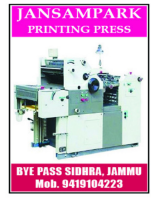


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Shooting stone hit truck in Ramban; two Pulwama residents killed

KNO CORRESPONDENT
RAMBAN, APR 19

Two Pulwama residents died when shooting stone hit their truck on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway near Digdole area of Ramban on Wednesday.

An official told news agency that due to
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Avalanche warning issued to 6 districts

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 19

The authorities on Wednesday issued avalanche warning to six districts of Jammu and Kashmir amid inclement weather conditions.

According to a communication, a copy of which lies with the news agency, Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority said avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Article 370 was root cause of disparity in J&K; terrorism claimed 45000 lives: LG



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 19

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that Article 370 was the root-cause of disparity while the terror-eco system and terrorism was strong to the extent that it claimed 45000 lives and left lakhs displaced.

Addressing the Y-20 Consultation meet at Jammu University, LG Sinha as per news agency, said that India had been bearing the terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. "Article 370

has been the root-cause of disparity between the regions in J&K. Terrorism claimed 45000 lives and left lakhs of families displaced," he said. LG Sinha said that after August 5, 2019, a new J&K is emerging where youth are taking the front role. He said narco-terrorism is still a challenge where youth and society are being targeted. "Efforts are to fight narco-terrorism effectively," LG Sinha said.

He said that the youth are the biggest stakeholder in new J&K. "Every day, 580 youth
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Lt Governor launches 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan', Daksh Kisan & Kisan Sathi



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 19

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday launched three significant initiatives, 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan', Daksh Kisan (Skilling of farmers) & Kisan Sathi (IT Dashboard for digitisation of services for farmers) for effective and efficient implementation of projects under Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors.

The Lt Governor said the 4-month long 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' with help of PRIs focusing on farmers' orientation, skilling courses
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

We will establish a Drug-Free India by 2047: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 19

Terming the drug menace a major issue across the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday announced to make a "drug-free India" by 2047, seeking a "Team India" and "Whole of government approach" in the fight against the menace.

Shah made the announcement at the inaugural event of the first National Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of



states and Union Territories here in the national capital.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is committed to eradicating the menace of drugs.

We will establish a drug-free India by 2047," Shah said while addressing the event.

Shah called for a "whole of government and team India approach in fight against the drug menace keeping aside political differences.

"Keeping aside our political differences all the state governments and agencies need to come together to fight against the drug menace, Shah further said, "said Shah, adding "We will have to adopt top to bottom
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Guidelines for deputation of employees to Ladakh: LG issues fresh directions

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 19

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday directed that all the officers, who are on deputation and have completed two years tenure in the Union Territory of Ladakh

be repatriated within next one month.

According to the guidelines, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the Lieutenant Governor, J&K has directed all the officers whose tenure has completed as per the policy issued by General Admin-

istration Department dated 01-12-2022 must be repatriated preferably within next one month as per the policy guidelines.

It added that all the pending representations regarding repatriation on health grounds be got
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CS takes stock of restoration works of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 19

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday chaired a meeting to review restoration works and developmental issues of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. Issues discussed in the meeting included financial and release of funds, as well as administrative approval of several other components of this mega project.

A specific issue that was discussed at length was the strengthening of the hillock along Circular Road to provide stability to the land below the structure. The proposal of hiring a Project Management Unit (PMU) was also discussed, and the role of the Culture Department in this regard was considered.

The use of restored



structures, including Army Headquarters and Royal Court also came under discussion. Additionally, the restoration of leftover structures like Gole Ghar, Guleri Mahal and Nawa Mahal was also brought up during the meeting.

Dr Mehta called for the immediate dedication of the restored portions of the complex for public visit and viewing. He also called for designation of parking space around the complex for the convenience of visitors besides initiating daily culture and public activities to

increase public interest and footfall to this heritage complex. Additionally, the Chief Secretary called for putting up a display of heritage items for public viewing with due diligence and care for the precious artefacts.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Director Tourism Jammu, Deepika Sharma; Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Pradeep Kumar; Director Finance Tourism, Satnam Singh and Chief Engineer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Snowfall, incessant rains bring chill back to Valley

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 19

Several parts of Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall while the plains received rains on Wednesday, bringing down the temperature in the Valley. The weatherman, however, has predicted gradual improvement in the weather conditions from tonight, saying that there is no forecast of any major wet spell in the next few days.

Reports reaching the news agency, light snowfall was received at several places across Kashmir, which include Gurez valley, Tulail valley, Zojila, Machil sector, Sadhna Top, higher reaches of Karnah valley, Margan Top, Sintah Top, Mughal Road, Afarwat mountains and adjoining areas of Gulmarg.

However, the intermittent rainfall continued to



lash the plains of Kashmir for the third straight day here, bringing down the mercury in Jammu & Kashmir parts.

The intermittent rains also caused inundation of the roads, streets, and lanes, leading to the hardships to the commuters and pedestrians, especially shoppers, who were out to buy essentials, clothes, and food stuff for the holy festival, Eid-ul-Fitr.

Deputy Director, Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that the weather

below the danger mark at 6 PM, reports said.

The water level in river Jhelum also increased amid the intermittent rainfall since Sunday afternoon. Reports said that water level at Ram Munshi Bagh was 4 feet below the flood alarm level.

Earlier in the day, Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Er Naresh Kumar said that there is no alarming situation in the Valley as of now.

"The alert level at Sangam is well below the danger mark and the same is in Ram Munshi Bagh. There is no alarming flood like situation as of now and people also need not to panic," he said.

The fresh wet spell also led to the closure of Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road here. "The
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Man killed, brother hurt in blast inside house

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 19

A young man was killed and his brother injured Wednesday in an explosion that took place under mysterious circumstances at their house in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

The police have identified the deceased as Shabir Ahmed, 20, and his injured younger brother as Mohammad Yaseen, 18.

According to preliminary investigation, the brothers had brought home a rod-like rusted object found abandoned
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Member of Parliament calls on Lt Governor



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 19

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, called on the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan,

today. Shri Sharma discussed with the Lt Governor various issues of public importance. The Lt Governor assured appropriate action on the suggestions put forth by him.

Confident that Army can deal with any contingency along LAC: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 19

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asked the top commanders of the Indian Army to maintain a strong vigil along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as the situation in the northern sector remained "tense" due to the deployment of Chinese PLA troops.

In his address at the Army Commanders' Conference, Singh, referring to the eastern Ladakh border standoff, expressed full confidence in the Army to deal with any contingency while noting that ongoing talks for a peaceful resolution of the row will continue and that disengagement and de-escalation were



the best way forward.

Singh said a "whole of the government" approach is being followed to ensure the availability of best weapons, equipment and clothing to the troops braving extreme weather and hostile forces to defend the country's territorial integrity, according to the defence ministry.

The Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a three-year confrontation

in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The defence minister reaffirmed the faith of the billion-plus citizens in the Indian Army as one of the most trusted and inspiring organisations in the country. "The situation is tense due to the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

India takes "quantum" jump, cabinet approves national quantum mission: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 19

As a historic landmark in the nine years of the Modi regime, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved the "National Quantum Mission" (NQM) at a total cost of Rs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31, aiming to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). This will accelerate QT led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA).



Disclosing this before the media at a press conference at National Media Centre here, 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 described this as truly a "Quantum

jump for India. The new mission targets developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology. Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometers
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Women empowerment is key to development: Rekha Mahajan



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Several women joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at a function in Belicharana, Gandhi Nagar Mandal of Bahu Constituency, of Jammu District South, saying they were driven by the decision of the Modi government to revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370. A large number of women from various parts of society joined the BJP (saffron party) in the presence of its BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, at a program organized by the BJP Mahila Morcha of Jammu district south at Belicharana.

District Vice President and Mandal Prabhari Narinder Gupta, Mandal President Bharat Bhushan,

Mandal General Secretary Suraj Rana Mahila Morcha District President Divya Jain, Rishul Langeh, Mahila Morcha Mandal President Ritika Dhiman, Meetu Sharma, Sushela, Amrica devi and other prominent were present.

Rekha Mahajan welcomed a large number of women from different caste barriers for their decision to join the BJP party, saying "The BJP has constantly acted as a family that respects everybody and cares for everyone". She said the party has always opened up arms for those who want to serve the nation and society unconditionally. Rekha while greeting the new entrants, claimed that a large number of women are coming forward in boosting numbers to join the BJP and strengthen the

hands of Narendra Modi due to the public-friendly decisions taken by the prime minister.

Rekha added that BJP has always championed the cause of women and fought for their empowerment and stressed the greater role of women in society. She said that BJP is the only political party that has given representation to women very fairly in every field and stands for the true empowerment of women. Rekha said that this is very clear from the decisive steps taken by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Government of the Centre. Rekha threw light on the dedicated role of women in society. She said that BJP is an organization where women have equal rights and respect as they play a major role and have a sizeable quantity, unlike other political

organizations. Rekha stressing that empowerment of women is necessary for speedy development of 21st century India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that making the lives of women easier and providing them growth opportunities are among the top priorities of his government.

Rekha added that the "Rapid development of women, and their empowerment is important for the rapid development of 21st century India under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Rekha also congratulate new entrants into the party fold and gave guru mantra to them, she said BJP always believes in the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas' and we must follow the ideology of the party and work in the interest of the nation building.

The new entrants also said they "were driven by the great decision" by the Modi government to revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, Triple Talaq, and build confidence among the common masses, which forced us to join the "nationalist party". A group of women said they have got a big relief in the form of the decision which will promise their wards a better future.

NC espouses Kashmiri Migrants' cause, BJP only exploited them: Rattan Lal Gupta



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu has asserted that National Conference has always stood for the cause of Kashmiri Migrants and shall continue the same for all times to come while Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has only exploited them to the hilt just for satiating their vote bank interests. He said that it is really unfortunate that despite increased cost of living amid sky rocketing prices and peak inflation the cash assistance being paid to the Kashmiri Migrants has not been enhanced for the past so many years.

He said while DA of the employees was also hiked due to high cost of living, the Kashmiri migrants are unable to meet their ends with the meager cash assistance and these people are out on roads protesting for relief enhancement and other issues. He appealed to the Govt to immediately announce a reasonable hike in the cash assistance being provided to them.

The senior NC leader reiterated that NC has always stood for the cause of Kashmiri migrants and shall continue its fight for their cause for ever. He said that BJP has only exploited them by making false promises.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Lakshmi Datta, Ashok Koul, Rattan Lal Mahila, Sardar Harminder Singh, Rajinder Dhar, Varinder Pandita, Umesh Talashi, Veer Ji, Inderjeet, Geeta Ji and others.

displaced families, over aged youth suffering on account of exodus from the Valley, allotment of shops within the Kashmiri Migrant camps and the pitiable condition of tenements/quarters besides many other significant issues.

Rattan Lal Gupta while addressing the gathering lamented that BJP has exploited Kashmiri Pandit migrants to the hilt just for satiating their vote bank interests. He said that it is really unfortunate that despite increased cost of living amid sky rocketing prices and peak inflation the cash assistance being paid to the Kashmiri Migrants has not been enhanced for the past so many years.

He said while DA of the employees was also hiked due to high cost of living, the Kashmiri migrants are unable to meet their ends with the meager cash assistance and these people are out on roads protesting for relief enhancement and other issues. He appealed to the Govt to immediately announce a reasonable hike in the cash assistance being provided to them.

The senior NC leader said that the BJP Govt had made promises to rehabilitate the KP migrants in the Valley but these proved to be a cruel joke as no steps were taken in this direction since 2014.

He dared the BJP Govt to reveal what steps have been taken by it for

employment of KP unemployed youth including those who are now barred due to their being over aged. He urged the Govt to provide appropriate one time settlement compensation to the over aged Kashmiri Pandit youth. Regarding the KP employees appointed under PM Package, Rattan Lal Gupta said that it is not justified for the Govt to make migrant employees as scapegoats by forcing them to resume their duties in absence of adequate security for them in Valley.

Rattan Lal Gupta while asserting that the two room tenements were constructed under the UPA govt headed by Sardar Manmohan Singh and Under the regime of Omar Abdullah in J&K asked the BJP to clarify how many quarters were constructed for KP migrants in Jammu region after 2014 when it came to power at the Centre.

He said that the quarters in different KP camps are lying in a pitiable condition and the Govt must immediately initiate meaningful renovation of the same. He also demanded that the shops lying vacant in these camps should also be allotted to the deserving KPs following a proper procedure.

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Those who were present in the meeting included: Lakshmi Datta, Ashok Koul, Rattan Lal Mahila, Sardar Harminder Singh, Rajinder Dhar, Varinder Pandita, Umesh Talashi, Veer Ji, Inderjeet, Geeta Ji and others.

Shiv Sena seeks free registration for Amarnath pilgrims



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu-Kashmir unit expressed great disappointment over the collection of money on the name of registration fee from the devotees coming from across the country to perform holy pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatra which is starting from July 1, 2023. The Party demanded free registration system on the lines of Shri Mata Vaishnovevi Yatra and also to ensure that the Yatra continues smoothly

for the stipulated period of 62 days.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu today, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBI) J&K said that organizations claiming Hindu nation and Hindutva are sitting on Jaziya collection at Hindu religious places. On the one hand, the government claims to have Hinduist thinking, and on the other hand, money is being collected in the name of registration at religious places of Hindus, he added.

Sahni said that before 2019 only Rs 50 registration

fee was charged for the holy Shri Amarnath Yatra which has been increased to Rs 100 and now the Shrine Board is charging Rs 220/120 in 2023 on online/offline modes respectively. Sahni said that the pilgrims coming on this yatra have to shell out money to complete the earlier medical and other formalities and the Jaziya collection of Rs 220 for registration has increased the expenditure of the pilgrims. Raising questions on the duration period of 62 days this year, Sahni said that most of the time in the past, after 35-40

days of Yatra, the Holy Shiving starts melting. Due to which the devotees arriving late are very disappointed, most of the devotees are forced to cancel the journey and return from Jammu without Darshan.

Sahni said that the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir is not ready to listen to the voice of the people and meet the opposition leaders, especially the Shiv Sena. A memorandum has been sent through e-mail to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to free Shri Amarnath Yatra from all kinds of fees and to ensure that the darshan of the holy Himalinga is maintained for the duration of the yatra. On this occasion president Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, President Kamgaur wing Raj Singh, Arun Kumar, Uma Sharma, Arti Sharma, Tarsen Sharma, Anshul Kundel and many others were present.

J&K on path of industrial revolution, UT economy to get big boost: Sham Langer

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Sham Langer, Convener Trade Cell Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is all set for an unprecedented industrial revolution that is going to give big push to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir besides providing employment on a large scale to the youth of this region.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that in J&K's journey towards industrial transformation under the PM Modi led Govt at the Centre and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Administration, the UT is fast heading towards achieving the goal of Naya Jammu and Kashmir very soon. He said that multi-



Estates in J&K for which more than 48,000 kanal land has been identified. Moreover, it is welcome news that 3379 applications have been approved with Rs. 34,294 cr proposed investment and that MoU with IRCON and NBCC for development of industrial estates will be inked shortly.

The senior BJP leader stated that the success story of J&K under LG Manoj Sinha can be well gauged from the fact that J&K is the first Union Territory in the country to onboard 167 e-services of 18 departments on Single Window Platform and integrate it with National Single Window Portal of Government of India. Moreover, all the e-services are also integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), Digilocker and National Generic

Document Registration System (NGDRS) portals. He said that this has led to the streamlining of overall administrative system making it fast track besides promoting transparency and accountability to which the industrial sector is no exception.

