SG Charles's Soppana Sundari, which is led by three women in the central characters, is a simple film with its heart in the right place. A crime comedy, which focuses more on the aftermath as well as the chaos created by the crime than on the crime itself. Unlike most crime comedies, Soppana Sundari is refreshing because it never takes itself too seriously and this is what works in the film's favour in a big way. The film, which is about the madness that revolves around the ownership of a car, borrows its title from the comedic stretch of 1989 Tamil film Karakkattakaran about the possession of Soppana Sundari's car. Also read: Driver Januna movie review



comes from a lower middle-class family, which also includes her bedridden father, mother and a mute elder sister, who is

past her marriageable age. One fine morning, their lives change drastically, when they learn that they've won a car in a raffle. But their happiness only lasts a few days as many parties come forward claiming ownership of the car, paving way to so much chaos and drama. In the desperation to keep their car, the family finds itself embroiled in a crime and the events that follow take a dark turn.

Soppana Sundari is one of those rare films where the women, mostly sidelined to play characters that don't add much value in mainstream cinema, take centre stage and pack a solid punch. SG Charles deserves a lot of praise for writing a dark comedy around women who aren't ashamed to get their hands dirty.

Gulshan Devaiah, Saiyami Kher's '8 A. M. Metro' To Release On 19 May In Theatres



Legendary lyricist, filmmaker and poet Gulzar unveiled the poster of writer-director Raj R's '8 A. M. Metro' at his Bandra home. Starring Gulshan Devaiah and Saiyami Kher, the film is an emotional roller-coaster slated to release on May 19. The film is being distributed by Shiladitya Bora's Platoon Distribution. Raj earlier directed the award-winning Telugu film Malleshham in 2019 and was associated with 2021 Malayalam film, Paka, which was selected for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Gulzar Saab was elated to contribute 6 of his poems for the film. During the film's poster launch, he expressed a warm sense of euphoria and mentioned how he felt a pinch at his heart, the first time he read the lovely script; a feeling that instantly inspired him to contribute passionately to the film. Speaking about the film and Gulzar Saab's contribution, Raj says, "It's a story of two strangers who inadvertently bump into each other in the metro and strike up an unlikely friendship, in the process finding themselves and each other."

Dharmendra clarifies 'main udaas nahi hu', thanks fans for their concern as he recites poem on Baisakhi

Dharmendra had shared a video on Thursday in which he was seen listening to the sad song Lagta Nahin Hai Ji Mera and called it a sad evening. Soon after, when his fans enquired him about the reason of his sadness, the actor clarified that he wasn't sad at all and just likes to share glimpses of his life with fans on social media. He shared a new video in which he also recited a poem on the occasion of Baisakhi. Sharing the video on Twitter, Dharmendra wrote, "Love you friends, lagta nahin hai ji mera... my favourite. I tweeted it for you... otherwise I am quite happy and healthy. Something more with love to you all. Jeete raho. Thanks for your loving response." In the video, he said, "Hello friends, main udaas-vudaas nahi hu. Mujhe bahut pasand hai Zafar sahab ka ye to main kabhi kabhi baedhe isko... abhi sham ko gun guna raha tha to maine record karlia aur maine kaha apne chhote bhaiyo ko, dosto ko, bachcho ko bhej do. I am happy, okay I am not sad. I love this song a lot and like to listen to it sometimes. So today, when I was listening to this song, I recorded it for my brothers,



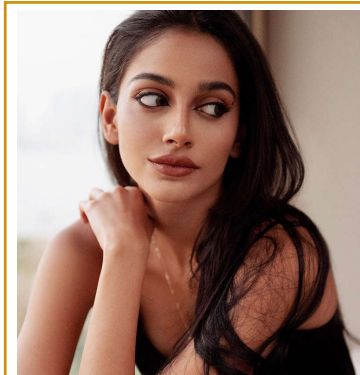
friends and children. I am happy). He went on to sing a poem on Baisakhi and wished his fans on the occasion. Before that, he had shared a video of him listening to the song and wrote, "Aaj shaam kuchhi udaas hai (the evening is sad) dosto (friends)... haha... be happy... enjoy." Dharmendra was recently seen in a guest appearance in the web series, Taj: Divided

Neetu Kapoor shares Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt's precious wedding pic with Rishi Kapoor: 'My heartbeats'



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are celebrating their first wedding anniversary on Friday. The couple is now parents to daughter Raha Kapoor. Wishing them on the occasion, Ranbir's mother shared a precious picture from their wedding ceremony which also had her late husband Rishi Kapoor in the frame. Rishi's portrait was placed at the mandap when Ranbir and Alia took pheras around the holy fire. "Sharing the picture on Instagram Stories, Neetu wrote, "Happy anniversary my beautiful people. My heartbeats (two heart emoticons) Love and blessings," along with folded hands emoji and a nazar amulet. The picture shows Alia and Ranbir as bride and groom, making an offering to the fire during their pheras. A picture of Rishi Kapoor is seen placed beside them, as if the late actor witnessed the ceremony. Ranbir's sister Riddhima Kapoor Sahni also wished the couple on their wedding anniversary. Sharing a wedding picture of them being showered with rose petals, Riddhima wrote, "Happy 1st anniversary to Raha's Mummy and Daddy."

Neetu and Riddhima are very fond of Alia Bhatt and always shower her with love on social media. Wishing her on her 30th birthday last month, Neetu had written, "Happy birthday BAHURANI (daughter-in-law). Only love and more love." Ranbir and Alia had tied the knot last year at their Vastu home in the presence of only close friends and family. They welcomed their daughter in November last year. During her appearance on Koffee With Karan last year, Alia had talked about how she finds her new family different from her own nuclear family. She had said, "I have been brought up between me, my mum, my sister and my father. That was it. Our interaction was very limited. We were a very close family, but we were not a big family. We did not have these massive celebrations or get-togethers. Everybody did their own thing."



Banita Sandhu admits 'the industry does not know how to place her: People constantly want to put me in a box'

Actor Banita Sandhu made an impressive debut with 2018's October, however, is still grappling to make her presence felt in the Hindi film industry. The Welsh actor who is three films old, confesses that the industry doesn't know what to do with her. "I think this industry doesn't know how to place me," she rues, further elaborating, "People constantly want to put me in a box. 'Are you a Bollywood or Hollywood actor?'," "You look a certain way, so we can't see you doing

this role", "Do you work in film or television?". I'm like, why can't I do it all? Why do I have to stick in one lane? That literally goes against the essence of being an actor." This has propelled Sandhu to tap into her creative side. "I want to push boundaries and discover new spaces. I feel like this industry, not just in India but worldwide, sometimes lacks imagination in that respect. That's why I want to get into writing and production eventually, so I can create roles for myself and others like me," she elaborates. Sandhu,

last seen in Sardar Udham Singh, has been acting at the age of 11. Sets have been her practicum. "I've always learnt on the job. Whether it be technical, like finding your light and hitting your mark, or creative, such as how to ground yourself and be present in a scene amidst the chaos of a set. I don't think I'll ever stop learning as long as I'm working," she states. A quick glance at Sandhu's Instagram, and one realises that the actor has been quite vocal about mental health. "I feel like it's important to speak about it. If it can

help just one person out there, then it's so worth it," she suggests. Sandhu had her own tryst with mental health. While she refrains from talking at length about it, she further continues, "Dealing with mental illness can be a very debilitating and isolating experience." It's important to know that you're not alone in your journey with it and that there's a lot of strength in the community. "I was diagnosed at a time of my life when I should have been thriving. I was at univer-

sity and my first movie was releasing but back then, mental health wasn't really spoken about as much; I didn't understand what I felt so empty and melancholic. It took a lot of time and work to recover and develop a stronger relationship with myself and my mind." Her next project is Mother Teresa & Me (directed by Kamal Muallem) wherein she plays a girl with internal turmoil. Ask her how she related to the character, and she shares, "At that point in time, I was going through similar things to her."

Forget crunches — these 4 exercises work your core using just 1 kettlebell

When it comes to working your core, not all exercises are created equal. In fact, despite being included in many of the best ab workouts, studies have found crunches and sit-ups aren't that good for your spine.

Medical professionals explain that when you perform a sit-up, you push your curve into the floor while flexing upwards. If you suffer from tight hip flexors, or sit down a lot, your hip flexors can tug against your lower back during this upward motion, creating pain or discomfort in the lower back. It's thought to be even worse if you perform sit-ups with your hands behind your head and almost pull your body upwards. While you might not notice this initially, doing endless sit-ups could lead to back pain over time.

But what should you do instead? Fitness trainer Elise, the founder of Elise's Body Shop (opens in new tab), shared four exercises you should do instead of crunches. For all of them, you'll need a kettlebell or one of the best adjustable dumbbells. Grab a weight, and give these a go: Do these four exercises instead of crunches to work your core. Elise has added rep suggestions to act as guidance. Complete the below circuit three times through to turn this into a longer workout, taking a minute rest in between each.

In her video, Elise uses a 15kg kettlebell, but you should select the weight that's right for you and your body. As a reminder,



the right weight for you will feel challenging by the final few reps, but not impossible. Meanwhile, the weight should never compromise your form.

OVERHEAD MARCH: 20 REPS For this exercise, start standing with your feet hip-width apart. Bend down and grab the kettlebell or dumbbell with one hand, and extend it above your head, raising the other arm out to your side for support. Engage your core, bend at the knee and raise one knee up to your torso, then lower it back to your starting position. Repeat on the other

side. Swap which arms you're holding the dumbbell or kettlebell with each circuit. On the third circuit, switch arms halfway through to ensure you work each arm the same. Alternatively, add a fourth circuit, or do 20 reps on each side.

PARTIAL GET-UP: 12 REPS The partial get-up, or half-Turkish get-up, is a great core exercise. Start by lying on your back, with your legs straight. Keeping your right leg straight, bend your left leg, placing your foot flat on the floor. Hold the dumbbell or kettlebell in your

left hand, with your arm stretched above your body. Place your right arm out to the side, with your right hand pressed into the floor.

In one movement, push down through your left foot, and punch upward with the weight. Press your right elbow into the floor, so that your torso raises up. Your right leg should remain straight.

Keeping your hand on the floor, press down into your hand and lift your forearm so you lock out your elbow. Pause here, then reverse the steps to return to your starting position.

As with the first exercise, switch which arm you lead with after the first circuit, and swap halfway through on the third. If you're really looking to up the ante, do 12 reps on each side.

HALO TO CHOP: 12 REPS For this exercise, start standing with your legs hip-width apart, and the kettlebell or dumbbell in your hands. Engage your core, and lift the kettlebell upwards, then make a tight circle around your head. After you've completed a full rotation, move on to the chop part of the exercise, lowering the weight down towards your hip, then raising it back to your starting position.

Again, do 12 reps in each direction, or switch direction in each circuit, and split the last one in half.

BEAR PULL-THROUGH: 20 REPS To do a bear pull-through, start on all fours, with a kettlebell or dumbbell to your left side. Make sure your wrists are stacked underneath your shoulders, and your knees underneath your hips. Engage your core, and raise your knees a few inches off the ground. Reach your right arm underneath your body, and drag the weight to your right side. Then lower your right hand back to your starting position, lift your left hand off the floor and reach underneath your body, dragging the weight back to the left.

Keep switching sides for the full 20 reps, making sure your knees don't drop down to the ground.

Fit Hub banks \$6.5m to make exercise more affordable



Living a healthy lifestyle can be burdensome and expensive. Indonesian startup Fit Hub is on a mission to democratize health for middle- and low-income households in Indonesia by offering affordable gym memberships.

In Indonesia, the average membership costs US\$50 per month, while the startup charges US\$17.

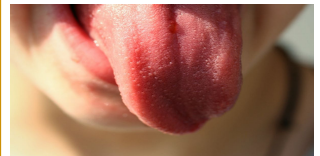
Since being founded in 2020, Fit Hub has opened 60 offline clubs across 14 cities in Indonesia. It plans to open 100 clubs by the end of the year.

The company says it has attracted over 50,000 paying members, half of which are first-time gym goers.

The firm also allows investors to open their own gyms under the Fit Hub name. The company said that interested parties can earn up to 95 million rupiah (US\$6,397) per month at a 17% management fee.

The fresh funding will be used to hire more staff, develop free workout content, as well as form an e-commerce presence for apparel, workout equipment, healthy food, and supplements.

Here's how your tongue can tell if you have Vitamin D deficiency



Vitamin D is an extremely important compound for the human body. Vitamin D is sometimes also called sunshine vitamin as it's created from cholesterol when your sun is exposed to sunlight.

Several studies and doctors have pointed out that vitamin D is critical to bone health and has many important functions throughout your body.

Deficiency of vitamin D is common among those who do not get enough sunshine – such as those who work indoors, wear extensive clothing, or who are obese or aged. healthcare revolution, health news, pharma news.

Planning to go for a blood test? Here are some do's and don'ts healthcare revolution, health news, pharma news.

All you need to know about Cesarean Section: Coronavirus India Live, Covid-19 Cases in India, Covid-19 vaccination

Coronavirus in India April 28 Highlights: India vexed over vax Mumbai shutters down 40 centres due to insufficient stock Alcohol, Alcohol consumption, health news, lifestyle news, Want to live longer? Stop drinking

It is noteworthy that the lack of enough vitamin D can also lead to several health problems like weak bones, bone deformities, muscle cramps, and fatigue and can even contribute to mental health issues.

In certain instances, your body can also tell you are deficient in vitamin D through various tell-tale signs. Several studies have pointed out that Vitamin D can lead to burning mouth syndrome. It is a painful condition in which the person experiences a burning, scalding, or tingling feeling in the mouth that may occur every day for months or longer. It is noteworthy that vitamin D deficiency is one of the most common nutritional deficiencies worldwide. According to a study published in the National Institute of Health, an estimated 1 billion people around the globe have low blood levels of the vitamin.

Health benefits of consuming superfood Broccoli

A NEW RESEARCH HAS REVEALED, THAT INCREASING THE INTAKE OF CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES LOWERS THE RISK OF TYPE 2 DIABETES AND CANCER.

Researchers at Penn State discovered in a recent study that broccoli has specific chemicals that bind to a receptor in mice and aid to preserve the lining of the small intestine, preventing the onset of sickness. The results provide evidence that broccoli is a "superfood" in the truest sense.

The study was published in the journal Laboratory Investigation.

"We all know that broccoli is good for us, but why? What happens in the body when we eat broccoli?" said Gary Perdew, H. Thomas and Dorothy Willits Hallowed Chair in Agricultural Sciences, Penn State. "Our research is helping to uncover the mechanisms for how broccoli and other foods benefit health in mice and likely humans, as well.



It provides strong evidence that cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts should be part of a normal healthy diet."

According to Perdew, the wall of the small intestine allows beneficial water and nutrients to

pass into the body but prevents that cruciferous bacteria that could cause harm. Certain cells that line the intestine – including enterocytes, which absorb water and nutrients; goblet cells, which secrete a protective layer of mucus on the intestinal wall,

and Paneth cells, which secrete lysosomes that contain digestive enzymes – help to modulate this activity and keep a healthy balance.

In their study, Perdew and his colleagues found that molecules in broccoli, called aryl hydrocarbon receptor ligands, bind to aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR), which is a type of protein called a transcription factor. This binding, they found, initiates a variety of activities that affect the functions of intestinal cells.

To conduct their study, the researchers fed an experimental group of mice a diet containing 15% broccoli – equivalent to about 3.5 cups per day for humans – and fed a control group of mice a typical lab diet that did not contain broccoli. They then analyzed the animals'

tissues to determine the extent to which AHR was activated, as well as the quantities of various cell types and mucus concentrations, among other factors, in the two groups.

The team found that mice that were not fed broccoli lacked AHR activity, which resulted in altered intestinal barrier function, reduced transit time of food in the small intestine, decreased number of goblet cells and protective mucus, decreased Paneth cells and lysosome production, and decreased number of enterocyte cells. "The gut health of the mice that were not fed broccoli was compromised in a variety of ways that are known to be associated with disease," said Perdew. "Our research suggests that broccoli and likely other foods can be used as natural sources of AHR ligands, and that diets rich in these ligands contribute to resilience of the small intestine."

To avoid post-meal drowsiness and keep your glucose levels stable, this is what you should do

Feeling drowsy after a meal, especially lunch, is a common phenomenon – and we've all been there. But guess what? You can fight this lethargy by following a few simple tips and understanding the triggers for the same. But what exactly causes this slump?

Dr Arvind Bhatija, lead neurosurgeon at Sparsh Hospitals, explained that a high protein and a high-fat meal is what can make you feel drowsy. "Had too much biryani at lunch? That can definitely make you sleepy," Dr Bhatija said in an Instagram video. He added, "One of the things that make us feel more sleepy after a meal is if we ingest a high protein or a high-fat diet."