Emphasizing that Industries & Commerce Department envisions doubling investment with emphasis on promotion of indigenous products through GI tagging in global markets in line with One District One Product (ODOF) scheme, he said that very soon the products of J&K especially after GI tagging are expected to dominate the global market. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Modi and LG Sinha for the endeavour to transform J&K with the industrial revolution.

AAP leaders pay tributes to Ambedkar, remember Baba Saheb's contribution towards underprivileged

Assess farmers' losses due to incessant rains, provide adequate relief: Tony, Kundal

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Bhim Rao Ambedkar here at village Jagwal in Suchetgarh area.

Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and DDC Member Suchetgarh, while remembering Baba Saheb recalled his contribution towards uplifting the underprivileged sections of the society and providing them justice by means of Indian Constitution. He said that such luminaries are rare in the history of the world, who had worked all through their lives to ensure justice to poor and deprived strata of the society. It is pertinent to mention that AAP is organizing week-long events to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti and today's programme was also the part of the same. The event was organized by Sarpanch Tilak Raj Bhagat, Shashi Bhagat and Sarfo Devi. Taranjit demanded relief for



the farmer community hit by recent incessant rains, he appealed to the administration to assess the losses and release the compensation as soon as possible. Yashpal Kundal, Chairman ST, SC OBC Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir and former minister, while paying tributes to Baba Saheb, made a fervent appeal to the people not to sell their votes as this right was granted to them after long struggle by father of the Indian Constitution. He appealed to the people to exercise their right of franchise after thorough deliberations making it sure that their votes bring revolutionary changes in the society

and not help the corrupt to denigrate the society as was the case in the past many elections in J&K. He said that masses should use their voting right to select and elect the right candidate.

AAP leader Amit Kapoor said that there is a big nexus between education mafia and the government. He said that some private schools in connivance corrupt officials are fleeing the gullible parents on one pretext or the other. He said that AAP will not allow this to continue and asked people to support his party to put an end to such corrupt practices being carried out under BJP regime.

Include poor families from among Displaced Community for proposed PMAY Scheme: GLR

JAMMU, APR 19: Former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina submitted a representation to the LG Manoj Sinha pleading for inclusion of poor and deprived persons/families from the Displaced Kashmiri Hindu community. There are several families who are living in very bad conditions in rented accommodation for several decades now. Their request for allotment of accommodation in camps has been pending for years together with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (migrants) without any positive outcome. Ex-MLC added. Stressing further, BJP spokesperson said, these families like that of the widow of Late Sanjay Sharma who was working as a Bank guard in his village, and was gunned down by terrorists in the village Achan Pulwama district in the morning hours of February 26, 2023 have no place to stay. Widow of Sanjay Sharma is also moving with her little kids from pillar to post for a roof, he emphasized; for the family. Recalling repeated petitions of the displaced community for extension of benefits of welfare schemes of Union and state Governments because of administrative obscurities, he asked UT administration to ensure that the benefit of all welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat and PMAYS etc reaches the displaced community also.

Praising incessant efforts of UT administration to mitigate problems faced by the people, in particular the poor, underprivileged and deprived sections of the society, GL Raina said that was being appreciated by one and all. Welfare schemes of the union government are reaching the intended beneficiaries without pilferage for the first time, he added further.

Proposed policy for Land Allotment to the poor people for construction of houses under Prime Minister's Awas Yojana for the landless people is yet another example of pro-poor. Antodaya intended governance model of present dispensation under the overall leadership of Hon'ble.

Kavinder calls on Maharashtra DyCM Fadnavis, invites big Corporates to set up units in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, APR 19: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday called on Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and invited through him, the big corporate world of the country to set-up units in the Jammu region.

At the outset of the meeting, the senior BJP leader from J&K presented a souvenir of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji to Maharashtra DyCM. Kavinder later asked Fadnavis for roping in some of the big corporate companies and persuade them to set-up units in Jammu as the administration in J&K has created a conducive atmosphere by toying a line of ease of business and giving lot many sops to investors intending to enter the region with their business proposals.

Kavinder also discussed investment scenario in



the Union Territory and urged Fadnavis to bring investors to the UT to create new avenues for creating more jobs and providing opportunities to the aspiring youth of the region to have bright careers while remaining in their region only.

He said that Jammu being a place with vast scope of film shooting as it is rich with picturesque natural bounties of nature

with snow covered mountains, vast plains, valleys, hills and other mesmerizing places besides the talent among the people and their interest in arts and drama, makes it most suitable place for setting up an auxiliary film industry.

He asked the Maharashtra Deputy CM to carry out measures to realize the dream of people of Jammu in transforming this place into a film producing hub as already the J&K Government has come up with a Film policy.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also apprised Fadnavis about J&K government's prolific support to entrepreneurship and said that investors will have no difficulty in setting up their units in J&K especially Jammu as government is very supportive and has warded off difficult procedures to help big corporate houses to come and establish their units in the new carved out Union Territory of J&K.

After listening to the points raised by Kavinder, Fadnavis assured all possible help in carrying out things which the senior BJP leader has highlighted in the meeting.

The Maharashtra DyCM anticipated that soon J&K will get investors, who would set up their units in the UT to improve the socio-economic conditions and create jobs.

Rehabilitation, redressal of grave issues is priority for victim KPs, not election or registration of votes: KPC

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) categorically declared and impressed upon the Government at the centre and union territory of Jammu and Kashmir that Rehabilitation, redressal of grave issues is priority for Kashmiri Pandits in exile not elections and registration of votes in Jammu and Kashmir.

While expressing its dismayed annoyance for ignoring and isolating the victim Kashmiri Pandits, Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC stated that the Government of India and leaders in the helm of affairs never had any time or inclination to listen to the victim Kashmiri Pandits and unfortunately found no takers for their tale of sorrow in the corridors of power. No one in the union territory administration and at the Centre had the courtesy to look into their plight, not to mention mitigating their woes. The successive heads of government in Jammu Kashmir and New Delhi did not consider it necessary even to talk to Kashmiri Pandits in a serious manner as they had their own priority.

Kundan Kashmiri senior Kashmiri Pandit Leader further stated that. It is most unfortunate that the authorities and the establishment at the helm of affairs have not felt their pain and have also failed to understand that ignoring KPs means to ignore the nationalist and the well-wishers of the country,

which would be never in the interest of the nation as well as these political parties who claim their well-wishers.

He said that these politicians in helm of affairs must understand that a meager amount of relief can't guarantee them a dignified and honorable life as the community has lost its entire property after the mass exodus. How long the educated youth who were denied jobs in center departments and ignored in other welfare schemes announced by the Government till date, will remain dependent on the meager cash doles when their future is totally bleak.

President KPC further stated that It is also astonishing to see that there is no Government policy or platform to look into the problems of these hapless people nor any step is being taken for their honorable and dignified rehabilitation, at one place in valley, despite the tremendous contribution of this nationalist community to Indian aesthetics and other fields is immense.

President Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), Kundan Kashmiri further stated that the displaced Kashmiri Pandits community which is in exile from the last 33 years, deserved to be heard, hugged and healed as they are the first victim and most sufferers of the terrorism and discriminatory policy of the consecutive state Govts. He reminded the government that earlier healing policy was launched for mili-

tanis and some militant effected people by Mufi Sayeed Govt and the victim Kashmiri Pandits were totally ignored and made to suffer for longer period.

He appealed Prime Minister of India that KPs to be heard, healed and hugged, talks to be initiated with them to know their aspiration, opinions and their long pending demands to be accepted which include their one place settlement with writ of Indian constitution in Kashmir valley, grant of indigenous status to them, distressed sale to be completely nullified, passage of shrine bill, rehabilitation of overage youths, grave problems of PM package employees to be heard. Kundan Kashmiri has categorically informed the centre government and government of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir that our (Kashmiri Pandits) priority is rehabilitation, redressal of grave issues, not election and registration of votes, and also suggested the central government and election commission not to make hurry in conducting elections in Jammu and Kashmir till whole dirt is cleaned, whether it is militancy, corruption, encroachment of land and redressal genocidal cases and issues of KP community are solved.

Other KPC leaders and activists who expressed similar view are Dr. H.R. Saraf, Tej Ji Pandita, MK Raina, Sushel Ji Bhat, R. L. Raina Raina, S.L. Zutshi, SK Wali and others.

Literacy India launches rural Community center Pathshala 2.0 program in Leh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

LEH, APR 19: Literacy India, a non-profit organization in partnership with Teleperformance India, a leading provider of digital integrated business services, has launched Pathshala 2.0, a unique program aimed at providing quality education and skill training to rural and urban slums in India. The project is aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and has been developed by Literacy India over the last two decades. The program utilizes technology-integrated education, smart classes, and 'Grassroot to Future Skill' training and has impacted over 200 children, adolescents, youth, and women in the surrounding communities of Village Alchi in Leh District. It offers a variety of educational opportunities, including digital learning classes utilizing Literacy India's flagship Gyantantara Digital Dost program to help students achieve accelerated learning up to grade 5. Pathshala 2.0 also offers vocational training in tailoring, culinary skills, and beauty & wellness for women and youth with an aim to empower individuals with lifelong learning and promote educational opportunities in the community. To this effect six teachers were provided

advanced vocational training in tailoring and dressmaking, beauty, wellness, culinary skills in cuisines from North, South and Eastern India, etc. To support teachers against extreme climatic conditions, they received further training in mobile repairing, computer hardware, and cooking in Gurgaon in Delhi NCR. This has led to empowering the beneficiaries with skill training opportunities and promoting holistic education. Certificates from National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Literacy India were distributed upon completion of various courses.

"In line with our commitment to being a Force of Good, Teleperformance India employees are active volunteers for engaging, coaching, and mentoring students of Literacy India. We have helped establish infrastructure for the school, built recreation rooms and coached a group of Vidyaapeeth students on modules related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) through our Digital Mentorship Program," shares Jenifer Dwivedi, Communication & CSR lead, Teleperformance India.

"Citizen of the World (COTW) is Teleperformance's charitable initia-

tive that seeks to generate a positive impact on local communities, particularly vulnerable children, and their families. Teleperformance India aims to equip the children with basic education and the youth with recruitment readiness interventions through mentorship programs to enable them to get hired and sustain a livelihood," says Vinod Mehta, Chief Human Resource Officer, Teleperformance India & APAC. Several activities conducted under the Teleperformance's COTW initiatives like Independence Day Celebration, Dancing Session, Cooking & Culinary skills, and Storytelling sessions have been well received by students in Leh. The Volunteering engagement of the Teleperformance employees has helped the students get exposure to the outer world, sparked creativity and enriched learning experiences for them.

"Literacy India in past 26 years of operations has worked in the rural and semi-rural areas imparting education and skills to women, youth, and children. The collaboration with Teleperformance India is a way forward in our endeavor to empower the communities that are in desperate need," says Captain Indraani Singh, Managing Trustee, Literacy India. Literacy India, with a presence in 17 Indian States and Union Territories, has been making a significant impact in the lives of over 800,000 children, youth, and women. Under the Digital Mentorship Program, students in the field of digital education have a one-of-a-kind experience to gain valuable insights and training from Teleperformance India leaders and digital experts. This program has proven highly advantageous to young minds seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge. The partnership has fulfilled the continued commitment towards social development goals for the last 18 years.

Dr Andrabi distributes relief cheques among Hazratbal fire victims today



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 19: Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Darakhsan Andrabi today visited Hazratbal where two days ago a massive fire had destroyed shopping establishments and residential houses. Dr Andrabi took stock of the

devastation of the massive fire which had made dozens of families homeless and had also burnt the shopping centre owned by Waqf Board. Dr Andrabi talked to the residents and the business persons who had got effected by the calamity. She was accompanied by Waqf Board Tehsildar cum Magistrate Ishiyaq

Mohiuddin, Imam of Dargah Dr Kamaluddin Faroqi and local police and civil officers from different departments. Dr Andrabi distributed relief cheques of fifty thousand rupees per family on the spot to the those whose houses had got damaged in the terrible fire. "I don't believe in visiting the people in distress like tourists and consoling them by hollow statements. We came to hold their hand and offer them a kick starting for their rebuilding their nests. Waqf has limited sources but we wanted to offer these distressed people a small amount to begin with", said Dr Andrabi. She assured all that she will soon submit the request for a suitable compensation to Lieutenant Governor and she was hopeful that adequate help will pour in. In reply to a question about the reasons of the fire, Dr Andrabi said that fast track enquiry will begin soon and if any deliberate lapse was found, stern action will be taken.

One day workshop on preventive conservation of manuscript held to mark World Heritage day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Department of M.A. Integrated History: Cultural Heritage, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu organized a One-Day Workshop on Preventive Conservation of Manuscript in collaboration with Shashvat Art Gallery Museum & Manuscripts Library Jammu, Manuscript Conservation Centre, established by National Mission for Manuscripts, IGNC, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to commemorate the World Heritage Day (18th April).

Dr. Sindhu Kapoor introduced the theme of the workshop and the key speaker Dr. Suresh Abrol, (Director) - including his team Mr. Ramesh Chander (Advisor), Sh. K.K. Kotwal (Technical Assistant) and Mr. Arvind Kotiyal (Senior Conservator) of Shashvat Art Gallery : Museum & Manuscripts Library Jammu - to the



students. There were two sessions in the workshop wherein the Director of the Gallery - Dr. Suresh Kumar Abrol - made the students aware of the various aspects of the conservation of manuscripts and their importance. Further, he highlighted the various initiatives taken by the gallery related to the conservation of heritage and culture of the region. The second technical session was headed by Mr. Arvind Kotiyal (Senior Conservator) taught the students various methods for conservation of manuscripts by using acid free

paper. The workshop was attended by around 25 students of the 7th and 9th semesters of the Department of History.

The workshop was organized under the supervision of Dean School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu and was also attended by the faculty of the Department of History - Dr. Nitin Chandel, Dr. Arvind Singh Jammwal & Dr. Vishal Balaria (Asst. Prof. Dept. of History). The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Roshi Charak (Asst. Prof. Dept. of History)

Sant Nirankari Mission to organise blood donation drives across India on Apr 24

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: To commemorate the teachings of Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji, the messiah of humanity, blood donation camps are being organized by Sant Nirankari Mission on 24th April 2023, which is observed as 'Manav Ekta Diwas'. Likewise every year, this year too, Blood donation camps are organised by Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social wing of Sant Nirankari Mission across India. All the donors/volunteers join this campaign with great zeal & enthusiasm. As it is well known that Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji freed human life from all kinds of ailments by making them realize the Truth, along with this, many social welfare

policies were implemented for the upliftment of the society, in which simple marriages, de-addiction and motivating the youth towards sports were included. After that period of ill being prevalent in the society, all the devotees got a new positive direction by the inspiring message of Baba Hardev Singh Ji that, 'Blood should flow in veins and not in drains'. Every Nirankari devotee is adopting the same inspiring message in their life for the benefit of humanity. Joginder Sukhija, Secretary of Sant Nirankari Mandal, while giving detailed information about the programme said that, this great campaign will be organized in almost all the branches of 99 zones of Sant Nirankari Mission established in India. In all these blood donation

camps, special attention will be given prior check-ups and hygiene before the blood donation.

Along with this, proper arrangements for refreshments are also being made for all the blood donors. Qualified and trained teams will come from various Government hospitals & Indian Red Cross Society to collect blood.