Here's why having chocolate can make you feel great or a bit sick – plus 4 tips for better eating

2.Uterine cramps after childbirth may be painful, but are a natural part of the postpartum healing process

3.Covid may be moving towards the endemic stage in India; here's what it



Freepik

means He added that there is, in any case, a natural dip in the serum cortisol levels during the second half of the day, and when this coincides with lunch, "it's a double whammy and this can make you feel really drowsy during

your afternoon meetings". How to beat post-lunch drowsiness?

Dr Bhatija advised keeping your lunch simple and preferring liquids over solids as they tend to get digested better at lunchtime. He also sug-

gested ingesting "complex carbohydrates versus simple carbohydrates" as complex carbohydrates take a while to cause an increase in the blood glucose levels as opposed to simple carbs, which is what is largely responsible for this feeling of drowsiness after a meal. "So remember to have a smaller meal at lunchtime, which is more rich in complex carbohydrates, preferably more liquids over solids" to beat afternoon drowsiness, he added.

Speaking with indianexpress.com, Sameena Ansari – Senior Dietitian and Nutritionist, CARE Hospitals, HI-Tec City, Hyderabad shared, "Feeling drowsy after lunchtime is a common experience for many people. The scientific term for this is 'post-prandial somnolence.'"

Reasons for feeling drowsy after lunch time

Below are the reasons you might feel drowsy after lunchtime, as shared by Ansari. They are:

Our circadian rhythm: Our body

has a natural rhythm that regulates our sleep and wake cycles. In the afternoon, our body temperature tends to dip, which can make us feel drowsy.

Digestion: Digestion requires a lot of energy, and our body redirects blood flow to the digestive system after a meal. This can cause a temporary drop in energy levels and make us feel sleepy.

Food choices: Eating a meal that is high in carbohydrates and low in protein and fat can cause a rapid spike in blood sugar, followed by a crash that can make us feel tired.

remember to have a smaller quantity meal at lunchtime, which is more rich in complex carbohydrates, preferably more liquids over solids" to beat afternoon drowsiness Remember to have a smaller quantity meal at lunchtime, which is more rich in complex carbohydrates, preferably more liquids over solids to beat afternoon drowsiness. Some more tips to minimise post-lunch drowsiness

To minimize post-lunch drowsiness, here are some tips:

Choose healthy, balanced meals: Eating a balanced meal that includes protein, healthy fats, and complex carbohydrates can help keep your blood sugar levels stable and prevent the post-lunch crash. Avoid heavy, fatty meals that are difficult to digest, as they can make you feel even more tired.

Stay hydrated: Dehydration can make you feel tired, so make sure to drink plenty of water throughout the day. Don't consume excessive amounts of caffeine or sugar, as they can interfere with sleep quality and cause energy crashes.

Take a walk: Exercise can help boost energy levels and improve circulation, so taking a short walk after lunch can help you feel more alert.

Practice good sleep hygiene: Getting enough quality sleep at night can help regulate your circadian rhythm and reduce daytime sleepiness.



Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Kanidajan, Pakharpora areas of Budgam



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Kanidajan, Dunkulpathri, Darwan & Pakharpora areas and took stock of various agriculture activities and Potato Cultivation in the district.

While speaking to the farmer gatherings at different places, director agriculture said that department is working on a robust agriculture marketing policy wherein all the efforts are made to ensure that a wide range of marketing options are available to the farmers so that they could fetch maximum returns for their pro-

ducting. Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction and said that "Kashmir based Agriculture produce, commodities are now available at national and international markets. Besides, our agriculture produce is finding its place in new national and international markets and this is very encouraging."

Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of organic cultivation during his visit to the different areas. Director Agriculture said that "Our climate is our opportunity and under the holistic development of agriculture special focus has been shifted to explore the climatic opportunities of the region.

The Director was accompanied by Deputy Director Planning Mohammad Younis Chowdhury, and other senior officers of the department

J&K Bank sanctions 3 bank branches, 3 USBs, 2 ATMs, 4 Cash Recyclers for Kupwara

J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 14: Kupwara while highlighting the importance of bank facilities for hassle free transactions and extending benefits of social security and self employment schemes to the youth in far-off areas of Kupwara district said that the people would easily avail benefits of various beneficiary-oriented schemes of the Government through these bank branches.

Lead District Manager Kupwara, Mehboob Ellahi Khan reiterated the Bank's commitment towards the economic development of people living in far-flung areas of Kupwara district.

ADDC Kulgam visits Palpora, takes stock of arrangements for smooth celebrations of Baisakhi festival

J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL14: ADCD Kulgam Showkat Ahmad Rather today visited Palpora area to greet people on eve of Baisakhi festival besides he also took stock of arrangements which were put in place by various departments. He was accompanied by ACD Kulgam Mohammad Imran and other officials. During his visit people and members of Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee Palpora apprised him about various developmental issues pertaining to RDD, R&B and PDD and other demands for early redressal.

Chairman DDC Budgam distributes solar lights in Beerwah DDC Segment



J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 14: Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, has distributed solar lights to residents of the Beerwah segment in Budgam. The distribution program concluded in the first week of April and was aimed at providing affordable and sustainable lighting solutions to the people of the area.

Nazir Ahmad Khan stated that the distribution of solar lights is a part of the district development council's efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The solar lights are equipped with the latest technology and are designed to provide bright and reliable lighting even in remote areas without access to electricity.

The distribution program was well-received by the residents of the Beerwah segment, who expressed their gratitude towards Nazir Ahmad Khan and the district administration for providing them with a sustainable lighting solution.

The solar lights will not only improve the quality of life of the residents but will also help in reducing their energy bills.

Nazir Ahmad Khan also urged the residents of the area to use the solar lights responsibly and take care of them to ensure their longevity. He emphasized the need to conserve energy and protect the environment for the benefit of future generations.

The distribution of solar lights in the Beerwah segment is just one of the many initiatives undertaken by the Chairman DDC Budgam to promote sustainable development in the region. The district administration is committed to providing basic amenities and infrastructure to all residents of the area and will continue to work towards their welfare.

DC B'la reviews Capex Budget 2022-23; formulation of Plan 2023-24



J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today chaired a meeting of heads of line departments at her office chamber here to review the progress of projects being executed in the district under District Capex budget 2022-23 and formulation of Plan for financial year 2023-24. On the occasion, the DC was apprised with regard to projects being executed by various departments in the district. She was also informed about the plans to be prepared for the financial year 2023-24.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the projects, the DC impressed upon all the departments/executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all developmental works in a time bound manner.

Reviewing the issues hampering the pace of progress, the DC asked the concerned to monitor the pace of progress on a regular basis and resolve the issues hampering the progress of several works at an earliest. The DC directed the officers to put in best efforts for maximum and optimum utilization of funds under different schemes. While discussing the plan formulation for 2023-24 financial year, the DC instructed the officers for involving all PRIs in identification of all priority works to be taken up in hand for the financial year 2023-24. Additional District Development Commissioner, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Joint Director Planning, M Yousef Rather; SES of R&B, Jal Shakti, JKPDCL, Chief Medical officer Dr Bishar Ahmad Malik and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Baisakhi marks beginning of Harvesting of Wheat crop in Jammu Plains

DIR AGRI KICK STARTS MECHANIZED HARVESTING AT SM FARM CHINORE

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 14: The festival of Baisakhi in Jammu is celebrated in the month of Vaisakh (April-May) with the name of Vaisakhi. The festival marks the start of the harvest season in the Jammu region like other parts of Northern India.

To commemorate the significance of this auspicious day, Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, K. K. Sharma kick started the mechanized harvesting of Wheat crop at Seed multiplication Farm, Chinore, here today.

Congratulating the farmers of Jammu Division on the occasion, the Director Agriculture said that when crop is ready in fields, the farmers start singing happily, this joy is celebrated as Baisakhi and it marks the start of harvesting of Rabi crop in plains of Jammu. Praying for the country's happiness, greenery and prosperity, farmers express their happiness as nature bestows them with a rich harvest after a season's hard work, he added. The Director underscored that the Department is working hard for the welfare of the Farming Community adding, "We are all set to achieve new heights under able guidance and overall supervision of Additional Chief

Secretary (Financial Commissioner) Agriculture Production Department, J&K UT, Atal Duloo."

He informed that the Department is working on war footing for grounding of 29 projects under "Holistic Agriculture Development Plan" which were proposed by the Apex committee constituted by the UI Government, headed by Mangla Rai, Former DG-ICAR. The HADP is set to be a turning point in the Agronomy of the UT whereby Rs 501

crore shall be infused over next 5 years through 29 interventions/projects. Besides, the 29 interventions are set to create around 19000 new enterprises in agriculture sector and an additional 2.8 lakh job. This will ultimately increase GDP of the UT significantly by next 5 years. The Director Agriculture informed that considering the excellent weather conditions during the Rabi season a bumper harvest of Wheat is expected.

ADDC Kulgam visits Palpora, takes stock of arrangements for smooth celebrations of Baisakhi festival



J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL14: ADCD Kulgam Showkat Ahmad Rather today visited Palpora area to greet people on eve of Baisakhi festival besides he also took stock of arrangements which were put in place by various departments. He was accompanied by ACD Kulgam Mohammad Imran and other officials. During his visit people and members of Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee Palpora apprised him about various developmental issues pertaining to RDD, R&B and PDD and other demands for early redressal.

DC B'la chairs Agriculture Development programme meet; discusses measures for its Rollout

AWARENESS TO FARMERS KEY IN SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS TAKEN UNDER AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE SECTORS: DR SEHRISH

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL: To discuss the rollout of Farmers Orientation programme under prestigious Holistic Agriculture Programme at Panchayat level, a meeting of officers was today convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar at Dak Bungalow here.

At the outset, the concerned officers apprised the chair regarding the arrangements put in place for the successful conduct of farmer's orientation programme under the HADP in the district.

The DC stressed upon the Sectoral Officers of Agriculture and allied departments to give the programme a wide publicity in advance so that mass participation of the farming communi-



Dr Sehrish also instructed to

ty can be assured.

raise awareness among the farmers about modern tools and techniques 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.

During the meeting, the DC discussed high Density Plantation cover of the Horticulture sector and directed all departments to resolve bottlenecks in subsidized financial assistance provided to the beneficiaries. Formation of FPOs was discussed with the direction to cover marginal farmers.

Meanwhile, 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.

With regard to the Orientation programme, the DC said that the awareness and advice to the farmers will be key in successful implementation of projects taken under Agriculture and Horticulture sectors.

She also directed the staff to keep themselves updated and additional knowledge about schemes and economic models of dairy/poultry farming and advance technologies like hydroponics matters so that they can encourage the farmers regarding the benefits and profits of modern technologies and schemes.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning M Yousef Rather, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development, Officers from Agriculture, Horticulture Animal Husbandry, besides other officers of all concerned departments.

DC Kupwara visits Achamarg village, inspects developmental works



J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today visited Achamarg area in Taratpora Tehsil of Kupwara district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various ongoing development works. He also interacted with people of Achamarg and heard their day-to-day developmental issues.

On the occasion Deputy Commissioner said that the LG Administration is committed to provide equitable development to all areas including far-flung and rural areas. He said Kupwara district is marching towards progress and prosperity as the administration is focusing on holistic development in various sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Handicrafts and Tourism.

He directed the officers to further accelerate the developmental tempo in the district and ensure more field inspections and field visits in their respective jurisdictions and resolve public grievances on priority basis.

FCS&CA penalizes 17 erring traders in Srinagar; imposes fine of Rs. 12700

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL : The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department under the supervision of Assistant Director Enforcement, Fayaz Ahmad Shah today penalized 17 erring traders with a sum of Rs. 12700 in Srinagar district for violating Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The action against the erring was taken during a massive market checking drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City i.e., Sonwar, Buchpora, Rainawari, Khanayr, Nowhatta, Chanapora, Baghi Mehtab, Shalting, Mustafabad & Lawaypora areas.

During the course of action as many as 102 establishments were inspected, out of which 17 erring traders were penalized.

So far as other Districts of the valley are concerned, 613 business establishments have been inspected, out of which 151 erring traders have been penalized with a fine of Rs 40501.

The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well and whosoever is found violating the norms will be brought to justice.

In case of any complaint, people may contact the toll free number 18001807011.

Centre rejects charge of targeted attacks against Christians

New Delhi, Apr 14
The Union government on Thursday rebuffed allegations of targeted attacks against Christians in the country, informing the Supreme Court that less than a third of the incidents alleged by some Christian organisations and individuals were found to be true.



Wednesday night. According to the affidavit, 44 FIRs out of 70 reported incidents were registered in Uttar Pradesh; 31 FIRs out of 34 reported incidents were lodged in Karnataka; 24 FIRs out of 36 reported incidents were registered in Chhattisgarh and 22 FIRs out of 26 reported incidents were lodged in Madhya Pradesh.

Expressing its resolve to ensure rule of law and equal protection of law to all religions and communities, the Centre said that the information furnished by the state governments make it clear that the petitioners have exaggerated the number of incidents. "Many incidents alleged as Christian persecution have been either false or wrongly projected. It is submitted that many trivial disputes between two parties are likely to have been given religious colour...factual check and the verification reports reveal that even family feuds and private land disputes being shown as communal targeting," read the affidavit.

It complained that the petitioners, which included Archbishop Peter Machado and two Christian organisations - National Solidarity Forum and Evangelical Fellowship of India, relied on certain unauthentic reports to portray all criminal incidents, involving a member of Christian community, as incidents of violence against the victim due to religious reasons. The affidavit came up before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, and solicitor general Tushar Mehta stated that verification reports from the state governments have belied accusations made in the petition. "Our concern is that this is how the issue will be projected outside the country as if Christians are being attacked in the country while the truth is completely different," said Mehta.

"BJP Carrying Out Fake Encounters With Eye On Polls": Akhilesh Yadav's Claim

MHOW: The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh was carrying out encounters with an eye on polls, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Friday a day after gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad's son and an associate were killed by an STF team in Jhansi there. Ahmad, his son and several others are accused in the Umesh Pal murder case in UP, the fallout of which made Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath swear in the Assembly that he would wipe out the mafia there. Speaking to reporters after paying tribute to eminent jurist and social reformer Babasaheb Ambedkar at his birthplace, Mr Yadav said the Constitution, of which the former was the chief architect, was under threat. "Institutions are being fin-



ished one after the other and (Bharatiya Janata Party) governments (at the Centre and UP) are working to destroy the Constitution Babasaheb gave us," Mr Yadav said. Queried about Thursday's encounter, Mr Yadav said, "From the very first day, (the Uttar Pradesh) BJP government is indulging in fake encounters with an eye on polls." However, on being asked about allegations that Atiq Ahmad had connections to

Pakistani elements, Mr Yadav just said "what can I say about the connections he has and with whom". He slammed the BJP government in UP for action against a mother-daughter duo in Kanpur, during which their houses were bulldozed and burnt down, leading to both losing their lives. Mr Yadav also alleged a promising student leader was killed in Ballia by those belonging to the "caste of the (UP) chief minister". "Is it an India where you can kill a weaker person? Is it an India where we won't get our Constitutional rights," the SP chief questioned. He asked why UP has received the maximum number of notices from the National Human Rights Commission (for police action like encounters), adding that the northern state also leads in the number of custodial deaths.

Arvind Kejriwal Summoned By CBI in Delhi Liquor Policy Case On Sunday: 10 Points

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned by the CBI for questioning over alleged corruption in the capital's now-scrapped alcohol sales policy that led to the arrest of his deputy Manish Sisodia in February, sources have told NDTV. Here are the 10 latest developments in this story:



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has asked Mr Kejriwal to appear for questioning on Sunday, sources said, making it the first instance in recent memory where a Chief Minister has been summoned by the central agency in an investigation. Sources in the agency said they have uncovered fresh evidence and have grounds to question the Chief Minister now. They said the date was set for Sunday so that it does not disrupt the Chief Minister's work.

Arvind Kejriwal is yet to comment on the CBI's move but in the past has said, "There is no such thing as a liquor scam". The AAP has dismissed the charges as "vendetta" and efforts by the BJP, which governs at the centre, to target one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most vocal critics. "Not a single leader of the AAP will be intimidated by these motivated charges. Many of our ministers, leaders and members have been targeted in the past. Our fight against the most corrupt government of PM Modi will go on," senior party leader Sanjay Singh said.

The CBI is probing allegations that the liquor policy implemented by the Delhi government last year, which ended government control over the sale of liquor in the capital, gave undue advantages to private retailers. Alleging the involvement of the "highest levels" of Mr Kejriwal's government in the swindle, the agency has claimed crores in kickbacks were paid for favours in

the policy and funnelled into his Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) election campaign in the last year. Manish Sisodia's arrest in February was the highest-profile arrest in the case so far. The following month, he was arrested while still in jail by the country's financial crime-fighting agency Enforcement Directorate, which is probing allegations of money laundering in the case.