Definitely, this great campaign which is being run for public welfare is sending the divine message of unity and humanity by showcasing the teachings being imparted by Present Nirankari Satguru Mata Sukhshaji Maharaj, so that every individual of the Nirankari fraternity implements these inspirational teachings in their life and work for a cause and not for Applause.

Kesari demands security cover to organize political activities fearlessly

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today strongly resented continuously refusing to provide him security despite making frequent appeals. Addressing a press conference in Jammu today, Kesri said that

despite writing letter for security to SSP and also dispatching copy of same to additional DGP of Police, SSP did not provide security cover. Kesri further said that hundreds of political workers and their sympathizers, many of whom hardly played any role in politics, have been provided security cover but

they have been denied security despite making persistent appeals. This has generated anxiety and fear among party leaders and activists and their families, it may be fair and prudent to take all necessary steps to safeguard the lives of nationalist people in Jammu and Kashmir," Kesri said.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Article 370 was root...

become entrepreneurs and leading a change," LG Sinha said.

He said that he sees youth shaping a new world for the good of citizens. "Individual as well as society's aspiration can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace and young generation is eager to create a peaceful & prosperous present & future for the entire humanity," he said.

It added that all the Administrative Departments must get the representations examined, received from the employees for repatriation from UT of Ladakh on health grounds as per the provisions of the policy within 15 days in consultation with Health & Medical Education Department and take a clear view/stand under an intimation to such representing officers/employees.

"The representations preferred by the employees for repatriation from UT of Ladakh on other grounds shall also be decided expeditiously and the decision must be conveyed to the concerned employees," it further reads. Further, the Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, is requested to facilitate conduct of Special Standing Medical Board for all such cases referred in the third week of April, under an intimation to this department for ensuring that the cases are decided by end of the month of April, 2023, it said. KNO

Lt Governor launches...

for all interventions, will ensure that the meticulous plan reaches the fields and prepare our farmers to meet new challenges, explore new possibilities and make the farming accessible & profitable.

10,695 training sessions between April to August 2023 in all 20 districts will bring together entire farming community and the collective resolve will not only make the scheme an unprecedented success but also provide a new direction to young farmers, he added.

"Holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors have three important dimensions, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection and this campaign would pay special attention to these for the progress and lasting prosperity of farmers," said the Lt Governor.

Earlier, the UT-level training & orientation program of officers for effective implementation of 29 projects under holistic agriculture development plan was conducted during Phase-I.

The Lt Governor reiterated the UT Government's commitment to empower the farmers of J&K and providing them easy access to productive resources, financial, technical support and the extension services.

"Empowering smallholder farmers is our top priority. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, various steps have been taken to strengthen rural infrastructure, to increase productivity and diversify into higher value crops," he said.

The Lt Governor called upon all the stakeholders to come together to ensure effective implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan.

The collaborative efforts of UT administration, PRIs, Progressive farmers, Cooperative Societies, Self-Help Groups, FPOs and other stakeholders will be the central pillar of the efforts to realize the goal of atmanirbhar Jammu Kashmir in agriculture sector, he added.

The Lt Governor asked the banking institutions and government departments to bridge the gap in financial assistance to the farmers.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts to attract investment in agriculture, developing a rural-urban market network and enabling small farmers to play a big role in the value chain.

Keeping in view the agro-climatic condition, we have mapped such areas where there is no irrigation facility but there is a possibility of growing millet crops, which can ensure good price to the farmers for their produce. This will also contribute to the millet revolution in Jammu Kashmir, said the Lt Governor.

Jugal Kishore Sharma and Er. Gulam Ali Khatana - Members of Parliament and Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairperson Jammu also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the growth recorded in Jammu Kashmir in Agriculture & allied sectors in the past few years.

On the occasion, J&K Bank Kisan Cards were distributed among the beneficiary farmers. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department; Prof. Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; PRI members, senior officers and farmers in large numbers were present. KNO

We will establish...

and bottom-to-top approach during the investigation of drug trafficking cases."

The Home Minister clarified, saying "I want to tell you today that we are at a juncture that we can win the battle against the drug menace."

"Those who consume drugs are the victims and those who sell them are the culprits. Strict action should be taken against such people," the Home Minister further added.

He also said that the fight against the drug menace is an international fight and it is not as easy but he assured that "we will establish a new India by 2047".

Guidelines for...

duly examined as provided in the policy preferably within next one month and a clear view taken in this regard under an intimation to such representing Officers/Employees.

The LG as per the document has further instructed that the timely decisions on representations under other categories concerning repatriation must also be taken without allowing them to languish for long period of time. "In future all efforts be made to ensure adherence to the timelines and provisions of the policy under reference," it added.

Moreover, all the Administrative Secretaries have been directed to take immediate necessary action on the following points.

"All the Administrative Departments shall submit proposals for repatriation of its employees who have completed two years tenure in the Union Territory of Ladakh and propose suitable replacements as per the Deputation Guidelines within a week positively, enabling this department to place the same for consideration of Competent Authority, keeping in view that all such cases have to be decided in the month of April only, in terms of Transfer Policy and Deputation Guidelines," it said.

It added that all the Administrative Departments must get the representations examined, received from the employees for repatriation from UT of Ladakh on health grounds as per the provisions of the policy within 15 days in consultation with Health & Medical Education Department and take a clear view/stand under an intimation to such representing officers/employees.

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Shooting stone hit...

continues rains shooting stones hit truck (JKRD-1730) near Digdole, Ramban.

He said in the incident truck driver and helper died on the spot.

The deceased truck driver has been identified as Maqsood Ahmad son of Abdul Rehman Lone, a resident of Hall Mughalpora while helper identified as Naveed Ahmad son of Gulam Mohammad Dar, a resident of Nikas Pura-(KNO)

Avalanche warning...

above 3000 to 3500 metres above sea level in Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Baramulla districts.

The communique also reads that an avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2800 metres in Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours.

"People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders," it reads. KNO

CS takes stock...

PWD besides several officers. Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah and Superintendent Archaeological Survey of India besides other officers from Kashmir participated in the meeting virtually. KNO

Snowfall, incessant...

vehicular movement along Bandipora-Gurez road, Mughal Road and SSG has been closed as precautionary measure," the officials said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) issued an avalanche warning to six districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a communique, JKDMA said an avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 3000 to 3500 metres above sea level in Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Baramulla districts.

The communique also reads that an avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2800 metres in Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours.

"People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders," it said. KNO

Man killed, brother...

in the forest near Symbol village when they went to collect Marichella, a variety of edible fungi.

The object exploded when the brothers heated it in the kitchen, police sources said.

The injured person is undergoing treatment at a hospital at Kishtwar.

The police have registered a case.

Confident that Army...

deployment of PLA troops in the northern sector. Our armed forces, especially the Indian Army, will have to continuously keep their vigilance in order to maintain the security of the LAC," he said, according to sources.

The defence minister said the security of the country is the "topmost priority" for the government.

In a statement, the ministry said Singh complimented Border Roads Organisation while noting that its efforts have led to an incomparable improvement of road communication in the borders.

The five-day Army Commanders' Conference began on Monday, it is deliberating on India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and ways to boost the combat capability of the force.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari also addressed the commanders.

Talking about the global geo-political scenario, Singh said, "Unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war, will be part of the future conventional wars."

"Cyber, information, communication, trade and finance have all become an inseparable part of future conflicts. This necessitates that Armed Forces will have to keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies," he said.

On the situation along the Western borders, he complimented the army's response to cross-border terrorism, adding the proxy war by the adversary continues.

complimenting the excellent synergy between the Central Armed Police Forces/Police forces and the army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"The synergised operations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are contributing to increased stability and peace in the region and the same should

14 absentee employees suspended: Show Cause notices issued to 21 others at Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE PUNOCH, APR 19.

Acting tough against absentee government employees, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Inder Jeet on Wednesday suspended 14 employees for unauthorised absence from duty and served show cause notices to 21 others including some gazetted officers of Jal Shakti, PMGSY, floriculture departments.

Acting on the complaints received from the public, including PRIs, the Deputy Commissioner constituted a Committee of officers headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik to conduct surprise inspections across all the government offices in a phased manner.

The ADC and his team inspected several offices including Jal Shakti, PMGSY etc and found several employees out of office during office hours. Notably, those absent neither have sanctioned leave in their favour nor have maintained any movement register for field visits. Moreover, some HODs holding important offices were unaware of the whereabouts of their immediate staff as well as field staff while some HODs were themselves found absent during office hours.

ADC Poonch recommended stringent action against employees of these offices including HODs. Acting on the recommendations of the committee, Deputy Commissioner Poonch suspended more than a dozen employees and issued show cause notices to 21 others wherein HODs were directed to clear their positions within a week's time.

"Strict disciplinary action will be initiated against such erring employees as per conduct rules on not receiving satisfactory explanations", he added.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all the controlling officers to move towards a professional work culture and maintain the sanctity of government offices for which employees are paid handsomely.

"There will be zero tolerance towards poor and unprofessional work culture. General public needs not to suffer because of such erring employees. Deputy Commissioner Office will keep a track of all government offices working in all tehsils and such surprise inspections will be a regular phenomenon throughout the year and will be conducted in various phases covering all the government offices across the districts", he said. KNO

7 drug peddlers arrested: Police

JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, APR 19

Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested 7 drug peddlers in Baramulla, Handwara, Kulgam & Anantnag and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Station Pattan under the supervision of Mohammad Nawaz, at a checkpoint established as Hanjwara Pattan intercepted a suspicious person who tried to free but was apprehended tactfully. During checking, officers were able to recover 210 SpasmoProxvion capsules from his possession. He has been identified as Syed Ahmad Shah son of Syed Mustafa Ahmad resident of Dewar Yakhmanpora Pattan, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

"In Kulgam, a police party led by SHO Police Station Rulgam during naka checking at Dalwach intercepted a suspicious person, who has been identified as Ghulam Rasool Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat resident of Nussu Badragud. During search, 2.5Kg of Poppy Straw like substance concealed in a bag was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and a case vide FIR No 64/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered in PS Qazigund and investigation was initiated," police said.

During the course of investigation and based on the information received, a police party of Police Station Poddler identified as Bilal Ahmad Ganiae son of Mohd Jabbar Ganiae resident of Nussu Badragud and Mohd Ayub Malik Ghulam Mohd Malik resident

continue, and for this, I again compliment the Indian Army," Singh said.

"The defence minister commended the army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capability. He also complimented the Indian Army, who has been experiencing firsthand during his visits to forward areas.

"In the Northeastern states too, there has been a lot of improvement in the internal security scenario following operations carried out by the Indian Army," Singh said.

The defence minister said there is a need to ensure the use of real-time intelligence more effectively so that "we can be fully prepared to face any such future challenges."

He appreciated the army's efforts to develop niche technologies in collaboration with civil industries.

He also stressed that as users the armed forces must put their faith in the country's own industries and technologies.

The defence minister complimented the army in the execution of the 'Agniveer' scheme.

He also reviewed an equipment display focusing on niche technology, innovation, solutions for surveillance, artificial intelligence, training, robotics, virtual reality, operational logistics, etc.

The defence minister released the second edition of the Indian Army UN Journal titled 'Blue Helmet Odyssey-Changing Contours of Peacekeeping Operations in the 20th Century'.

In his address, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari talked about the IAF's new doctrine and the integration between the services.

The Chief of Naval Staff spoke about maritime security challenges and the increasing synergy amongst the three services.

In his remarks, Gen Pande emphasised on the changing character of warfare in the present geo-strategic scenario and highlighted the transformation of the Indian Army towards a future-ready force.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex-level

of Brinal Lammar were arrested with 4Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance, the statement said.

Similarly, in another checkpoint established at Dalwach crossing on NHW-44 one more drug peddler identified as Mudasir Ahmad Ganiae son of Bashir Ahmad Ganiae resident of Hassampora, Bijbehara was arrested alongwith 34 Codeline Phosphate bottles, police said.

In Handwara, a police party of Police Station Vilgam during naka checking at Sumo Stand Vilgam intercepted a person who had attempted to avoid the police party in a suspicious manner. During search, around 30 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Basharat Ahmad Tantray son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Dahama, police added.

In Anantnag, a police party of PS Bijbehara at a checkpoint established at Naina Bridge intercepted a vehicle (I20) bearing registration number JK02CH-2777 driven by Waseem Farooq Koka son of Farooq Ahmad Koka resident of Naina Batpora. During search, Brown Sugar like substance was recovered from the said vehicle. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

All the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigation has been initiated, police said.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said. KNO

Water logging disrupts train service between Qazigund-Banihal section

JNEWS SERVICE QAZIGUND, APR 19

Incessant rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir has disrupted train service between Qazigund and Banihal section after water logging at Hillar railway station in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

An official told the news agency that train service between Qazigund and Banihal has been suspended as a precautionary measure.

He said due to continuous rainfall for the last 24 hours caused water logging at Hillar railway station, thereby disrupting train service.

The service will be restored after improvement in weather conditions, the official said. KNO

Sarpanch arrested on rape charges in Baramulla village

JNEWS SERVICE SOPORE, APR 19

A Sarpanch affiliated with Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) was arrested for allegedly raping a woman in Rafiabad area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday.

An official told the news agency said that Ali Mohammad Dar son of Abdul Ahad Dar, Sarpanch of Rawoocha village of Rafiabad was arrested for allegedly raping a woman.

"The Sarpanch was arrested following a complaint by a woman that she was raped by him," he said.

The official said a case FIR No 26/2023 u/s 376, 506, 109 IPC has been registered at Police Station Dangiwhacha and further investigation has been set into motion.

Notably, Dar was arrested for being a militant associate in 2017 but was released later. Meanwhile, JK BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said that the arrested sarpanch wasn't affiliated with the BJP. "He is not even our member. Media reports are totally false. Media outlets should cross check facts," Thakur said. KNO

biannual event that is held in April and October every year.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army. (Agencies)

India takes "quantum"...

within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km as well as multi-node Quantum network with quantum memories are also some of the deliverables of the Mission.

This Minister elaborated that the mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and Atomic Clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation. It will also support design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for fabrication of quantum devices. Single photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources will also be developed for quantum communications, sensing and metrological applications, he said.

Dr Jitendra further informed that our Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes on the domains - Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology and Quantum Materials & Devices. The hubs which will focus on generation of new knowledge through basic and applied research as well as promote R&D in areas that are mandated to them.

QNM can take the technology development eco-system into the country to a globally competitive level. The mission would greatly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications. It will provide a huge boost to National priorities like digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-Reliant India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



Prominent Social activists along with hundreds of supporters join BJP

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: Prominent social activists, Retd Captain Kamal Singh and Diwakar Singh along with hundreds of his supporters joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of Deputy Mayor Jammu & senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria here at ward 43, Nanak Nagar in Bahu constituency. Retd Captain Kamal Singh has tried his luck as an independent candidate from Ward 43 Nanak Nagar in the municipal elections of the year 2018. Although he moved away from political forums in later days, his activities in social work continued. Deputy Mayor, Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria welcomed Retd Captain Kamal Singh and his to the party wearing BJP's scarf (patka). Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with local Corporator Surjeet Choudhary (Pappu), State Kisan Morcha Vice President Harbans Choudhary, District Secretary Pammie Chowdhary, Indu Puri and other senior BJP leaders were present. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Billawaria said that the party will be benefited by the coming of social workers retired



Captain Kamal Singh and Diwakar Singh to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that social workers Kamal Singh and Diwakar Singh are always ready to help the poor, deprived and common people. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said, "We are working on the slogan of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', which means Together with All, Development for All." On this occasion, Kamal Singh said that he expressed his faith in BJP to bring change in Nanak Nagar area and took membership under the leadership of Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor of Jammu today.

Later, Deputy Mayor of Jammu Baldev Singh

Billawaria also listened to the problems of the people of Ward 43 Nanak Nagar, in which the main problem of some left out construction work of the deep drain was to be made complete. Local residents said that due to non-completion of the construction work of the deep drain, the problem of waterlogging persists in the area. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria assured the general public of Nanak Nagar area that their problems would be taken up on priority basis and all possible steps would be taken to solve them. The Deputy Mayor assured the locals that the work of the deep drain would be started soon so that the people could get rid of the problem of water logging. Deputy

Mayor Jammu said that the problem of the people will be resolved with the cooperation of local Corporator Surjeet Choudhary (Pappu) and the concerned departments to ensure timely and efficient solution to the deep drain problem. He said that basic problems like water, electricity, good roads, cleanliness will be solved in Ward 43 Nanak Nagar area. He assured the people that several other projects in the area would start soon and would be completed in a time bound manner.

The Deputy Mayor further said that the municipal corporation will take all necessary steps to ensure the cleanliness and sanitation of the ward and urged the residents to cooperate with them.

BJP working for value based development politics: Sat, Ashwani

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 19: With a vision to develop a transparent and vibrant democracy, BJP is ensuring value based development politics, stated Sat Sharma.

"Dynasty based politics gave rise to corruption, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, agricultural distress, regionalism, and every other social evil in society. This has added to the social distress to common masses, which is now being meticulously corrected by the Modi government," said Sat Sharma.

Sat Sharma, former BJP president and former Minister along with former MLA Ashwani Sharma, JMC Councillor & BJP SC Morcha Seh-Prabhari Jeet Angral, and BJP SEM Shalija Gupta listened to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While listening to the grievances, Sat Sharma (CA), added that Bharatiya



Janata Party has changed the discourse of Indian political system. PM Modi and every BJP activist have toiled hard to achieve this feat by attending to the issues and grievances faced by the masses in every difficult time just like Covid marred time.

Ashwani Sharma said that the senior BJP leaders sincerely listen and try to sort out their issues on a daily basis at party headquarters to give the visiting deputations and individuals relief in their long-standing issues.

Jeet Angral and Shalija Gupta dialed the issues and coordinated the camp proceedings.

During the camp, people from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office in the form of deputations to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership.

The main issues pre-

sented were related to the Ration card, verification of land titles, transformer issues, electric poles, streetlights, repair of lanes/ roads, job issues, etc.

Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, BJP leaders telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others after which he assured them that their issues would be addressed soon.

NSS units GDC Udhampur accords farewell to senior NSS Batch

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 19: The NSS Units GDC Udhampur accorded farewell to the senior NSS volunteers as their college tenure was approaching its completion. The farewell was organised by the 2nd and 4th semester volunteers under the supervision of the NSS Pos- Dr Rippy Bawa and Dr Ajay Sharma. The overall guidance was provided by the principal Prof (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.



The programme was initiated by the lighting of the traditional lamp and invoking of Goddess Saraswati. It was followed by a formal welcome address by the NSS PO Dr Rippy Bawa. She formally welcomed the chief guest of the event, Prof (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and other invites. In her address she detailed the contributions and achievements of the senior batch of NSS units who proved to be an asset to the college

at all fronts. Thereafter, titles along with a token of memory was bestowed upon the senior volunteers.

The junior volunteers gave various performances which included dances and folk songs.

Five special titles were bestowed by the NSS Units to the deserving candidates. Amongst them Best Organizer NSS was given to Rahul Salmotra, Best Speaker NSS was given to Amandeep Singh. Best

Dancer NSS was given to Nitish Kalotra, Mr and Miss Well Dressed NSS was given to Dheeraj Kotwal and Arti respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta appreciated the contributions of the outgoing batch throughout their long journey of NSS.

He further encouraged and motivated them to continue this journey of selfless service throughout

their lives to serve humanity.

He also applauded the NSSPos for creating such sense of service amongst their volunteers. The vote of thanks was given by the NSS PO Dr Ajay Sharma.

He also deliberated upon the active participation of the outgoing batch always which made the college proud. The programme concluded with Rashtragan and thereafter all moved for a sumptuous lunch.

Junk food behind fatty liver epidemic in Kashmir: DAK

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 19: On World Liver Day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday expressed pressing concern over surge in fatty liver disease which has reached to epidemic proportions in Kashmir valley.

"Junk food is causing spike in fatty liver cases in the valley," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said junk food has become routine part of people's lives and has largely replaced homemade meals. Fast food is the quickest meal not just for busy professionals, but there is a rising trend of fast food among children and teenagers. They are often seen eating fast foods like pizzas and burgers. Children are addicted to chips, sugary drinks and

frozen ready meals. "This change in dietary habits from homemade to processed and convenient foods is the primary factor contributing to enormous burden of fatty liver in Kashmir," he said.

The DAK President said according to a new study from the University of Southern California's Keck school of Medicine published in clinical gastroenterology and

hepatology, junk food has been found to cause fatty liver disease.

"If you are obese or diabetic, fast food has even more negative impact on the liver and can lead to even higher amounts of fat in the liver," he said. Dr Nisar said one in three persons in Kashmir have fatty liver and young people are mostly hit.

The prevalence of disease is 60-

70% among diabetics and obese individuals.

He said non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is a life threatening disease in which fat builds up in the liver. It is the commonest cause of cirrhosis or scarring of liver which can cause liver failure and even cancer. Greater change of developing cardiovascular disease.

"In order to prevent this disease, we need to go back to our culture of taking homemade meals and avoid junk food. We need to be on roads and gyms rather than in luxury cars," he said. "Every year on April 19 World Liver Day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of liver health and educate people on how to maintain a healthy liver," he added.

Army organises 'Know Your Army Mela'

JI NEWS SERVICE

NEWSHERA, APR 19: A lecture and awareness drive on the theme "Know Your Army" was organised for students at Kalal, Nowshera in District Rajouri (J&K). The day long programme gave an insight to the attendees about the functioning, traditions and the life in general in the Indian Army also included Weapon display. The Armed Forces aspirants were also briefed about various entries available to join the defence forces. The vibrant gathering appreciated the efforts



of Indian Army for conducting such an event and

guiding the exuberant minds towards a path of

excellence, discipline and patriotism.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri presides over public outreach camp at Panjgrain

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 19: As a part of the weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a public outreach camp here at Block Panjgrain to listen and redress the public grievances at people's doorsteps. During the public outreach camp, the public and their representatives highlighted a wide range of issues and demands of their areas. They demanded macadamization of roads, upgradation of Govt institutions, paucity of staff, better health care facilities, scarcity of water etc.

Officers of different departments also briefed the public about a number of schemes being implemented in the district and motivated them to avail the benefits of the same.

After giving a patient hearing to the issues projected by the public during the event, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that all their genuine

concerns would be redressed in a phased manner.

In his address during the public outreach camp, the Deputy Commissioner said that the Block Diwas ensures doorstep public service delivery and redressal of the genuine grievances of the common man.

He also highlighted that the District Administration is working on a multi-pronged strategy for the holistic development of all the areas of the district and also sought the active cooperation of the general public in achieving the development objectives of the district. He called for coordination among the departments and PRIs to achieve desired development objectives besides timely intervention and action to mitigate the sufferings of the people. He also highlighted services being provided by different departments through online mode and urged the public to avail the benefits of the same.

While highlighting the measures being taken by the District Administration to eradicate drug abuse, he also sought the active cooperation of the general public in making Rajouri a drug free district.

In response to the issue of the speedy implementation of JJM, the DC said that dedicated efforts are being made to complete the work on JJM schemes in time to provide necessary benefits to the public. Responding to the other issues and demands highlighted during the public outreach camp, the DC said that timely and quality disposal of the issues of the general public is the top priority of the district administration and asked the officers to work with added zeal to mitigate the sufferings of the general public. He also passed on spot directions to the concerned departments for ensuring the redressal of the issues highlighted by people on priority and in a time bound manner.

SBSPECT holds free medical cum awareness camp

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 19: Continuing on the noble pathway as envisioned by great visionary legend and son of soil, Late Sh Bhupinder Singh Pathania (who was popularly called as 'Voice of the poor and downtrodden'), a free medical camp was organized at GHS Saini Kourli Ber by Shri Bhupinder Singh Pathania Charitable Trust (J & K) where diagnosis, specialized treatment and medicines were offered totally free of cost to needy, deserving patients of the area. Almost 500 patients have been registered till lunch and OPD of the medical camp was going on. The speciality of the camp was a free eye camp was organised by

the Rotary hospital Udhampur. A team of doctors of ECCLESIA MINISTRIES and AYUSH, Health Dept also distributed medicines and put up their stalls in camp. Furthermore as per the decision of the trust all BPL patients shall be assisted for free treatment in specialty/super-specialty facilities at Jammu/Srinagar as well as Delhi and Chandigarh. The camp was thrown open at 10:00 am sharp in the morning by Smt Kamlesh Pathania (Member of the Trust in presence of R. S. Pathania, (Spokesperson J&K BJP. Mr Mohan Lal Sharma, local sarpanch, Gandharb Singh, were main organisers.

The camp was organ-

ized by the trust in collaboration with District Administration Udhampur with a view to bracing up supplementary medical diagnosis and treatment in the far-flung areas of district Udhampur with special emphasis on female health and hygiene. While speaking on the occasion, speaker after speaker, paid heartfelt tributes to the departed leader, who sacrificed all his life for the upliftment of poor and downtrodden. Being a selfless leader of the masses, he rubbed shoulders with the common man and tried to ameliorate the lot of the depressed and downtrodden in the area.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Arjun Singh, Managing Trustee,

thanked the District Administration, especially BMO Majlata and school staff and students of GHS SK Ber for their support in organizing such health camps and said that more such camps will be organized by SBSPECT in other rural and far flung areas so that maximum people can get benefit.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Vijay Gupta, Kuldip Singh (trustees), Shiv Ram, Sanjay Kumar, Mohinder Sharma, Karan Singh, Bikram Manokita, Kartar Singh, Rattan Singh, kaku Ram panth, Guddi Panth, Prem Nath (ex-sarpanch), Mohd Altaf, Mohd Azeem, Kewal Krishan and others.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Security borders must be a top priority

The ongoing stalemate between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) seems to be nowhere near the end. Tension continues to prevail on un-demarcated boundaries between two nations. Amid the escalating tension, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has asked the Army to maintain strong vigil along the LAC with China as the situation in the northern sector remained 'tense' in view of deployment of PLA troops. Singh, who was addressing an Army Commanders' Conference, called upon the armed forces, without making specific references, to take note of geo-political changes around the world, and accordingly mould their planning and strategies. It has been three years now since two countries have engaged into a bitter border stalemate. While the BJP-led government at the Centre, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has claimed that there was no aggression of China in Ladakh, the reports emerging from different sources and media houses tell a different story on ground. It is high time that the Indian government should seriously deliberate upon national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and ways to boost combat capability of the force. The security of the country should be the 'topmost priority' for the government. If the reports are to be believed, there has been a lot of improvement in the internal security scenario following operations carried out by the Indian Army in the North-Eastern states. In today's changing times, the scope of threats and weapons has become very wide-ranging. As expected, China wants to keep the pot boiling in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh for varied reasons. Recently, China criticised the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, stating that it violated Chinese sovereignty over the area. China's remarks came days after India slammed Beijing's move to rename some places in the border state in an attempt to stake its claim over the area. To retort aggressively, Shah had made it clear that the era when anyone could encroach on India's land has passed and no one could dare to eye its border. Indian and Chinese armies had announced to disengage from the Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area of eastern Ladakh where the two sides had been locked in a standoff for over two years. The withdrawal of troops was started immediately after the decision and there was a possibility that two sides may create a 'buffer zone' or 'no-patrolling' area, a mechanism that was created following disengagement in other friction points but no significance has been achieved till date. The investigation conducted by the Australian newspaper revealed that the Chinese government was afraid of making it public the names of all soldiers who suffered fatal injuries or got drowned in the river during Galwan clashes between two armies that was the trigger of major border tension. Since then, all rounds of India-China military dialogue have failed to yield any positive and tangible outcomes and resolve the long standing dispute between two neighbouring countries in arid region Ladakh. This is despite the fact that both countries announced to work towards mutually acceptable solutions to resolving the month-long stand-off along the LAC. The need of the hour is that two governments should find an amicable solution to the long standing border disputes in the larger interests of the people in both countries and sub-continent.

Debunking false narratives on fuel prices

EVEN AS THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGES INDIA'S PHENOMENAL SUCCESS IN PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY TO ITS 1.4 BILLION CITIZENS IN THESE TUMULTUOUS TIMES, A FEW HYPOCRITICAL STATE GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS CONTINUE TO BLARE NONSENSE WHILE HIDING THEIR ANTI-CITIZEN TACTICS. IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO CUT THEIR STATE'S TAX ON FUEL.

HARDEEP S PURI

DOMINANT narratives are often presented as an objective truth. It is important to remember that such narratives are often set by those with an agenda and hence the need for perspective. As British historian EH Carr famously said, "The historian without his facts is rootless and futile; the facts without their historian are dead and meaningless."

The context and understanding of fuel prices provide a case in point. Unsustainably low petrol and diesel prices belong at best to a world of fantasy.

That fuel prices in India are high is based on a narrative that is deeply flawed. They are, in fact, among the lowest in the world largely due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts at ensuring energy availability and affordability.

It was PM Modi who had cut the Central excise duty twice - in May 2022 and November 2021 - amounting cumulatively to Rs 13 per litre on petrol and Rs 15 per litre on diesel. This cost the Central exchequer Rs 2.2 lakh crore a year.

Furthermore, the Government of India even imposed an export cess and windfall tax on domestically produced petroleum products last year to prevent exporters from profiteering at the cost of domestic consumers. Oil marketing companies (OMCs) being 'good corporate citizens' incurred huge losses during price peaks for ensuring the supply of petrol and diesel at controlled rates to Indian citizens, which have been kept unchanged by public sector OMCs since April 6, 2022.

Many state governments also came forward with VAT (value added tax) cuts to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel. However, many, not all, states are conspicuous by their determination to not cut VAT and lower fuel prices in the state.

It is worth highlighting that in the BJP-ruled states and the states that have cut VAT, the VAT rates on petrol and diesel are generally in the range of Rs 14.5/litre to Rs 17.5/litre, while in states that haven't cut VAT, they are in the range of Rs 26/litre to Rs 32/litre. This translates into a huge difference in the common man's pocket and expenses.

In Congress-ruled Rajasthan, consumers are paying Rs 108.48/litre for petrol and Rs 93.8/litre for diesel which is approximately Rs 12/litre more on petrol and Rs 4/litre more on diesel than what consumers pay in neighbouring BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh - Rs 96.57/litre and Rs 89.76/litre, respectively.

Due to the lasting damage done by the UPA government between 2005 and 2012, under which long-term oil bonds worth Rs 1.44 lakh crore were issued instead of under-recoveries



at the OMCs, Indian taxpayers are still paying back Rs 3.2 lakh crore as interest plus principal.

In YSR-Congress-ruled Andhra Pradesh, the prices of petrol and diesel at Rs 110.48/litre and Rs 98.27/litre, respectively, are almost Rs 10 higher than in Karnataka, where these are Rs 101.94/litre and Rs 87.89/litre, respectively. Andhra Pradesh holds the record for having the highest petrol price in India, for the second year running.