The summons to Mr Kejriwal, whose political career began with the 2011 anti-corruption movement that swept the nation, comes as his 10-year-old party has recently upgraded to the status of a national outfit, tries to position itself as one of the main alternatives to PM Modi's BJP. They also follow an intensifying effort by opposition parties to band together ahead of next year's elections, alleging the widespread abuse of central investigating agencies.

Among the first opposition parties to come out in Mr Kejriwal's support was Bihar's Rashtriya Janata Dal, whose leader Manoj Jha taunted the centre saying it should put all opposition leaders in a gas chamber and finish them off "Nazi-style".

'Innocent grandfatherly prank': Tibetan president in exile on Dalai Lama video

NEW DELHI, APR 14: Top leader of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in India said that the Tibetan people were hurt by the insinuations made over a recent viral video of Dalai Lama, alleging that "pro-Chinese sources" were trying to damage the image of the spiritual leader. China is ruling Tibet with an iron fist and trying to seek legitimacy from the world," Pempa Tsering-Skyong of the Central Tibetan Administration (government-in-exile) said.



The comments came after the Dalai Lama apologized following a viral video in which he was heard asking a boy to "suck" his tongue. The Dalai Lama sought forgiveness from the boy, his family and friends for the "hurt his words may have caused" following the row.

The Dalai Lama asked the child "to look at those good human beings who create peace, and happiness and not follow those who kill other people", Pempa Tsering asserted, calling the gesture an "innocent grandfatherly affectionate demeanour" followed by his "jovial prank" with a tongue. "And that was meant for amusement for others. Now, who's the victim? The boy is not complaining, his mother is not complaining. The victim here is, His Holiness the Dalai Lama," Pempa Tsering said. The clip being circulated was "tailored" and "through investigation, we found that the initial instigators were pro-Chinese sources. That explains the motivation behind making

this video clip viral," he added.

"It needs no explanation as to who would gain from maligning the image, reputation and legacy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Considering the scale and extent of the orchestrated smear campaign, the political angle of this incident cannot be ignored," Pempa Tsering alleged, asserting that the Dalai Lama lives an "unblemished life".

"People have perceived and interpreted it (video) in different ways. I don't blame them, they may have their opinions, and they might see it their own way. Because the clip was tailored for that... and His Holiness was being labelled with all kinds of names," Pempa Tsering said.

High Court Grants Bail To Ex-BrahMos Engineer Accused Of Spying For Pak's ISI

NAGPUR: The Bombay High Court has granted bail to a former engineer of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, arrested in 2018 on charges of spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, noting he has been in jail for almost five years and the trial in the case may not conclude soon. A single bench of Justice Anil Kilor, while granting bail to him on April 3, also remarked that prima facie

there was no material to suggest the alleged act was committed intentionally by the accused, Nishant Aggrawal.

The HC's Nagpur bench allowed the petition filed by Mr Aggrawal seeking bail on the ground there was no progress in the trial and that he has been in jail for four years and six months. The bench directed the accused to furnish a personal bond

of ₹ 25,000 and attend the Nagpur police station three times a week till the end of the trial.

Mr Aggrawal, employed in the technical research section of the company's missile centre in Nagpur, was arrested in October 2018 in a joint operation by the Military Intelligence and the Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Opposition unity unlikely to hamper 2024 election prospects: BJP

NEW DELHI, APR 14: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday dismissed the opposition's bid to stall the party's electoral juggernaut as futile and unavailing, as several different parties are attempting to build a coalition ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



BJP leaders who spoke on conditions of anonymity said the party, which was voted to power at the Centre in the last two general elections with a decisive majority, does not anticipate an opposition bloc surviving the challenges of coalition politics and sees no threat to its narrative that combines development with ideology. A meeting of the Congress, Janata Dal (United) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leaders in the national capital on Wednesday set off speculations that the BJP will have to face a coalition of parties that has also been political adversaries. A senior opposition

leader privy to the meeting, attended by Congress' Rahul Gandhi, Bihar chief minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar and his deputy and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, said though attempts to foster a coalition have not yielded results in the recent past, the parties have identified winning as a single entity as the only way to take on the BJP in its tracks. "The BJP benefits from a multi-polar contest. If opposition parties join forces and contest as a single unit, then there is little chance of the anti-BJP vote being divided, which will be the only way to take on the party, particularly in the Hindi heartland states," the opposition leader explained, wishing not to be named. The opposition's attempts to coalesce may have set off concerns in the BJP but its leaders asserted that such a grouping is unlikely to withstand internal pressures and conflicts.

Emergency in 1975, was defeated after there was public outcry and people chose to accept a coalition of parties that were otherwise ideologically divergent. "It is not enough for these parties to just come together to oppose the BJP. They must have a strong narrative, and leadership to pull it off. The Congress today that is aiming to be the nucleus of an anti-BJP coalition does not have a Harkishan Singh Surjeet or Pramod Mahajan or even

Ahmed Patel to pull off an impossible alliance," the BJP leader said. While Mahajan and Patel played key roles in shaping the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and United Progressive Alliance led by the Congress, Surjeet was credited with bringing together the Congress, the Left front and a clutch of regional parties against the BJP in 1996 and 2003. The BJP is confident that the "development agenda" of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, coupled with his "popularity," will outmaneuver the opposition's efforts to prevent the party from coming to power in 2024.

"What has been the biggest achievement of the BJP government - delivery of schemes, implementation of pro-people policies and inclusion of the most backward and deprived people in the list of beneficiaries. Will these people who witnessed change be swayed by the narrative of a handful of parties that have a record of corruption, casteism and dynastic politics," a second BJP leader said, also seeking anonymity. Opposition leaders, meanwhile, were optimistic after Wednesday's meeting, with Gandhi calling it a "historic step" and a process that will "develop the Opposition's vision for the country". "The BJP has always reached its saturation point in the North... In 2024, it may not be able to repeat its performance in

states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It has set its sights on the southern region to increase its overall tally from 303 Lok Sabha seats in 2019. In the event if the opposition putting up a united front, the BJP's southern expansion too will get a lift and its score in the heartland states will also dip, because regional straws will come together," said the opposition leader quoted above.

The BJP is unfazed by the observation and asserts that vote banks are not captive and any alliance that is not bound by a powerful narrative and a common minimum programme will come with a limited shelf life. It is also banking on inherent ideological differences of the parties to bring down the attempts to unite against it. "There is a difference between an ally on paper and being able to stand side-by-side in the face of contradictions and aspirations. Will the Congress that takes on the

AAP in Delhi want to give them a bigger role? Will the TMC that fights against the Communists bury the hatchet? In UP, who will want to cede space to the opposition? The BSP and SP have traditionally been rivals," said a third BJP leader. The third BJP leader, however, admitted that the party would need to revisit its own alliance in the wake of the opposition bloc and the regional parties gaining lift. Over the past nine years, the BJP has lost some of its oldest allies including the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray), the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Telugu Desam Party. Should the opposition coalition worry the BJP? Political commentator Sanjay Kumar said, "If the opposition parties are divided into two or more blocs, the BJP has nothing to worry about. It should put up a common candidate, then the party faces a challenge."

Marsh and Hasaranga return to lift Capitals and RCB fortunes

The visitors in Bengaluru will be looking for their first win in IPL 2023

BENGALURU : Two weeks into IPL 2023, Delhi Capitals are the only winless team in the tournament. Anrich Nortje threatened to put them on the board with his pinpoint yorkers in their last match against Mumbai Indians, but a wayward throw from David Warner in the outfield and Tim David's big dive on the last ball consigned Capitals to their fourth successive defeat.

Royal Challengers Bangalore were also on the wrong side of a last-ball finish earlier this week, but they're better placed than Capitals on the standings and will be bolstered further by the return of Wanindu Hasaranga, who is one of the top wristspinners in T20 cricket right now.

However, there are some concerns around RCB's middle order and their batting approach in the middle overs, particularly against spin. Left-arm spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav offer Capitals a favourable match-up against Royal Challengers' right-handed heavy top five. Nortje and Mustafizur have been formidable at the death, but Warner's glow at the top has left them playing catch-up. Mitchell Marsh's return and an easy-paced hit-through-the-line Chinnaswamy track, though, could free him up.

Team news: Wanindu Hasaranga, Mitchell Marsh return. Hasaranga has linked up with Royal Challengers and is available for selection after having completed his national commitments in New Zealand. The Sri Lanka legspinner will slot into the XI in



place of David Willey or Wayne Parnell. This will result in another swap: Akash Deep for Karn Sharma. Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood is expected to arrive in India on Friday and will finish his rehab with Royal Challengers. It is understood that he's unlikely to play against Capitals on Saturday. **Toss and Impact Player strategy** Anuj Rawat might be used as a floater in the middle order to counter Axar and Kuldeep if Royal Challengers bat first. Seamer Akash Deep is likely to come in as an Impact Player when they bowl. **Royal Challengers Bangalore** Bat-first XI (possible): 1 Faf du Plessis (capt), 2 Virat Kohli, 3

Mahipal Lomror, 4 Glenn Maxwell, 5 Dinesh Karthik (wk), 6 Anuj Rawat, 7 Shabbaz Ahmed, 8 Wanindu Hasaranga, 9 Harshal Patel, 10 David Willey/Wayne Parnell, 11 Mohammad Siraj **Bowl-first XI (possible):** 1 Faf du Plessis (capt), 2 Virat Kohli, 3 Mahipal Lomror, 4 Glenn Maxwell, 5 Dinesh Karthik (wk), 6 Shabbaz Ahmed, 7 Wanindu Hasaranga, 8 Harshal Patel, 9 David Willey/Wayne Parnell, 10 Akash Deep, 11 Mohammad Siraj **Delhi Capitals** who have missed Capitals' last two games for his wedding, has rejoined the squad and is set to return to the starting XI in place of Rovman Powell.

Capitals are likely to bring in Mukesh Kumar or Chetan Sakariya as their Impact Player, when they bowl. Pritthvi Shaw might make way for one of the two seamers.

Bat-first XI (possible): 1 David Warner (capt), 2 Pritthvi Shaw, 3 Mitchell Marsh, 4 Manish Pandey, 5 Yash Dhull/Aman Khan, 6 Axar Patel, 7 Lalit Yadav, 8 Abhishek Porel (wk), 9 Kuldeep Yadav, 10 Anrich Nortje, 11 Mustafizur Rahman

Bowl-first XI (possible): 1 David Warner (capt), 2 Mitchell Marsh, 3 Manish Pandey, 4 Yash Dhull/Aman Khan, 5 Axar Patel, 6 Lalit Yadav, 7 Abhishek Porel (wk), 8 Kuldeep Yadav, 9 Anrich Nortje, 10 Mukesh Kumar/Chetan Sakariya, 11 Mustafizur Rahman **Pitch and conditions**

Another Chinnaswamy belter is on the cards. A total of 1161 sixes have been hit at this ground in the IPL, which is the second most behind Wankhede (1349) in the competition. The weather is expected to be fine for the duration of the game.

Stats that matter Glenn Maxwell vs Kuldeep promises to be an intriguing match-up. Maxwell has hit the wristspinner for 59 runs in 21 balls while being dismissed three times in the IPL.

Dinesh Karthik has a strong head-to-head record against Mustafizur in T20 cricket: 46 runs off 23 balls with just one dismissal. **Royal Challengers (9.51) and Capitals (9.18)** have the worst economy rates in IPL 2023.

Manchester United fans growing impatient for sale of club

QATAR, APR 14: Nearly five months after the Glazer family put Manchester United on the market, the iconic football club's fans are growing impatient as the proposed sale goes on.

Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe are both hoping to take control of the 20-time English league champions and submitted second bids last month.

American investment firm Elliott Management could also take a minority stake as well as provide capital to other potential buyers, with the price possibly rising as high as \$6 billion.

But the ongoing wait to get a deal done has supporters worried the club's off-season transfer plans will be impacted at a time when manager Erik ten Hag hopes to sign a world class striker. Harry Kane and Victor Osimhen are among the names linked and neither would come cheap.

Following reports that there will be a third round of bids, the Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST) said on Thursday the uncertainty was of great concern.

"Erik needs to know what resources he has to spend so he can make the signings the club needs, and the whole management resources of the club need to be focused on supporting him in that," MUST said in a statement. "That cannot be the case with the future ownership so unclear."

United's American owners announced last November that they would consider selling the club as they explored strategic alternatives.

That appeared to pave the way for their departure after years of resisting supporters' attempts to drive them out.

Based on the public bids, Sheikh Jassim and Ratcliffe appear to be the leading contenders, with the Kaine Group merchant bank handling the process.

But there is increasing frustration as the wait for a new owner goes on.

Shoddy way to run a sale process. They need to get out by end of May to allow the new owner a fighting chance to impact the



next transfer window and get moving former United captain and now TV pundit Gary Neville tweeted this week.

United declined to comment on MUST's statement. In Thursday's Europa League quarterfinals first leg against Sevilla at Old Trafford, United fans continued to voice their frustration, chanting We want Glazers out after Marcel Sabitzer scored early in the first half.

Sheikh Jassim is the chairman of Qatar Islamic Bank and is son of a former prime minister.

He has promised to rid the club of debt, invest in the stadium, training centre and playing squads in a bid to return the club to its former glories both on and off the pitch.

Ratcliffe is the owner of petrochemicals giant INEOS and is one of Britain's richest people. He was born in Faislforth, Greater Manchester, and says he is focused on United winning the Champions League and becoming the number one club in the world once again.

Finnish entrepreneur Thomas Zilliacus said on Wednesday that he was no longer interested.

Any new owner is also likely to have to spend in the region of \$1 billion to redevelop or rebuild United's Old Trafford stadium.

"We are in dire need of new investment, which undoubtedly requires new ownership," the supporters trust said. Along with United fans all around the world, (we) are calling for this process to be concluded without further delay.

Almost-forgotten Mohit is back, and he's the same bowler he used to be

NEW DELHI : There's been a retro flavour to IPL 2023. MS Dhoni is smacking it at a 200-plus strike rate. Amit Mishra, Piyush Chawla and Karn Sharma are taking wickets and reminding the world that no team is complete without a chubby legspinner.

Thursday night in Mohali was yet another retro night. Gujarat Titans were fresh off a shock defeat in which one of their young quacks, Yash Dayal, had been hit for five successive sixes in a dramatic finale. They took Dayal out of the firing line for this game against Punjab Kings, and replaced him with a 34-year-old, whose last season as an IPL regular was in 2018. He'd played one game in 2019, one in 2020, and nothing since.

Mohit Sharma Purple Cap winner in 2014. World Cup semi-finalist in 2015. He had disappeared from our TV screens for years and years, and he was back now.

He was back, and from a spectator's distance he seemed to be the same bowler he has always been. He was doing the same things he's always done, and he was doing them well.

Mohali served up an interesting

pitch for this game - Titans captain Hardik Pandya suggested afterwards that it was a hard pitch where the new ball came on to the bat beautifully, but so hard that it quickly roughened up and softened up the ball. This meant that by the time Mohit came on, in the 11th over of Punjab's innings, the ball was in just the sort of shape to behave a little unpredictably off the pitch.

Mohit is a natural at maximising that sort of unpredictability. He hits an awkward, bail-trimming length - too short to drive on the up, not short enough to pull. And he's always been adept at hitting that length while shuffling through his variations - on pace, either with the seam upright or scrambled, or off pace, delivered either as an offcutter or out of the back of the hand.

Everything about his comeback screamed pragmatism. At this time last year, Mohit was travelling around the IPL with Titans as a net bowler. Mohit had gone unsold at the auction, and he'd jumped at the chance to train and work on his bowling when Titans coach Ashish Nehra had offered him the net-bowler role.

On a pitch that's a little bit wo-

ped, or when he's armed with an old ball that's gone a little soft, Mohit can be extremely hard to hit.

Punjab discovered this on Thursday, and it was a gradual realisation rather than a sudden jolt of knowledge, a realisation that dawned over a succession of dot balls and half-timed singles to deep fielders. By the time he was finished, with figures of 4-0-18-2 next to his name, their innings had stalled and stultified.

Mohit dismissed Jitesh Sharma in his first over, the ball straightening ever so slightly from that in-between length to brush the outside edge of an attempted back-foot punch. Sam Curran joined Bhanuka Rajapaksa at the crease, and Punjab had a left-left pair at the crease all the way until Mohit's final over.

Mohit took his second wicket in that final over, the 19th of the innings, hitting the pitch hard with an offcutter-bouncer and daring Curran to hit against the angle, against the deviation, and towards the longer leg-side boundary. Curran took on the shot, and picked out deep midwicket. This was the perfect Mohit wicket, full of skill and smart playing of percentages.

How Norway's Odegaard and Haaland are taking English football by storm



QATAR, APR 14: Had Norway qualified for the 2022 Qatar World Cup - they finished third in their qualification group, behind the Netherlands and Turkey - it would have been a great chance for football lovers to see two Norwegians, who have taken English football by storm, playing on the same side of the pitch.