In TS-ruled Telangana, consumers pay the second highest rate of petrol in India at Rs 109.66/litre. This is a whopping Rs 13/litre higher than in Uttar Pradesh (Rs 96.57/litre). In percentage terms, the VAT in Telangana on petrol is 35.2 per cent, compared to 26.8 per cent in UP. The VAT in Telangana on diesel is 27 per cent, compared to 17.48 per cent in UP.

In West Bengal, consumers pay Rs 106.03/litre for petrol and Rs 92.76 for diesel, whereas consumers in Assam only pay Rs 97.02/litre and Rs 88.3, respectively. If Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cares for her people, then why doesn't she bring the petrol price below Rs 100/litre?

The hypocrisy is bare and blatant and unhidden for all to see. Even when it comes to aviation fuel prices, which are crucial for the hospitality and travel sectors, the blatant greed of certain states is clear and visible. In the recent Maharashtra Budget, the state government slashed VAT on jet fuel to 18 per cent, while India's biggest hub - Delhi - remains among the few states that still levy a very high tax - 25 per cent - on jet fuel.

While natural gas prices at the international gas indices (Japan Korea Marker) have increased by up to 228 per cent between January 2021 and February 2023, in India the CNG (compressed natural gas) price rise (Delhi representative market) was restricted to about 83 per cent, thanks to the steps such as increasing domestic gas allocation to about 250 per cent of the allocation since 2013-14 and diverting domestic gas from other non-priority sectors to meet the requirement for CNG (transport) and PNG (piped natural gas, domestic) segments.

Recently, the PM Modi-led Cabinet took a major decision to revise the pricing methodology of domestically produced natural gas; it continues to give a fillip to India's goal of gas-based economy.

This decision, which determines that Indian natural gas prices should be 10 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket, is being hailed as a balanced reform by the industry as well as consumers. While the industry benefits from a more dynamic and robust pricing mechanism, consumers are already reaping the benefits which have been passed on in the form of Rs 7-8 price cuts in domestic PNG and CNG.

Even as the world acknowledges India's phenomenal success in providing accessible and affordable energy to its 1.4 billion citizens in these tumultuous times, a few hypocritical state governments and political leaders continue to blare nonsense while hiding their anti-citizen tactics. It is time for them to cut their state's tax on fuel.

Encounters, custodial killings need thorough probe

KP SINGH

The Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) received unprecedented accolades from the public when it killed Asad, son of mafioso-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and a proclaimed offender in the Umesh Pal murder case. Atiq and his brother Ashraf, who were in police remand in the same case, were killed by three armed criminals when they were being taken to a hospital by the Prayagraj police for a mandatory medical check-up on the night of April 15.

The killing of Atiq and Ashraf in police custody have evoked a variety of reactions. The family members of their victims expressed satisfaction, saying that they paid the price for their sins. The general silence of the people signifies their tacit approval of the killings, perhaps believing that the dreaded criminals met the fate they deserved. Some Opposition leaders perceive the double murder in police custody as a syndrome of lawlessness, which calls for immediate course correction. A few sympathisers of the slain criminals are attributing motives and alleging mala fide intentions on the part of the authorities.

The stakeholders' varied perception on encounters and killings in police custody is not a surprise. What is worrying is the fact that it is

No ground is sufficient to justify a fake encounter and the guilty deserve the maximum penalty. Killing of a person in police custody by criminals is an equally dastardly act; it is a slur on the face of the police as well as an adverse reflection on the quality of governance. The state, through its agencies, is under legal and constitutional obligation to protect every individual; if it fails in this duty, the state loses its legitimacy to rule.

being depicted as a syndrome of lawlessness in a society governed by the 'rule of law'. Certainly, people cannot be allowed to deliver their own justice. Every such assertion needs to be heard patiently, probed decisively and disposed of soberly by the authorities in their quest to do justice to all.

It is disturbing that encounters and deaths in police custody are generally seen by people with suspicion and disbelief, though a majority of the encounters are genuine. In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha last year, it was stated that 233 deaths in police encounters were reported in two years (from April 1, 2020), to March 31, 2022).

In every police encounter, an FIR is registered at the behest of the raiding party, explaining the circumstances leading to the exercise of the right of private defence by it, which resulted in the death of the subject. According to the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the investigation of such cases is immediately transferred from the local police to the crime branch of the CID for fair and impartial proceedings. The NHRC continuously oversees and monitors the investigation; some-



times, the investigation wing of the NHRC conducts an independent parallel inquiry to make sure that the investigation is not botched up. Conviction rate in fake encounter cases is very high.

It is difficult to understand why policemen resort to fake encounters. Criminologists attribute this trigger-happy attitude in some policemen to their desire to earn the 'Singham' image, under the false belief that encounters are the zenith of police professionalism; some others suffer from self-righteousness, presuming it their duty to do instant justice to address larger public safety and national security concerns.

At times, a spate of crimes results

in pressure from the public and the superior authorities and drives the cops to such a situation where they tend to justify their blatantly illegal actions, on the plea that the dreaded criminals cannot be brought to justice through court proceedings as nobody would dare to depose against them.

Such misguided policemen forget that they are not a law unto themselves; they are merely an instrument of the law. No ground is sufficient to justify a fake encounter and the guilty deserve the maximum penalty. In the false encounter case of liquor smuggler Dara Singh of Rajasthan (2006), the Supreme Court had observed that policemen

deserved capital punishment for a fake encounter.

Killing of a person in police custody by criminals is an equally dastardly act; it is a slur on the face of the police as well as an adverse reflection on the quality of governance. The state, through its agencies, is under legal and constitutional obligation to protect every individual; if it fails in this duty, the state loses its legitimacy to rule.

Imparting justice to every person is a sine qua non of the existence and continuation of a political system. British politician Lord Wright asserts, "Justice is what justice appears to a reasonable man."

No prudent man can stand in approval of an extra-judicial killing. It is deplorable that some responsible public figures and even some policemen are trying to underplay the killing of Atiq and Ashraf in police custody, terming it a phenomenon of nature's justice.

When the authorities start contriving to hide behind the veil of nature's justice, it is the first sign of anarchy, which a civilised society cannot afford.

Being a witness to the killing of two persons in their custody, whatever may be the circumstances, is the

worst kind of dereliction of duty by policemen. The security staff and their superiors were required to take extra precautions, keeping in view the vulnerability of Atiq and Ashraf to such an eventuality due to the sense of extreme outrage and public anger against them.

Some people are accusing the escort guards of Atiq and Ashraf of cowardice, arguing that they should have fired at the assailants, exercising their right to private defence. This charge needs to be viewed objectively and examined legally. Video clips suggest that everything happened so quickly that it was over within eight seconds. The killers were so clever that they threw away their weapons immediately after the murder and started shouting 'surrender...surrender' to ward off any exercise of the right of private defence against them. The UP Government has ordered a judicial inquiry to bring out the whole truth in the public domain. It is not known whether the territorial Judicial Magistrate has conducted an inquiry under Section 176 (1A) of the CrPc. The judicial inquiry ordered by the government cannot be a substitute for the inquiry by the territorial Judicial Magistrate.

Priyanka Chopra on why she loves to invite Indian colleagues to LA home: 'Ki dekho

Priyanka Chopra is one of the most popular faces of Indian representation on the global platform. The actor also likes to invite her Indian colleagues over for lunch or dinner at her Los Angeles home. She recently shared her own experiencing of making a career in the West from scratch and why she now likes to make her Indian colleagues feel at home when they are in LA. The actor is currently in the UK where she attended the London premiere of her upcoming web series Citadel. She had recently visited India with her daughter Malhi Marie for the first time. In an interview with IndiaTV during her India visit, Priyanka talked about how any Indian actor who goes abroad

wishes to meet her and she is always happy to help. She said, "Mujhe phone aata hai aur main chahti hui hu ki phone aaye. Aap kisi ko nahi jaante hain, aap set pe jate hain, kaam kar raho hain, ghair marhe hain aur phir kya? Deewarain kaatne ko aati hain. Apni community ko chhod ke, apne khaane ko chhod ke, apni family ko chhod ke, familiarity, friends sab kuch chhod ke waha jana. Bahut mushkil tha mere liye (People do call me and I want them to call me. You know no one, you reach the set, work, go home and then what? The loneliness come to bite you. Leaving my community, my cuisine, family, familiarity, friends, everything...it was very difficult for me)."



Jassie Gill says Diljit Dosanjh helped to change how Sardars were viewed in Bollywood: 'Punjabis aren't comedians'

In the upcoming Eid release Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, Jassie Gill plays one of Salman's brothers in the film. The Hindi feature is one of the biggest films the singer-actor has been a part of. He is one of the several Punjabi actors including Diljit Dosanjh, Ammy Virk and Hardly Sandhu who balance their time between both industries. Jassie credited Diljit for changing the way Punjabi artists were viewed in Bollywood. Earlier, they mostly used to be stereotyped as the comic relief in Hindi films.



After his film debut in the Punjabi comedy Mrs & Mrs 420 Jassie mostly worked in his native language. He made his Hindi film debut with Happy Phir Bhag Jayegi in 2018 alongside Diana Penty, Sonakshi Sinha, Jimmy Sheirgill, Piyush Mishra, and Ali Fazel. Jassie also acted in the Hindi films Fanga (2020) with Kangana Ranaut and Kya Meri Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai? (2021). Diljit made his Hindi debut with Uda Punjab (2016). Jassie and Diljit have also lent their voices to several Bollywood soundtracks. Speaking to Mid-Day, the singer-actor shared, "We used to talk about this in Punjab. Earlier in Bollywood, Sardars were shown as comedians. Their look was not even authentic, especially the way they wore turbans.

The Song of Scorpions trailer: Irrfan Khan lights up screen one last time in this magical but tragic love story

Babil Khan has shared the trailer of Irrfan's swan song The Song of Scorpions which is all set to release in India. Sharing the trailer, Babil wrote, "Bringing alive a heart-wrenching tale of love, obsession and betrayal." The film is a folktale set in the Thar desert of Rajasthan and stars Irrfan as a camel dealer in love with Nooran (Golshifteh Farahani), a woman who is the only one to know the song with which she treats those bitten by a scorpion.



The captivating trailer shows how Nooran travels on foot far and wide in the desert to sing for those bitten by scorpions to save their lives. Irrfan falls in love with her and even she reciprocates his feelings. But before the two could go

on to tie the knot, a tragedy befalls her, bringing their plans to a standstill. Waheeda Rehman plays Nooran's grand-

mother in the film. Director Anup Singh had told Hindustan Times in an interview in 2017 that it was Irrfan who had

suggested Golshifteh Farahani's name for the female lead. Irrfan died in April, 2020 after a two-year-long battle with neuroendocrine tumour. Talking about how he had written the male lead for Irrfan, he had said at the time, "Yes, when I first started writing the male character, I even named him 'Irrfan'. That's how I saw the character. There's the spirit of a musician in Irrfan. Though we don't really say much to each other, we listen to each other's timbre, modulation, tone of voice, and improvise dialogues like two musical instruments would! We have a deep understanding and respect for each other's creative inspiration. Therefore, when we work together, it's not just comfortably but also with the joy of opening to each other our creative best."

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello not back together despite Coachella kiss, which was 'a one-off': Report

Last week, fans went into a meltdown on social media after they spotted former couple Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello kissing at the Coachella music festival in California, US. A video of the two singers had surfaced online in which they were seen dancing at the festival, hugging and later sharing a kiss. Now, a report has claimed that they are not back together despite their recent PDA at Coachella 2023.

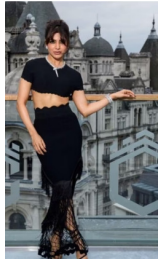
Shawn and Camila started dating in July 2019. The couple announced the breakup two years later in November 2021. In a joint statement on Instagram, Shawn and Camila wrote at the time, "Hey guys, we've decided to end our romantic relationship but our love for one another as humans is stronger than ever. We started our relationship as best friends and will continue to be best friends... We so appreciate your support from the beginning and moving forward."

At the 2023 Coachella, several videos emerged online, which were taken by other festival attendees, where Shawn and Camila were seen at ease with one another and did not hide from the crowd.

Now, as per a source quoted in a Page Six report, it was revealed that despite their Coachella PDA, Shawn and Camila aren't back together. "Shawn and Camila remain friends with a lot of love and history between them, but they aren't dating again."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu flaunts massive diamond necklace, shares pics of her red carpet look from Citadel premiere

Citadel's lead actors Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden have been travelling non-stop to promote their upcoming web series. After a premiere in Mumbai earlier this month, they were seen at the global premiere of Citadel, which was held in London on Tuesday. Joining them at the red carpet event was actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who will soon be seen alongside Varun Dhawan in the show's Indian version.



On Wednesday, Samantha Ruth Prabhu took to Instagram to share photos of herself from the Citadel premiere. She posed in front of downtown London's stunning skyline in the pictures. In her caption, Samantha wrote, "For the global premiere of CITADEL. An evening to remember!! Samantha wore a high-waisted fringed skirt and a matching ruffled crop top from fashion designer Victoria Beckham. She wore a statement necklace and matching earrings from Bvlgari for the event, and a chunky diamond bracelet.

Actor and social media personality Kusha Kapila commented on Samantha's post, "SLAYmanthaa (fire emojis). Actor Mrunal Thakur

commented, "Oh my God (heart emoji)." Singer Sophie Choudry wrote, "Stunner." One more commented read, "Samantha Royalty Prabhu." Samantha has been on a busy schedule since the start of the year. Apart from filming for Citadel, she was busily promoting her recently released film Shaakuntalam. And her calendar isn't set to slow: She is also working on her next film, the upcoming Telugu romantic drama Kushi, co-starring Vijay Deverakonda. Samantha Ruth Prabhu's last



film Shaakuntalam, which was released on April 14, failed to perform well at the box office. On Tuesday, the actor took to Instagram to share a new picture from London, and quoted a line from the Bhagavad Gita. She captioned her post, "Karmanye vadhika raste Ma phaleshu kadachana Ma karma phala he tur bhuh Ma te sangatosva karmani (sic)." The translation reads, "You have the right to work only but never to its fruits. Let not the fruits of action be your motive, nor let your attachment be to inaction."

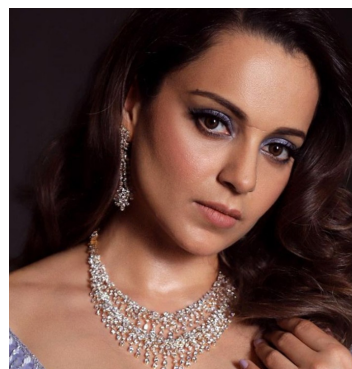
Parineeti Chopra on media discussing her personal life amid Raghav Chadha wedding rumours: 'I will clarify it...'



In the past few months, actor Parineeti Chopra's personal life has grabbed attention. She is reportedly dating Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha. There were also rumours about the two planning to tie the knot after they were spotted together at Delhi and Mumbai airports in recent weeks. Now, Parineeti has opened up about media speculation over her personal life.

In a new interview, Parineeti said that there is a thin line between the media discussing her life and crossing the line by being too personal or disrespectful. The actor said she would clarify only if this leads to misconception, adding if 'not necessary', she would avoid issuing any clarification about her life. When asked how does the actor fulfill her duty as a public figure, while also ensuring her personal life remains stable, Parineeti told Lifestyle Asia India, "There is a thin line between the media discussing my life and sometimes crossing the line by being too personal or disrespectful. If that happens, I will clarify if there are any misconceptions. If it is not necessary to clarify, I won't."