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland and Arsenal playmaker and captain Martin Odegaard have been phenomenal in their own ways for their teams. While Haaland, 22, seems to be on a goal-scoring spree - 45 goals this season so far - Odegaard, all of 24, has been as an integral part of Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, who are rebuilding themselves.

"This guy (Odegaard) is playing like Mozart at the moment. He looks like a reincarnation of Mesut Ozil at his best," said former English defender and Manchester United icon Rio Ferdinand. Odegaard does the captain's armband for both his country and the club. Unlike most of the other skippers, he is not too vocal; he chooses to lead by example.

Arteta's men press the opponents high up on field, cornering them like a pack of wolves. Odegaard leads this press, often on his own, spurring his teammates into action delivering Arteta's football philosophy to the world. He unlocks the grittiest of defences with a splitting pass. Odegaard has a low centre of gravity

and is great on the ball, has quick feet and a brilliant vision. His fantastic ability to read the game enables him to create spaces for teammates to break down opposing defences.

Arsenal are now in the race for the Premier League title, along with Manchester City. From making his debut as a 16-year-old at Real Madrid, substituting Cristiano Ronaldo, to blossoming into an astute leader with a calm demeanour, Odegaard has come a long way. Haaland, on the other hand, was making massive strides in the Bundesliga with RB Salzburg followed by Borussia Dortmund. Manchester City were the highest bidders, poached him from Dortmund in 2022 for a whopping sum of 60 million euros.

His seizable frame enables him to hold off defenders with ease and involve others around him. Add to it his speed and finishing abilities, and you have an absolute monster - the footballing equivalent of a cyborg!

Both the players have been representing Norway from the U-15 days. Their combined brilliance was not enough to take their country to the World Cup in Qatar last year, but their clubs are vying for English football's biggest price.

Livingstone still a doubt as Kings run into Super Giants

LUCKNOW : KL Rahul captaining. Andy Flower in the coaching staff. Deepak Hooda and Nicholas Pooran in the middle order. K Gowtham and Ravi Bishnoi bowling spin. There are several similarities between Punjab Kings' class of 2020 and Lucknow Super Giants' 2023 vintage, but one clear difference so far: results. While Kings finished that season in sixth, Super Giants are among the early pace-setters this year. They have already established themselves as a team who are hard to beat at home, winning both games at the Ekana Stadium, and their last-gasp win at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday night means they are joint-top of the nascent league table with three wins from four.

Several of those former Kings players will be particu-

larly keen to perform against their old franchise on Saturday night, but none more so than Pooran. The West Indies left-hander had a miserable final year for Kings in 2021, making 85 runs at 7.22 across the season, and was released ahead of the mega auction.

Since then, Pooran has averaged 40.63 and struck at 161.95 in the IPL, bringing his Sunrisers Hyderabad form from 2022 into the early stages of this season. Super Giants invested heavily in him, spending INR 16 crore to buy him in December's auction; the early signs are that he is worth the money.

Team news: Livingstone still a doubt?

Kyle Mayers' early success at the top of the order has seen Quinton de Kock carrying drinks since his arrival in India, but Super Giants may



look to make a change after Mayers' back-to-back failures against Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Liam Livingstone arrived in India late after knee and ankle injuries, and Shikhar Dhawan suggested on Thursday night that he had pulled a muscle in his first training session. "He's just got off a flight," Brad Haddin, Kings' assistant coach,

said. "We're just monitoring him for the next couple of days to see where he's at. He's just come back from a long-term injury." He appears unlikely to feature on Saturday, but could come into contention to play against RCB next week. There is also a chance Kings will consider rotating their seamers, playing their second game in 48 hours. If so, Kagiso

Rabada - who was expensive against Gujarat Titans - might make way for Nathan Ellis again.

Toss and Impact Player strategy

Lucknow Super Giants Super Giants have used Ayush Badoni as their Impact Player when bowling first this season, and could bring him in for Amit Mishra like they did in their one-wicket win over Royal Challengers. If they bat first, Mishra - or another bowler - could replace Badoni.

Possible bat-first XI: 1 Quinton de Kock, 2 KL Rahul (capt), 3 Deepak Hooda, 4

Krunal Pandya, 5 Marcus Stoinis, 6 Nicholas Pooran (wk), 7 Amit Mishra/Krishnappa Gowtham, 8 Jaydev Unadkat, 9 Mark Wood, 10 Ravi Bishnoi, 11 Avesh Khan **Punjab Kings** Rahul Chahar came into Kings' team halfway through their defeat to Titans on Thursday, and will likely replace either Prabhsimran Singh or Bhanuka Rajapaksa during the innings break if they bat first again. If they bowl, they will probably pick an extra bowler and then sub a batter in.

Possible bat-first XI: 1 Prabhsimran Singh, 2 Shikhar Dhawan (capt), 3 Matthew Short, 4 Bhanuka Rajapaksa, 5 Sam Curran, 6 M Shahrub Khan, 7 Harpreet Brar, 8 Rishi Dhawan, 9 Kagiso Rabada, 10 Rahul Chahar, 11 Arshdeep Singh

Arshdeep Singh Possible bowl-first XI: 1 Shikhar Dhawan (capt), 2 Bhanuka Rajapaksa/Prabhsimran Singh, 4 Jitesh Sharma (wk), 5 Sam Curran, 6 M Shahrub Khan, 7 Harpreet Brar, 8 Rishi Dhawan, 9 Kagiso Rabada, 10 Rahul Chahar, 11 Arshdeep Singh

Stats that matter Shikhar Dhawan has dominated Jaydev Unadkat when they have faced one another in the IPL, scoring 70 runs off 44 balls against him for once out.

Super Giants' innings of 193 for 6 in their first home game this season was the first time in 16 IPLs held in Lucknow that a team had posted a score in excess of 190. This will only be the second meeting between these teams, following Super Giants' 20-run victory last season.

Deeraj Gupta inspects development works in Jambu Zoo

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Deeraj Gupta, today inspected development works being executed in Jambu Zoo which is expected to be dedicated to the general public soon.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, briefed about various ongoing works in the Zoo.

He apprised the Principal Secretary of the status of critical Zoo infrastructures such as animal enclosures, power supply, amphitheatre, animal kitchen,



animal hospital, staff quarters, main entrance gate, orientation Centre, ticketing counters, Souvenir shop, kiosk, cafeteria, view points, Jammu Di Dhakki, toilets and other public amenities.

Deeraj Gupta, while noticing significant progress achieved, directed the department to

expedite balance work on parking area, roads, Sulabh shauchalaya, Nature Interpretation Centre, shelter sheds, herbivore pathway and related works by deploying additional manpower and machineries. He instructed the officers to carryout site cleaning, plantation, greening, enrichment and beautification activities simultaneously, in and around whole zoo infrastructure.

Principal Secretary asked the officers to detail the "in-house" animal shifting plan of Manda Mini Zoo animals to the New Jambu Zoo based on the evaluation carried out by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) experts. He asked for expediting clearances from CZA and Ministry of Defense respectively for water supply right of way passing through defense area.

Deeraj Gupta asked the department's officials, engineers, contractors and service providers to put in their best effort to make zoo operationally ready by last week of April for trial run.

Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Wildlife Warden, Jambu Zoo and other senior officers of department of wildlife protection and representatives of executing agencies were present on the occasion.

Ambedkar Welfare Trust celebrates 132nd birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: Ambedkar Welfare Trust, Udhampur, today celebrated 132nd birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

Thousands of people belonging to different areas of Udhampur district, senior citizens, various organizations and civil society participated in the event.

DIG Udhampur Reasi Range, Mohammad Suleman Chowdhary was the chief guest on the occasion while Subhash Deputy Director Information Chander Dogra was the guest of honor.

Suleman Chowdhary, in his presidential address, said that Baba Saheb Ambedkar had gifted us with an apt and uniquely written constitution that embodies the principles of achieving oneness among



people followers of distinctly related philosophies and bringing unity in diversity assuring equality among all. India has been recognized as one of the most vibrant democracies of the world because of its largest written constitution, he added.

Among others who presented their views on different aspects related to the life, education, struggle, achievements and contribution of Dr Ambedkar in engineering India as modern democracy included Hazzi Zakkar, President Gujjar Sabha Udhampur, Ram Lal Bhagat, President Kabir Sabha Udhampur, Mulkhii Raj Bhamagi, Chairman International Human Rights Society Udhampur, Ashok Kumar Master and Tara Nath Retd ZEO.

On the occasion, various cultural items including

skits and songs depicting life struggle of Baba Saheb were also presented by the students of SRKC School of Education and Shiv Vidyalya Lansii.

The trust honored former Professor Prem Chand, Advocate Swantantra Dev Kotwal and Ram Lal Bhagat for their exemplary services in their respective fields. Also, qualifiers of NEET 2023 and JKAS 2021-22 batches were also honored and presented the certificate of commendation.

Earlier, the birth anniversary celebrations began with a massive rally comprising thousands of bikers and four wheelers amidst chanting of slogans of Jai Bhim, Indian Constitution Sarvachay hai and Bharat Mata ki Jai. Professor Tara Nath (President of the Trust) highlighted the activities being carried out by the trust in service of the society.

Kathua Admin conducts doorstep campaign under SVEEP to promote voter education

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 14: The District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with the District Election Office organised a series of activities under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) in different parts of the district, here today.

These programmes were organised with an aim to promote voter education and awareness especially among young voters and the general public.

The Election staff including BLOs, Supervisors conducted Door to door campaigns for up-dating of electoral rolls by filling on the spot registration forms for new eligible voters, besides filling forms for correction and deletion of names which have been provisioned under Special Summary Revision-2023. Meanwhile, SVEEP Van-the dedicated vehicle, continued the tour of remote areas of the district and visited Khokhjal, Jarai, Nagri, Bigwan, Muthi and Jakhbar areas to educate voters about the importance of their Right to Franchise and to promote democratic values and principles.

The District Election Office is also distributing Pamphlets to encourage prospective voters to register themselves as voters in order to exercise their right to vote in elections. The campaign was also targeting and engaging youth to be an ambassador and spread the word about the importance of participating in the democratic process of election and contributing to the development of our nation. During the day-long events, people were encouraged to join hands with the government and other stakeholders to promote voter education and participation.

Baisakhi celebration: Thousands of devotees pay obeisance at Gurdwara Dera Baba Banda Bahadur



J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 14: The two day annual mela on the eve of Baisakhi concluded today, here at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine.

Thousands of devotees paid obeisance at the historic Gurdwara of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Bairagi in Dera village of Reasi district on the second day of the Baisakhi festival.

The 300-year-old Dera Baba Bandha Bahadur Shrine has a historic Gurdwara, with the samadhi of Banda Bahadur. Besides, it has the ashes of Banda Bahadur, an arrow and other weapons, including a huge sword given to him by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

The devotees halting from different parts of Jammu province and adjoining States of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi participated with great enthusiasm in the Mela and sought blessings of Dera Baba Bandha Bahadur shrine.

The mela witnessed the display of all the belongings of the Baba. The Gurdwara Management Committee of Dera Baba had made elaborate arrangements for the stay of devotees.

The District Administration has made arrangements of drinking water, power supply and sanitation at the mela site.

CMO Doda meets volunteers of District Red Cross Society



J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 14: Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr Ab Hamid Zargar today chaired a meeting of the office bearers and volunteers of District Red Cross Society Doda here in his office chamber.

At the outset, Dr Zargar welcomed the participants and acknowledged the significant role played by District Red Cross Society and lauded the volunteers for their selflessness and dedicated services towards the public.

The CMO informed participants that the meeting has been convened with the aim to strengthen the existing mechanism and to further spread the chain of its volunteers.

He stressed upon the need to further intensify the membership drive to rope in the maximum number of people to contribute towards DRSC Doda.

During the meeting, the volunteers raised several queries and grievances besides putting forth their suggestions. The CMO assured that all the issues/suggestions raised in the meeting would be presented for Chairman DRSC for further necessary action.

The meeting was attended by RTD CMO Doda Dr M I Zargar, Akhtar Hussain (Dealing Asstt Red Cross), Nisar Ahmed Sheikh (Red Cross Office Bearer) and other volunteers of DRSC Doda.

Rajouri honours Martyrs with inauguration of Balidan Stambh

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 14: In a moving ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Khandelwal today inaugurated the Balidan Stambh dedicated to the memory of all those who made the supreme sacrifice for the liberation of Rajouri. The monument stands as a symbol of the undying spirit and valour of the brave-hearts who laid down their lives to defend the honour and dignity of the land.

The inaugural ceremony was

attended by eminent dignitaries and representatives of the local community, including President MC Rajouri, Mohammad Arif, Ex MLC Vibodh Gupta, Former Municipal Council president Rajnder Gupta, Senior Councillor, Pushpinder Gupta, Councillor, Mamta Dutt, Councillor Yogesh Sharma, Councillor, Kuldeep Raj, Balidan Stambh Committee President, Ashok Gupta, political leader, Dinesh Sharma, besides prominent persons, Nishi Kant Saraf, Hardev

Verma, Sarpanch Yogesh Sharma, Sardar Narman Singh, Naseer Ahmed, members of Martyrs' Families and social workers further added to the solemnity of the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner praised the sacrifices of the brave hearts who gave their lives for the liberation of Rajouri. He emphasized that the Balidan Stambh would not only serve as a symbol of their bravery but also as a reminder of the importance of valuing

and protecting the freedom of the people.

He further added that the monument would inspire people to emulate the courage and selflessness of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the greater good. He also urged everyone to work towards building a stronger, more united Rajouri that upholds the values of peace, harmony and inclusiveness. President MC Rajouri, Mohammad Arif, emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the

brave-hearts who fought for the liberation of Rajouri. He said that the monument would inspire future generations to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and human dignity. He also stressed the need to preserve the memory of the martyrs who gave their lives for the cause of Rajouri's liberation. He further stated that this monument is open for all, anyone who wishes to pay respects to our heroes are welcome. He said that MC Rajouri is committed to the welfare of the citizens.

Fire & Emergency Services department begins week long activities

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Aimed at raising awareness among the public regarding fire prevention and precautionary measures, the Fire and Emergency Services department is observing Fire Service Week with launch of several programmes throughout the week.

The day is also being observed to commemorate those gallant Firemen who laid their lives for safe guarding life and property of masses during rescue and fire-fighting operations.

The main Commemoration Parade was held at Gandhinagar Jammu besides at provincial and district level during which high tributes were paid to martyrs.



In this regard, the main function was held at Fire and Emergency Headquarters Gandhinagar, Jammu, in which Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Alok Kumar was the chief guest.

Following commemoration parade, two minute silence was observed in memory of Martyrs and also wreaths were laid on the memorial by Alok Kumar and other senior officers and Jawans of the department.

While speaking on the occasion, Director paid homage to the

firemen who laid down their lives for noble cause "We Serve to Save" and highlighted the significance of observing 14th April as Fire Services Week.

Emphasizing the role of Fire & Emergency Services, he discussed the devastation caused due to fires and natural calamity. He emphasized upon the officers to constitute special teams for giving demonstrations during the week regarding fire safety measures in Industrial establishments, educational institutes, Hospitals and other institutions besides conducting essay competitions of students and debates on this year's slogan, To Prevent Fire: "AWARENESS IN FIRE SAFETY FOR GROWTH OF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGNI"

at Range/ District Headquarters. He also applauded the role of Firemen who did a commendable job during recent fire fighting and rescue operations in J&K.

Later, Director also released a video presentation with theme song, posters, banners with regard to Fire Services and declared the Fire Service Week open which is being observed from 14th to 20th April-2023.

He also issued instructions for organising sports events, free medical check-up for general public, evacuations drills, essay competitions, fire audits, besides cultural events.

Similar functions were also held at Range Headquarters Batmaloo, Srinagar besides at Command level.

CAO Inaugurates Pouni FPO

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 14: An office of Pouni Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO Pouni) was inaugurated today in main Bazar Pouni by Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh in the presence of prominent citizens and PRI Members.

The CEO Pouni Surinder Sharma presented a detailed work plan with the focus to increase membership drive. Around 105 farmers have registered in the organisation so far.

The Chief Agriculture Officer stressed upon increasing the membership with the active participation of small and marginal farmers of the area so that more equity grant could be realized for effective utilization in its management. He also suggested for establishment of Spices grinding and packing unit under PMFME as a part of ODDP and assured issuing of seed and fertilizer licenses.

Among others, Jaspal Singh sarpanch Barakhat, Suraj Prakash, Sarpanch Kund Khanary and Bharat Singh Sarpanch Allya also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the CAO visited the Apiculture unit of Dev Raj who is rearing 110 bee colonies. Narinder Sharma i/c Apiculture development Assistant; S. Harneet Singh AEA accompanied the Chief Agriculture Officer during Tour.