Recently, a lot has been said in media reports and on social media about Parineeti's frequent travels. The actor is often spotted at Mumbai airport in paparazzi videos. She also spoke about travelling frequently in the same interview. Parineeti said, "I would never sacrifice my life for work or work for my life. I always strive to maintain a balance between the two. I remember when I used to travel frequently and spend a lot of time at the airport, people would ask me where I was going and what I was doing, but they would never understand the fact that I was able to balance my life effectively. I think post Covid-19, a lot of people finally understood that."



Ka-ga-a Ra- aut says mom a- d dad married agai- st every- e's wishes, prays she has them as pare- ts i- every life

Kangana Ranaut spoke about her parents' love marriage as she wished them on their anniversary. She said she wants them as her parents, if she were born again. Actor Kangana Ranaut was born in a small town in Himachal Pradesh. She often shares a glimpse of her life in the mountains, and also talks about her family on social media. On Wednesday, Kangana took to Instagram Stories to wish her parents on their wedding anniversary as she shared their throwback photos. She called their love

story her 'favourite', and recalled how they went against everyone to marry. Kangana also said she wanted to be born as their daughter again if she has more lives". Sharing a collage of her mom Asha Ranaut and father Amardeep Ranaut's black-and-white photos from their younger days, Kangana wrote on Instagram Stories, "Thank you papa for falling in love with mumma and going against everyone, including nanu (maternal grandfather) to marry her on this day (April 19). Your love story is my most

favourite (red heart emoji)." Sharing a more recent photo of her parents from a family outing in Himachal, Kangana wrote, "Happy anniversary to you both... like mumma says 'I have seven lives, I want your papa as my husband in every lifetime'. The same way, if I have more lives, I want you both as my mummy and papa, always."

The actor also shared a couple of old photos of of uncle and aunt's wedding as she wished them on their anniversary, which presumably falls on the same day. Along with

one of the pictures, Kangana wrote, "Happy anniversary chacha Jagdeep Ranaut and chachi Sharmila. They had an arranged marriage, but later they found out their pet names were Babloo and Babil. Haha, marriages are truly made in heaven."

Along with another picture of the couple, Kangana wrote, "My mumma never owned even a lipstick. Joy of growing up in a joint family was that as a child, I spent all my time on my chachi's dresser, messing her eye shadows, lipsticks and breaking her nail paint (bot-

les). She is the most patient, kind and gentle woman ever. Love you chachi."

Kangana will be next seen in the period drama Emergency, in which she plays the lead role of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She has also directed the film. Kangana will also be seen in Tejas in which she will portray the role of an Indian Air Force pilot. Fans will also get to see Kangana in P Vasu's Chandramukhi 2, the sequel to the blockbuster hit Tamil horror-comedy Chandramukhi (2005), which featured Rajinikanth and Jyothika.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Cooperative Societies

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 19: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today convened a meeting to review functioning of different authorities vested with the powers to register Cooperatives/ Cooperative Societies in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was informed that there are 8763 Cooperative Societies in J&K, of which, 3611 have been registered by Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, 4421 by Director Handloom & Handicrafts Kashmir and 672 by Director, H&H Jammu. Commissioner Secretary



emphasized upon the concerned for regular monitoring of financial status of all Cooperatives besides ensuring audit of these Cooperatives.

She asked the registering officers to share the data base of Cooperatives registered by different authorities. Commissioner Secretary directed for making use

of a single window online portal for registration. Commissioner Secretary gave nod for audit of Cooperatives registered under 1989 Act through

the Auditors available with Registrar Cooperatives. She asked for identification and review of dormant/inactive Cooperatives for de-registration under norms so that only serious Cooperatives are allowed to function. Among others, Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K; Director H&H, Jammu; Director CAD, Jammu; Director Finance, Cooperative Department; Director Horticulture (P&M), Additional Secretary, Cooperative Department; ARCS, Jammu/Kashmir; Joint Director, H&H, Kashmir; Deputy Director CAD, Kashmir and other concerned officers were present in the meeting in person and online.

DC Kupwara distributes food items among needy, destitute



JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 19: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray who is also Chairman of District Red Cross Committee Kupwara today distributed food Kits among the poor and needy families at DC Office complex, here.

Around 400 Food kits were distributed among the poor, needy families, widows, destitute and orphans from the District Red Cross Fund. Food kits contained food items, eatables, spices and edible oil. Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Gh. Nabi Bhat was present on the occasion.

DC Ramban review arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APRIL 19: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarat Islam today convened a meeting of concerned officers, religious leaders and Imams of various mosques to review the arrangements put in place for Eid-ul-Fitr. ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma; Addl. SP, Gourav Mahajan; ACR, Gias-Ul-Haq and other senior officers and religious leaders attended the meeting. During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on arrangements for Eid celebration being made by the different departments besides timing of Namaz-e-Eid in different Mosques. The DC urged the religious leaders to inform the people about the timing of Eid congregations and the traffic movement plan finalized for different

mosques. The DC instructed the concerned officers to keep a strict vigil on the overcharging and black-marketing of essential commodities during the festive days besides ensuring quality of eatables. He also directed AD FC&CA to conduct frequent market checking besides making sure availability of essential commodities in all areas of the district. The DC directed CEO Municipal Council Ramban to ensure cleanliness drives in and around religious places and mosques. He also passed similar directions to EOs of MC Banhal & Batote. The DC also directed the SDMs and concerned Tehsildars to ensure all necessary arrangements in their respective jurisdictions for the Eid festival.

DC Kulgam presides mega Grievances Redressal camp at Qaimoo

Urges people to proactively support mission launched against drug menace

JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 19: To take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Qaimoo area and presided over a mega grievance redressal camp held at block complex Qaimoo. The programme witnessed overwhelming response from PRLs and general public especially from youth who participated to highlight issues and grievances confronting their areas for early redressal.

ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, ACD Mohammad Imran Khan, CEO, CMO, Tehsildar, BMO and other officers also remained available in this grievance redressal camp.



Delegation of People from the Qaimoo, Redwani, Wanpora, Sonigam and other areas apprised the DC about their issues and developmental requirements of their areas. The DC after giving patient hearing to all the issues raised during the proceedings addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on spot and issues required to be redressed at higher level were also noted. Addressing the occasion, the DC said that adminis-

tration is committed for holistic development of the area and urged people to proactively support the District Administration in the war launched against the drug menace. He also appealed to people to voluntarily destroy poppy from their farms, fields. While complimenting the people of Sonigam village for the initiative of poppy destruction drives which the people carried out in the village to destroy the poppy, DC added that this positive approach of people is required to eliminate drug menace which has victimized youth. Grievances redressal camps were also held in Devsar and D. H. Pora Blocks where ADDC and SDM listened to the issues of people for early redressal.

YS&S deptt organizes Sports Conclave 2023 at SKICC

Sarmad emphasizes sports as potent tool towards restraining youth from drug abuse, other social evils

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 19: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S), today organized a one day Conclave 2023 at SKICC with the goal of creating a roadmap for optimal performance besides discussing strategies for developing sports talent in a big way. The event was attended by Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Haleez, as the chief guest along with Director YS&S, Subhash C Chibber, Special Secretary, YS&S, Waseem Raja, Joint Director YS&S, Kashmir, Waseem Raja, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other concerned officials. While addressing the conclave, Sarmad Haleez emphasized the importance of sports as an effective tool to steer youth away from



social ills like drug addiction and utilize their energy towards a positive perspective. He appreciated YS&S for organizing the conclave and emphasized the need to implement the ideas and suggestions generated from the event for further streamlining working of the department. Secretary said that the event has

provided the department with valuable inputs and ideas to further nurture sports talent in a more constructive and fruitful manner. The department's goal is to create opportunities for youth to develop their physical and mental potential and contribute positively towards growth and devel-

opment of society, he added. Subhash Chibber highlighted the department's achievements and performance and shared data reflecting that the department has surpassed the assigned target of 17.50 lakh participation by achieving a tremendous 29.16 lakh youth participation under various sports activities. He said that the department aims at exceeding the target of 35 lakh participation during the current financial year. He revealed that LC's Rolling Trophy and various sports activities were held under Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. On the occasion, Joint Director YS&S Kashmir, Waseem Raja gave a detailed presentation on the roadmap towards achieving set goals for promoting and developing sports talent and infrastructure as well. Later, a house discussion was held in which field

officers from all ten districts gave their valuable inputs and suggestions. Nuzhat Gul, speaking during the event, highlighted the council's achievements in delivering 650 projects in less than three years period including outdoor, indoors, playgrounds, courts and upgraded sports infrastructure. The conclave provided a valuable opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss and plan a roadmap towards improving performance and achieving targets in the department. The conclave also saw participation of District Youth Services and Sports Officers, Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Lecturers, Physical Education Masters, Physical Education Teachers and allied staff who shared their ideas on the subject.

My Vote My Right: Kathua administration's social media campaign encourages huge participation of citizens

HARNESSES TECHNOLOGY TO DRIVE VOTER EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 19: Continuing its efforts to promote voters' participation, the Kathua administration is implementing innovative SVEEP activities as part of the ongoing SSR. The District Election Officer, Rahul Pandey, has been leading the efforts to ensure that every eligible voter in the district exercises his democratic right. The administration has been conducting several awareness campaigns, including the 'Pledge to Vote' initiative, which aims to motivate voters to take a pledge to participate in the electoral process. To reach out to the youth, the administration has launched a series of voter educa-

tion programs in colleges and universities across the district. These programs aim to inform young voters about the importance of voting and to encourage them to register as voters. Pertinently, ECI has issued a revised schedule under which claim and objections shall be taken till 06 May 2023, Claims and objections shall be disposed by 15 May 2023 and Final publication of Electoral Rolls shall be held on 27 May 2023. The SVEEP campaign has also been utilizing social media platforms to create awareness about voting, information about the electoral process, voter registration, and means of updation. The administration has also launched a social media campaign, #My Vote My Right,



to encourage citizens to participate in the electoral process. To ensure that voters in remote and inaccessible areas are not left behind, the administration has set up special voter facilitation centres in these areas. These centres provide assis-

tance to voters in the registration process and help them with any queries related to the electoral process. The Kathua administration is committed to ensure that every eligible voter exercises their democratic right. We are constantly

exploring innovative methods to drive voter participation and make the electoral process more accessible and inclusive', said District Election Officer Rahul Pandey. The administration's efforts have received widespread support and appreciation from the community leaders, civil society organizations, and the general public. These efforts are expected to result in a more informed and engaged electorate and a more vibrant democracy in the district. Besides, the District Election Cell has launched an intensive door-to-door campaign to cover all eligible persons, and an extensive awareness drive through SVEEP van which today covered different parts of AC Jasrota constituency.

DC Reasi reviews progress of RDD sector works

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 19: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress achieved under the Rural Development sector schemes in the District.

The DC asked for regular review of works taken up by BDOs, to keep a close track on the pace of progress for timely completion and use of quality material. Reviewing the scheme wise works, the DC laid thrust on speeding up the process of allotment and early completion of already tendered works so as to achieve set targets within the set timelines. The DC also directed BDOs to devise a mechanism to ensure that all revenue implications are cleared before the tendering process.

14 absentee employees suspended; Show Cause notices issued to 21 others at Poonch

DC reiterates zero tolerance policy against erring officials

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APRIL 19: Acting tough against absentee government employees, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Inder Jeet on Wednesday suspended 14 employees for unauthorised absence from duty and served show cause notices to 21 others including some gazetted officers of Jal Shakti, PMGSY, floriculture departments. Acting on the complaints received from the public, including PRIs, the Deputy Commissioner constituted a Committee of officers headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik to conduct surprise inspections across all the government offices in a phased manner. The ADC and his team inspected several offices including Jal Shakti, PMGSY etc and found several employees out of office during office hours. Notably, those absent neither have sanctioned leave in their favour nor have maintained any movement register for field visits. Moreover some HODs holding important offices were unaware of the whereabouts of their

immediate staff as well as field staff while some HODs were themselves found absent during office hours. ADC Poonch recommended stringent action against employees of these offices including HODs. Acting on the recommendations of the committee, Deputy Commissioner Poonch suspended more than a dozen employees and issued show cause notices to 21 others wherein HODs were directed to clear their positions within a week's time. "Strict disciplinary action will be initiated against such erring employees as per conduct rules on not receiving satisfactory explanations", he added. The Deputy Commissioner further directed all the controlling officers to move towards a professional work culture and maintain the sanctity of government offices for which employees are paid handsomely. "There will be zero tolerance towards poor and unprofessional work culture. General public needs not to suffer because of such erring employees. Deputy Commissioner Office will keep a track of all government officers working in all tehsils and such surprise inspections will be a regular phenomenon throughout the year and will be conducted in various phases covering all the government offices across the districts".

Banihal: Dawat-e-Ifitar hosted by Indian army

RAMBAN, APRIL 19: Dawat-e-Ifitar party was hosted by the Indian army at Army camp, Banihal, for local representatives of Banihal town to mark Ramzan celebration besides the message of peace and prosperity. More than 120 persons including representatives from civil administration, J&K Police, J&K Traffic Police, Vyanam mandal, Public representatives, school & colleges, prominent Masjids, community and religious leaders, other security forces, and media persons attended the event making the occasion a grand success.

District-level orientation program on uploading of thematic GPDP held at Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE



DODA, APRIL 19: A district-level orientation cum training programme on Uploading of thematic Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for FY 2023-24, organised by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, was held today at Zila Vikas Bhawan Doda and BDO office Baderwah. The training was organised under the overall supervision of ACD, Phulail Singh, who also attended the program at the twin locations. Besides, as many as 110 field functionaries attended the training programme on day 1 at the designated locations, including the master trainers BDO Baderwah Sunil Kumar, BDO Khaleeni Sanjay Bhardwaj and Panchayat Secretary Rashid Hussain and Operator Nasser Ahmed. The orientation programme focused on convergence of resources and augment community participation at panchayat level in consonance with

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mapped into nine themes by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, including Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village, Child-friendly Village, Women-friendly Village, Healthy Village, Self Sufficient Infrastructure Village, Socially Secured Village, Water Sufficient Village, Village with Good Governance and Clean and Green Village. Speaking to the Participants, the ACD said that the thematic approach to GPDP with focus on LSDGs would ensure convergence of resources and augment community participation at panchayat level in consonance with all the stakeholders and line departments. It is also aimed to achieve saturation on all SDGs by 2030. Further speaking he instructed all the attended field functionaries to acquaint themselves fully so that all the panchayat level GPDP plans shall be uploaded on the designated portal error free and under time bound manner. The resource persons/Master trainers from the department gave a detailed presentation on the process, procedure, action plan, activities regarding preparation of thematic GPDP along with demonstration on uploading the approved GPDP on the eGram Swaraj portal.

Weekly Block Diwas: Public Outreach programmes held at 4 locations in Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 19: To listen to the issues and grievances of the people, the Public Outreach Programmes were held today at four different locations across Doda district as part of the weekly Block Diwas program. The weekly Block Diwas program was held at Sonwara Panchayat, Sub Division Gandoh, Health & Wellness Centre Jathri, Sub Division Assar, Tehsil Headquarter Thathri, Sub Division Thathri; and Eidgah Chakrabarti, Panchayat Sindra, Block Bhalla, Sub Division Baderwah. Block Diwas is aimed at getting first-hand appraisal of the problems and development aspirations of the people. It also aims to ensure equitable development of rural and urban areas by fulfilling popular aspirations of the people. Block Diwas program is being organised weekly on every Wednesday at different locations of the district to reach out to the people and listen to their grievances, aspirations, and demands. Several public delegations, individuals besides PRI members, projected the local demands and problems being faced by the public at all the four locations today. Public and PRIs put forth a range of issues/ demands. They demanded augmentation of water supply and electricity, macadamization of roads, meeting dearth of staff in schools and hospitals, upgradation of schools, banking facilities in rural areas, etc. The presiding officers of the Block Diwas, along with officers in charge of all the departments, gave patient hearing to the issues and demands and assured to resolve all the genuine demands/ issues at the earliest.

Doda Admin conducts market checking ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 19: To check overpricing, profiteering and black marketing ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ravi Kumar Bharti, leading an officers' team consisting of EO MC Nindan Sen, Law Officer, AD FCS&CA, Food Safety Officer and Police y conducted intensive market checking in Doda town. The market checking was conducted on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajne. While interacting with the shopkeepers, the team members asked them to display rate lists at prominent places and adhere to the rates approved, keep shops neat and clean and ensure that all package commodities sold to the consumers must bear MRP, Package date, Net Content and other related information.

DC Kulgam takes stock of situation arisen due to incessant rains

J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 19: To take stock of the situation arisen due to incessant rains in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers at mini-secretariat, here. During the meeting, the DC took a detailed stock of current status of water level of rivers, availability of sand bags, machinery and other arrangements available in the district. He instructed the officers to stay at their respective headquarters and not to leave the station. He was also instructed to keep men and machinery available to tackle any situation. Meanwhile it was informed that control rooms have been made operational at District and Tehsil levels to respond to any emergency and needs of the people.

GDC Marheen carries out Plantation Drive under 'Mission Life'

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 19: The Eco club of GDC Marheen, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences, under the aegis of Mission Life carried out a plantation drive in the College premises today. A large number of saplings of various plants were planted by students, staff members under the supervision of principal of the college Dr. Anupama Gupta. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the College raised awareness among the students about the urgent need of afforestation and motivated the students to plant more and more trees to conserve nature. She said global warming is increasing on an alarming scale thereby affecting the ecological balance of the planet. The event was organised under the supervision of Convener of Eco club Prof. Deepak, and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences Prof. Sheetal Sharma. A large number of Volunteers participated in the event. The staff members present during the plantation drive were Mr. Pardeep, Dr. Munisha Devi, Prof. Sonika Jasrotia, Dr. Eva Sharma Prof. Nisha Taak and Prof. Charan.

SVEEP: Poster making, slogan writing competition held at GDC Marheen

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 19: The Voter Literacy Club of Government Degree College Marheen, in collaboration with IQAC cell and NSS Unit, organized a poster making and slogan writing competition under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP). The programme was organized under the patronage of the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, while it was supervised by Convener, Voter Literacy Club Pardeep, and NSS PO Dr. Sonika Jasrotia. The other faculty members present in the programme were Prof. Deepak Gupta, Dr. Munisha Devi, Prof. Eva Sharma and Nisha Tak.

Chief Justice inaugurates fast track Court, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 19: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, Justice N Kottiswar Singh, today inaugurated Fast Track Court Jammu in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh (Administrative Judge District Jammu). Justice Rajneesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Waseem Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Judges of High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General High Court of J&K and Ladakh, M K Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Y P Bourney, Registrar Vigilance High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Sanjay Parihar, Principal District & Session Judge Jammu along with other Judicial Officers of district Jammu, Sobha Ram Gandhi, Registrar Judicial High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu, Amit Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Anoop Sharma, Registrar II, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Prem Sagar, Secretary High Court Legal Services Authority, Parveen Pandoh, Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Jammu wing) and Vikram Sharma, President, High Court Bar Association Jammu, Rohit Sharma, Resident Young Lawyer Association along with other respective executive members were present during the ceremony. The Fast Track Court Jammu has been constructed, renovated and beautified under the guidance of Chief Justice N Kottiswar Singh and Justice Sanjeev Kumar besides monitoring and supervision of Khailal Choudhary, Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court Jammu. The members of High Court Bar Association, Jammu, addressing during the ceremony, expressed their views that all other courts situated in District Court Complex Jammu and other courts of UT of J&K and Ladakh may also be constructed, renovated and beautified on the same pattern of Fast Track Court Jammu.

Block Diwas program held at Hufroo in Block Nagam of Budgam

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IMPERATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT: DC

J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APRIL 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid today chaired the Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Halqa Hufroo in Block Nagam.

The programme was held at Government Higher Secondary School, Hufroo, where local PRIs, respected elders and local youth delegations from villages Hufroo, Nowpora, Brinjan, Narpura, Loolipora and other adjacent villages raised their demands with the DC.

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

Stressing on better Healthcare facilities, the DC instructed concerned to submit proposal for the creation of USG and Digital X-Ray facility at local PHC. He also directed concerned to connect the health institution to the uninterrupted hot-line power supply.

The DC said that local participation is imperative for the development of Budgam and instructed Revenue authorities to conduct a camp to address issues related to correction of land records of local farmers. Instruction were also given



for a joint camp to be organised by PDD, RDD, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments on April-24. He said the concerned departments shall ensure prompt services and on spot redressal to the genuine public grievances during the camp. Besides, concerned departments shall give awareness on different schemes including PM Kisan, PDD Amnesty Scheme, PM- Kusum and facilitate distribution of seed varieties, awareness regarding fertilizers, vaccination of livestock and form submission for various services to the general public. The DC said that besides overall development of people, self-employment and cleanliness are

among top priorities for District Administration in Budgam. He urged local unemployed youth to register under different self-employment schemes to open their own business ventures and become successful entrepreneurs.

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

He instructed PDD authorities to ensure execution of improvement works in a stipulated timeframe.

He urged locals to play an active role in curbing the drug menace from the society for a better society and safeguard the young generation.

DC Kupwara chairs DLSWC meeting

REVISED RATES FOR MINOR MINERALS & MINERAL PRODUCTS APPROVED

J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today chaired a meeting of District Level Task Force Cell (DLSWC) for re-fixation of rates of Minor Mineral Blocks of Kupwara district at DC Office Complex, here.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues related to e-auction of minor blocks, fixation of revised rates, identification of new sites where e-auction of material in Nallah beds, quarry belts could be undertaken.

The meeting was informed that in Kupwara district there are 28 Minor mineral blocks which are identified for e-auction. Due to strenuous efforts of the Geology and Mining Department, along with Police and Irrigation and Flood control Departments there is significant control on illegal mining particularly on riverbed mining.

Meeting was apprised that during the financial year 2022-



23, Geology and Mining Department has imposed a fine of Rs 97 lakhs and seized 490 vehicles for illegal mining.

The DC asked the concerned departments to issue an advisory regarding completely banning sand from horticulture Orchards in Karewa belts of Handwara Sub division and forest areas.

The DC who is also the Chairman of District Level Single Window Committee (DLSWC) for Kupwara district stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure that there should be no illegal mining outside the

Minor minerals, and Minor mineral products it was told that rates were previously fixed by the Committee in year 2020 and due to price escalation rates need revision.

Finally the District level Single Window Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara approved the latest rates which are as under:

Revised rates of Sand in 2023-24 are Rs 32, Rates of Nallah Bajri are Rs 18, rates of Nallah Boulders in 2023-24 are Rs.7, rates of Nallah Mukh are Rs 5.50, revised rates of clay are Rs 3, revised rates of crushed bajri 10-

20 mm are Rs 30, rates of crushed Bajri 40 mm is Rs 29, similarly rates of crushed bajri 65 mm Rs 28, rates of silt are Rs 15 and rates of stone have been fixed at Rs 8.

The DC stressed upon the officers to work with added dedication and sincerity keeping in view the important role of mining, SSP Kupwara, Yungal Manhas, District Mineral Officer, Shujaat Qureshi; Executive Engineers of Irrigation and Flood Control, representatives of Kehmil and Kamraj forest divisions and other concerned attended the meeting.

Free Medical Camp held at Fire & Emergency Services, Headquarters Batamalo

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 19: In connection with observance of Fire Service Week commencing from 14th April to 20th April 2023, a Free Medical camp was today organised at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Batamalo Srinagar.

Employees of Fire & Emergency Services and a good number of civilians participated under the supervision of Dr. Ibrar Bashir Sherazi, Medical Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Srinagar on the directions of Alok Kumar, ADGP, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K.

During the Camp, a general checkup was conducted by a team of Doctors in which a number of free tests such as HBA1C, BSR, BSE, TSH, CBC, Mical, VPT, ECT and Ophthalmological

medicines were distributed. The entire exercise was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Ibrar Bashir Sherazi, Medical Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Srinagar on the directions of Alok Kumar, ADGP, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K.

Amid Speculation Over Ajit Pawar Joining BJP, A Warning From Eknath Shinde

Mumbai: Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat has warned that if NCP leader Ajit Pawar joins BJP with a group of party leaders, then the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena will not be part of the government in Maharashtra.

Talking to reporters in Mumbai on Tuesday, Mr Shirsat, whose party shares power with the Bharatiya Janata Party in Maharashtra, said he thinks the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will not go with the BJP directly.



"Our policy is clear about it. The NCP is a party which betrays. We will not be with the NCP even in power. If the BJP takes NCP with them, Maharashtra will not like it. We decided to move out (of the earlier undivided Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray) because people didn't like us going with the Congress and NCP," he said.

Mr Shirsat said Ajit Pawar has not said anything which means he doesn't want to be in the

NCP. "We left the Congress-NCP (which were part of the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government) because we didn't want to be with them. Ajit Pawar doesn't have a free hand there."

Therefore, if he leaves the NCP, we will welcome him. If he comes along with the Shiv Sena-led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Parth Pawar was defeated in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll from Maval constituency in Maharashtra.

He said Ajit Pawar's displeasure is because his son Parth Pawar lost election earlier. His displeasure has no connection with the case of a plea seeking disqualification of 16 Shiv Sena MLAs pending before the Supreme Court.

Mr Shirsat was recently appointed spokesperson of the Shiv Sena-led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Parth Pawar was defeated in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll from Maval constituency in Maharashtra.

"Ajit Pawar is not a new thing. But his displeasure, which is being shown by the media, about our case (pending before the Supreme Court) has no relation. Ajit Pawar is disgruntled since his son Parth Pawar had lost the election," Mr Shirsat said.

"Ajit Pawar was held responsible for the oath ceremony held at dawn (in

November 2019 with Devendra Fadnis). After two-and-a-half years, Sharad Pawar said it was an experiment to revoke President's rule," he claimed.

Mr Shirsat said Ajit Pawar has not clarified over the incident till date.

The Devendra Fadnis-Ajit Pawar government formed in a hush-hush ceremony in November 2019 had lasted for three days.

Mr Shirsat said Ajit Pawar is a big leader and he will not tell easily about what is going on in his mind.

He also slammed the Maha Vikas Aghadi's move to hold rallies in parts of the state, as a show of unity and strength.

"We have to search for Ajit Pawar's stand in the ongoing rallies of MVA. He could not speak at the rally in Nagpur. The party which has only 15 MLAs (referring to Uddhav Thackeray) is the key speaker and the one which has 54 MLAs is side-tracked. This is disrespect of Ajit Pawar," he said.

"Delighted": Shashi Tharoor After Centre Announces Vande Bharat Train For Kerala

New Delhi: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday hailed the Centre's announcement of a Vande Bharat train for Kerala and said that he is looking forward to attending the flagging off of the same by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to flag off the Vande Bharat Express in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram on April 25.

Reacting to the Centre's move, the Congress leader cited his earlier tweet on February 1 last year in which he had suggested running a Vande Bharat train in Kerala.

"Bringing #VandeBharat trains to Kerala could address @vijayanpinari's concern for speedy train travel to promote development, @kalviate @INCKerala's concerns about land acquisition, environmental impact. GOI&GOK shld discuss a win-win outcome in the interests of the state," Mr Tharoor had tweeted earlier last year.

Recalling his tweet, the Congress MP said that he is "delighted" that the Vande Bharat will run in Kerala and added that progress must be beyond politics.

"Recalling my tweets of fourteen months ago suggesting #VandeBharat trains for Kerala. Delighted that @AshwiniVaishnav has done just that. Looking forward to attending @narendramodi's flagging off of the first train from Thiruvananthapuram on the 25th. Progress must be beyond pol-

itics," he tweeted.

On April 14, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vishukainetam" (gift) this year is the Vande Bharat train service for Kerala.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said people are thankful to PM Modi for announcing the semi-high-speed train in the state.

"The people of Kerala are thankful to PM Narendra Modi as well as the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for announcing this high-speed train for Kerala which will definitely improve the pace of development in Kerala. On 25 April, the PM is visiting Kerala and the flag-off will happen that day - that is the information we have", Mr Muraleedharan told ANI.

Giving further details on the train, Mr Muraleedharan added that the train will cover a distance of 600 km originating from Kasaragod and will run till the capital city of Trivandrum. The train will cover the distance in just 8 hours.

"The train will originate from Kasaragod which is the northernmost tip of Kerala to the capital city of Trivandrum at the southernmost tip. So the Vande Bharat will cover a distance of 600 km in 8 hours which means that people of Kerala will be able to travel across the state in 8 hours," he added.

Tamil Nadu Allies, Karnataka Rivals: Cracks in BJP-AIADMK Alliance Show

Chennai: The growing unease between Tamil Nadu allies, the AIADMK and the BJP, has spilled over into neighbouring Karnataka, which goes to Assembly polls next month.

The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), now led by former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, has fielded a candidate against ally BJP in Pulakeshinagar seat in Bengaluru.

The AIADMK has chosen D Anbarasan as its candidate. The BJP had earlier announced Murali as its pick for the reserved seat.

The AIADMK's move comes against the backdrop of its strained ties with the BJP that has led to heated exchanges between leaders from the two sides over the past few months.



During a recent interaction with the media, Mr Palaniswami, also known as EPS, refused to talk about Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai and followed it up with a swipe at the 38-year-old politician. "Don't ask me about him. I will only talk about mature leaders. Through his interviews, he is only projecting himself," the former Chief Minister said.

The remark came after Mr Annamalai hinted that he would release a list of

assets owned by senior AIADMK leaders as he had already done for leaders of the ruling DMK. This drew a sharp response from the AIADMK, with party leader D Jayakumar warning that "touching AIADMK is like playing with fire."

On the party fielding a candidate in a Karnataka seat the BJP is contesting, AIADMK spokesperson Kovai Sathyan told NDTV, "At the moment, there is no alliance between us in

Karnataka. We are pitted against the BJP." Contacted for a response, BJP's Tamil Nadu vice-president Narayanan Thirupathi said, "Let's see what happens." Asked if the two allies were in touch over the issue, he said, "I am not aware."

The BJP, which won just four seats in the 2021 Assembly polls that brought the DMK to power, has pushed for a larger role in the state over the past couple of years, when the AIADMK's political activities were hit by a bitter power tussle between factions led by Mr Palaniswami and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam.

Last year, Mr Annamalai went as far as claiming that the BJP was the real Opposition in Tamil Nadu. The AIADMK was also uncomfortable about the

BJP's attempts to stitch an alliance with VK Sasikala, aide of former chief minister J Jayalalitha. Ms Sasikala was expelled by the AIADMK when she was in prison after her conviction in a corruption case. The BJP had also pushed for a tie-up with Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, led by Ms Sasikala's nephew TTV Dinakaran.

The AIADMK was not amused by the BJP's outreach to its breakaway outfits. C Ponniyandi, senior AIADMK leader, had then said, "We know how BJP has toppled governments of their allies in other states. We are careful."

The BJP's Annamalai had downplayed the matter, saying that Ponniyandi is known for making a U-turn after such statements.

UN To Withdraw From Afghanistan Over Taliban's Curbs On Women: Report

New York: The UN has said it is ready to withdraw from Afghanistan in May if it cannot convince the Taliban to permit local women to work for the organization, the head of the UN Development Program said, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

The UN is negotiating with the Taliban

in hopes that it will make exceptions to a decree prohibiting local women from working for the organization. UNDP Administrator, Achin Steiner, said: "It is fair to say that where we are right now is the entire United Nations system having to take a step back, and re-evaluate its ability to operate there."

China May Soon Deploy Supersonic Spy Drones, Show US Intel Leaks: Report

Washington, United States: A leaked U.S. military assessment says the Chinese military may soon deploy a high-altitude spy drone that travels at least three times the speed of sound, the Washington Post reported late on Tuesday.

The newspaper cited a secret document from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The document, which Reuters could not confirm or verify independently, features satellite imagery dated Aug 9 that shows two WZ-8 rocket-propelled reconnaissance drones at an air base in eastern China, about 350 miles (560km) inland from Shanghai, according to the newspaper. The U.S. assessment said China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) had "almost certainly" established its first unmanned aerial vehicle unit at the base, which falls under the Eastern Theater Command, the branch of the Chinese military responsible for enforcing Chinese sovereignty claims over Taiwan, the newspaper reported. The U.S. Defense Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Chinese government could not immediately be reached for com-

ment. The Washington Post said it obtained the assessment of the program from a trove of images of classified files posted on the Discord messaging app, allegedly by a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, who was arrested last week. The FBI on Thursday arrested Jack Douglas Teixeira, a 21-year-old member of the U.S. Air National Guard, over the leaks online of classified documents that embarrassed Washington with allies around the world.

The leaks first became widely known earlier this month, setting Washington on edge about the damage they may have caused. The episode embarrassed the U.S. by revealing its spying on allies and purported Ukrainian military vulnerabilities.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Ashok Kumar S/O Sain Dass R/O Phinder Tehsil R.S.Pura, Distt Jammu. My father has been died On 09-05-2021 at Phinder, Jammu, Now i am applying for the death certificate of the above said. Objection if any may be conveyed to RTO Jammu within seven days from the publication of this notice.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites applications for setting up stall/kiosk at all Railway Stations over Firozpur Division under **One Station One Product scheme**. OSOP stalls will be operational w.e.f. **24.04.2023**. The terms and conditions are as under:

- The minimum period for setting up of the stall/kiosk will be 15 days.
- Details of token fee to be deposited by the applicants is as under:

S.No	Category	Total Token fee for 15 days (In Rs.)
1	For NSG-1 to NSG-4 Stations	500/-
2	For NSG-5 to NSG-6 Stations	500/-

All above charges are inclusive of GST.

- Product to be displayed/sold as under:
 - Handicrafts/Artefacts
 - Textiles and Handlooms
 - Traditional Garments
 - Local agricultural produce/processed/semi processed foods.
- The selection of participants in the OSOP may be done considering that the benefit of this scheme must reach the marginalized sections, i.e. those individuals at the bottom of the pyramid. Priority shall be given to:
 - Holder of Artisan/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioners, Handicrafts, Development, Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite State/Central Government Authority.
 - Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khad and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc.
 - Self Help Groups registered with PMSGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme).
 - Marginalized or weaker sections of society.
- The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.
- Application should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at Station by the applicant.
- Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the Station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/ Section C.M.I.
- Space and infrastructure at the station for this scheme will be provided by Railways.
- For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations. 11772023

Serving Customers with a Smile

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICER, CAD SAMBA HQ JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 05 of 2023-24 Dated 17-04-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on **Bill rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of Estimate (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money	Time for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor with limits of Revenue upto which works can be allotted
Name of the Project: Construction of Field Channels/OFD works in various Panchayats (Integrated Farming System at District Udhampur)							
1.	Construction of Field Channel on Kawa Upper & Lower Boudi at Village Kawa Pte. Kawa	11.20	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
2.	Construction of Field Channel on Budali Boudi at Village Budali & Mungu Pte. Budali	5.48	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
3.	Construction of Field Channel on Pangaru Jagra Khul at Village Pangaru Jagra Pte. Budali	23.80	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
4.	Construction of Field Channel on Budla Kedar Khul at Village Budla Kedar Pte. Malwa	31.50	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
5.	Construction of Field Channel on Devak to Harwaru Khul at Village Bain Devak to Harwaru Khul Pte. Bain	12.25	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
6.	Construction of Field Channel on Soary Khul at Village Soary Pte. Kitchhi	21.00	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs
7.	Construction of Field Channel on Thanua Khul at Village Thanua Ss Pte. Thanua	12.27	600/-	2% of the advertised cost of tender	90 Days	28-04-2023	Class A above 25 lacs Class B 10 lacs to 25 lacs Class C 5 lacs to 10 lacs Class D up to 5 lacs

Position of AAA > Accrued
Position of TS > Accrued
Major Head of Account > 478-Capital Outlay on CAD
Position of Items > CAPEX Budget 2023-24

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://ktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	19-04-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-04-2023 to 27-04-2023, 1800 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	20-04-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-04-2023 upto to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-04-2023 on or after 1130 Hrs in the Office of Project Officer, CAD Samba HQ Jammu.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & Date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly credited to Account Head 0702 favoring Project Officer, CAD Samba, HQ Jammu.
- All the bidders shall have to deposit Earnest Money (2% of advertised tender cost) in the shape of CDR/DRBG in favour of Project Officer, CAD Samba, HQ Jammu.
- The 1st Lowest bidder (L1) has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/DR before award of contract favoring Project Officer, CAD Samba HQ Jammu (as per circular by Finance Department). A copy of treasury challan receipt, and relevant documents have to be submitted to the Project Officer, CAD Samba HQ Jammu at the time of award of contract.
- The 2% Earnest Money Deposit on advertised cost shall be released as & when L1 submits Performance Security @3% of his quoted rates before allotment of contract.
- The Performance Security @ 3% of contract in the shape of CDR/DR shall be released only after successful completion of works in case of the successful bidder.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on the website [www.ktenders.gov.in](http://ktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail on their submitted e-mail address. The Financial Bids of the Responsive Bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Project Officer, CAD Samba HQ Jammu, the date of which shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this Office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if:
 - Any bidder/contractor withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required Performance Security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - In case the contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

NO.-PO-CAD/SIE-TEND/2023-24/75-78
DATED:-17-04-2023

DIP/J-438/23 PROJECT OFFICER
CAD SAMBA HQ JAMMU

DC Jammu conducts extensive tour of Dansal block

INAUGURATES FIVE PATWAR HALQA OFFICES, LISTENS TO PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 19: To get first-hand account of the public grievances, Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa today conducted an extensive tour of the Bhalwal block and listened to issues of locals.

Tehsildar, Druv Gupta; BDO, Johnny Kumar along with PRIs, public delegations besides scores of individuals were present in the camp during which they apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the problems being faced by them in day



to day life. During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated five Patwar Halqa offices at Dansal, Tarah, Kanyaia, Kishenpur, Kharta. Later, the Deputy Commissioner held a

grievance redressal camp at Kishenpur Kharta. Local Sarpanch, Romesh Singh apprised the DC regarding major issues which mainly pertained to the supply of water and electricity, revenue services, road connectivity, upgradation of school, cleanliness and sanitation. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the PRI member and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for quality redress of their genuine grievances.

She assured that the highlighted issues of public importance

will be taken up with higher authorities besides all the pendency and public service delivery slackness shall be reviewed thoroughly. She directed the officers to leave no stone unturned to provide maximum benefits of government welfare schemes to the people. The Deputy Commissioner also impressed upon the officers to work with zeal to achieve the targets ensuring the delivery of the benefits to the rural masses. The Deputy Commissioner also planned a sampling during a plantation drive at Dansal.

Chairperson DDC Udhampur reviews working of Health, Education, Transport deptts



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 19: Chairperson District Development Council, Udhampur Lal Chand today chaired a meeting of officers of Health, Education, Transport and other departments, here in his Office Chamber to review the implementation of schemes of these key sectors.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Manhas; Chief Education Officer, Geetu Bangotra, ARTO, Ramesh Kumar attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on different issues related to non-availability of staff in the schools and rationalization of teaching and other staff, adolescents and non-availability of staff in Primary health centers and Community Health centers, Non availability of transport facility to remote areas.

The CMO and CEO were directed to ensure redressal of the issues on a Priority basis. He sought assurance from CMO for the improvement of health services in rural areas.

Concerned departments were directed to share the action taken reports of the issues to the District Development Council.

Joint Director Information Jammu attends National Workshop on promotion of AVGC sector

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 19: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting organised a National Workshop on the promotion of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi wherein representatives from Central Government, various State Governments and Industry representatives participated.

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Chairman AVGC Taskforce) and Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship presided over the workshop.

Alongwith the draft National AVGC Policy, AVGC Sector Promotion in the Country with Opportunities for India, Making India a Global AVGC hub with a skilled workforce, Model State AVGC Policy, Development of AVGC Infrastructure by States,



Talent and Skill Development, Identifying and promoting Local Content by States, Creating World Class Gaming Content in India was discussed.

Joint Director of Information, Jammu Atul Gupta and Information Officer Maheer Thakur represented Jammu and Kashmir at the Workshop.

The AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) sector has witnessed unprecedented growth rate in recent times

required. The Task Force submitted its report wherein steps were suggested to realize the potential in terms of market access and development, skilling and mentorship, education, increasing access to technology, creating financial viability, promoting high-quality content, diversity, equity and inclusion, and other areas.

The Task Force has identified a critical need to implement a holistic policy to support the AVGC-XR sector in realising its true potential and making India a leading global player.

Thus, the Task Force also prepared and submitted the Draft of a National Policy for different stakeholders of the sector at National level, along with a Model State Policy, which deal with issues at the State & local level.

The report is available on the website of the Ministry (https://mib.gov.in/films/films-documents).

Doda: DC, SSP visit Eidgahs, Mosques, Market ahead of Eid Ul Fitr

Take stock of sanitation, other facilities



JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 19: To facilitate smooth and hassle free Eid prayers and celebrations across District, the Deputy Commissioner, Visheh Mahajan along with SSP Abdul Quayoom, President MC Doda, Ved Prakash Gupta and a team of officers visited Jamia Masjid and Eidgah, here today.

SE Jal Shakti Department Anil Gupta; EO, MC, Nenad Sen; Officers from MC, JPDCI and other departments accompanied. Later, the DC along with SSP, ADC Bhaderwah Ch. Dilmir, ASP Bhaderwah Kameshwar Puri, EO MC Bhaderwah Youst-Ul-Umar, and others visited Jamia Masjid, and Eidgah in Bhaderwah. They also inspected the market at Bhaderwah. The DC directed the PHE (JSD) and PDD (JKPLC) departments to ensure regular water and electricity supply availability to the people across the district. He also asked the Municipal authorities to ensure sanitation of roads leading to the Eidgah, while the Transport Department was asked to ensure traffic regulation so that people coming to Eidgah don't face any inconvenience.

Kishtwar administration gears up to host Sinthan Festival

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, APRIL 19: The modalities for the successful conduct of the Sinthan Festival were today discussed by the district administration Kishtwar here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The festival is scheduled to take place for two days on 29th April and 30th April 2023 at Sinthan Maidan.

The meeting was attended by senior officers, including ADDC, Sham Lal; ADC, Inderjeet Singh

DC CHAIRS MEETING TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS

Parihar; SDM Paddar, Dr. Rishi Kumar; SDM Chatroo/Marwah, Dr. Mohsin Raza; DPO Kishtwar Sunil Bhatnagar, district and sectoral officers, and officials of Jammu & Kashmir Academy for Art, Culture & Languages.

During the meeting, the officials discussed event wise arrangements including finalizing the list of artists, adventure and cultural activities, besides the preparations for the Kishtwar Idol finale and Kishtwar Gift Box Making



Competition.

The team, including the SDM, DPO, Indian Army, NHIDCL, range officers, and other officials, were directed to conduct a

visit to the locations to fine-tune the arrangements and activity sites.

The meeting also covered various preparatory aspects related to the festival, such as boarding arrangements for artists and participants, establishment of tentage site, security activities, and stalls for local cuisines, among others.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for a smooth and successful conduct of the festival and urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure the same. The officials were directed to make all necessary arrangements and ensure that the festival is a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

DC Srinagar holds consultation session with DDC members/BDC chairpersons/PRI for finalisation of Capex Plan for the Year 2023-24

DC STRESSES ON INNOVATIVE MEASURES ON COMMUNITY ASSET CREATION FOR GREATER COMMON GOOD OF PEOPLE

LAYS EMPHASIS ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AT PANCHAYAT LEVEL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 19: In order to formulate the developmental works plan under DDC/BDC/PRI Grants for Year 2023-24 for Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today held a meeting with members of DDC, BDC and Panchayats of District and concerned District Officers here in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex. Chairman, District



Development Council(DDC) Srinagar, Malik Atif Ahmad and Vice Chairman, DDC, Bilal Ahmad were present on the occasion. At the outset, the meeting was apprised about the sector wise achievements during last fiscal-2022-23, besides the projects of vital importance completed within stipulated time. Physical and financial sta-

innovative programmes in Area Development Programme for the larger interest of the public. He also laid emphasis on establishing Composite Skill Development Centers, Computer Centres and Book Libraries at Panchayat Blocks. The DC exhorted the PRI representatives to take up projects of public importance under current allocation of District Capex to meet the aspirations of the people and make all panchayats self-sustaining and self-supporting institutions.

The DC further asked for taking up the activities in PRI's Grants including Rural Connectivity, Rural Infrastructure, PHE, Irrigation, Agriculture, Power, Health, Education, Developing Area specific potential and Employment plan at Panchayat level.

The DC also urged all the DDC, BDC, other PRI members and District officers to coordinate with each other in formulation of balanced works plans by maintaining the sanctity of the 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj.

In order to ensure proper monitoring and follow up of development works under ADP, the DC stressed on early constitution of the Committees by the PRI members.

During the interaction, several PRI members put forth various issues before the Deputy Commissioner and sought his intervention to address the issues related to de-notification of rural areas from SMC, other jurisdictional issues hampering development process, enhancing quota under IAY scheme, and upgradation of existing infrastructure under PHE, PDD, RDD, Sports, R&B.

DM Jammu restricts use of animal for drawing any vehicle, carrying load between 12 noon to 3:00 PM

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 19: District Magistrate Jammu, under Section 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, has restricted the use or cause to be used of any animal for drawing any vehicle or carrying any load during the period between 12 noon to 3:00 PM.

An order issued here stated "It has been reported that there are instances where certain people are using animals including buffalo, bullock, pony, mule, donkey and camel, among others for carrying loads during the daytime (period between 12 noon and 3:00 PM) amidst high day temperature (exceeding 37°C), resulting into scenario which have the potential of inflicting injury and may even result in death of the animals. Whereas, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965 provide the legal framework to take preventive measures and stringent action against the offenders violating the provisions of the animal welfare legislations.