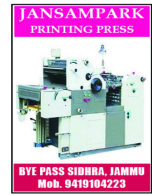




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## 5 soldiers killed in 'terrorist ambush' at Poonch: Army

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Five soldiers were killed in first of its kind 'ambush' on a moving military vehicle by terrorists in Jammu region's Poonch district on Thursday, while a massive hunt has been launched in the area to nab the attackers, defence sources said. They told news agency, around 3.00 pm, suspected terrorists laid an ambush and targeted a moving military truck, which was moving from Bhimber Gali to Sangiot, around 90 kilometers away from the district headquarters Poonch.

Sources said that terrorists managed to stop

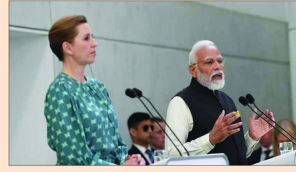


the truck by throwing grenades while another opened calibrated fire towards its fuel tank, triggering a massive blaze in the vehicle.

A defence source said that another group of terrorists also opened fire at on-board soldiers with intention to wound them, so that they were not able to move out of the vehicle. "One army vehicle, moving between Bhimber Gali and Poonch in the Rajouri sector was fired on by unidentified terrorists, taking advantage of heavy rains and low visibility in the area," army's Northern Command said in a statement, adding, "Five personnel of the Rashtriya Rifles Unit deployed for Counter Terrorist operations, in this area, have unfortunately lost their lives in the incident," it said adding, that another soldier is seriously injured who was evacuated immediately to the Army Hospital at Rajouri and is

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## PM Modi speaks with Danish counterpart, appreciates support for India's G20 presidency



**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, APR 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke on the phone with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen during which they reviewed progress in the bilateral Green Strategic Partnership. He also appreciated

her support for India's G20 Presidency. In a tweet, the PM said: "Pleased to speak with PM of Denmark, H.E. Ms. Mette Frederiksen. We reviewed progress in our Green Strategic Partnership and shared ideas on celebrating the 75th anniversary of our

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## India attaches special importance to SCO: HM

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, APR 20

India attaches special importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in promoting dialogue on multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

He said this while chairing a meeting of Heads of Departments of SCO member states responsible for Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations in New Delhi.

He said India's priority as the chair of the SCO is to take forward the SECURE theme articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the

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## ECI revises schedule of J&K's voter revision

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

The Election Commission of India has revised the schedule of special summary revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir. The poll-body, in a letter sent to Jammu & Kashmir chief electoral officer, has approved the proposal sent by him for modifying the schedule of voter revision.

The exercise, which otherwise would have concluded on May 10, would now culminate on May 27.

As per revised sched-

ule, a copy of which is in possession of news agencies, the claims and objections can be filed from April 05 to May 6. The disposal of claims and objections would be done by May 15. The final voter list would be published on May 27.

This is the second voter revision in Jammu and Kashmir in a period of less than one year after culmination of delimitation exercise by a three-member panel headed by former Supreme Court Justice Justice (retd.)

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## B&J hospital Jammu readying for opening after missing deadlines

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

After missing several deadlines, the building of Bone and Joint hospital in Jammu is about to get completed with some services being started at the hospital in May.

As per news agency, the 300 bed B&J hospital Jammu was sanctioned under PMDP in 2018 and work was allotted to R&B Department for Rs 38 crore.

A top health official while talking to KNO said that a G+3 storey hospital building was at completed in two phases

within a period of 24 months and its first deadline was March 2021. But due to Covid, the hospital missed the first deadline. He added that it was given another deadline that the hospital must be completed by March 2022 but it missed the second deadline as well. Accordingly, March 2023 was fixed as the final deadline and the hospital is now near completion, he said.

"Final touch is being given to the works at the hospital and few services like OPD, physiotherapy and electro surgical services will be started at the hospital in May," he said.

He said joint replacement and spine surgeries will be routine at the hospital and patients will no longer need to go outside J&K for such treatments.

In a phased manner, the facilities at the hospital will be enhanced so that patients can get all facilities in their locality, he said, adding that the Hospital will be state of the art hospital equipped with the latest machines and modular OTs.

"Bone and Joint Hospital was a long pending demand of Jammu province and after its completion the patients of

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## All J&K Transport Welfare Association; delegation from Dudu calls on LG Sinha



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

A delegation of All J&K Transport Welfare Association called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

The members of the delegation, led by S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Transport Welfare Association, on behalf of the transport fraternity expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor for fulfilling long

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## Former Minister; National Gold Medallist Powerlifter calls on LG



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister; Surbhi Bali, National Gold Medallist Powerlifter from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today. Sukhmandan Choudhary apprised the

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## No witness about moon sighting received in J&K; Eid to be celebrated on Saturday: Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

Jammu and Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Thursday said that no witness from any part of the J&K was received about moon sighting and hence a consensus was reached that the Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Saturday.

"No evidences or any witness was received from any part of J&K about the sighting of the moon. Hence, Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Saturday," Grand Mufti told news agency.

He said the decision to



announce Eid-ul-Fitr on Saturday was taken after consensus with the Ulema from Kashmir and Jammu region respectively that include head of Mutaahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, patron of Darul Uloom Rahimiya

Bandipora, Moulana Rehmatullah Qasimi, also from Darul Uloom Bandipora Mufti Nazir Ahmed Qasmi, Mufti Muzaffar, Mufti Abdur Raheem via Baramulla. Khateeb at the shrine of Hazrat Naqshband Sahab (RA) Prof Muhammad Tayib Kamili, Chairman Karwani-e-Islami Ghulam Rasool Hami, from Santull Aaliya Fayaz Ahmed Rizvi, Shia Scholars Aga Syed Al Hassan Mosvi, Aga Syed Haadi and Masoor Abbas Ansari, Muhammad Yaseen Kirmani, Gen Sec Muslim Personal Law

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## G-20 Summit CS directs for accelerating pace of work to meet deadlines

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

In order to take stock of developmental works being carried out in view of hosting G-20 at Srinagar and preparations for Eid-ul-Fitr, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Thursday conducted an extensive tour of the Srinagar city to make on spot appraisal of ongoing developmental works.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Commissioner SMC & CEO Srinagar Smart



City; VC Lakes Conservation and Management Authority; Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City Ltd and other officers from line departments besides from Police and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## HC quashes detention of Journalist Fahad Shah

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

The High Court on Thursday quashed the detention of a journalist Fahad Shah and directed the authorities to release him forthwith.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nagral has said that Fahad should be "set at liberty forthwith if not required in any other case."

"In the present case, the procedural requirement has not been followed and complied with by respondents in letter and spirit and as a corollary thereof, the petition is required to be allowed and the detention order

is liable to be quashed," the Court said, as per the news agency.

The Court also said no compelling reasons have been given or shown by the detaining authority while passing the detention order against Shah when he was already in custody and under an FIR in which no bail had been granted. "In absence of any compelling reasons, the order of detention cannot sustain the test of law," the court said.

On March 3, 2022, the District Magistrate Srinagar had passed an order under section 8 of the Jammu and

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## Avalanche warning issued to 8 districts

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

The authorities on Thursday issued avalanche warning to 8 districts of Jammu and Kashmir amid inclement weather conditions.

According to a communicate, 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 above 2400 to 3200 metres above sea level in

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## Party of nationalists, BJP is a true friend of everyone: Ashok Koul

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDHAI, RAJOURI, APR 20

Bharatiya Janata Party, (BJP) led by Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Org.) held an organizational meeting of Budhail constituency, at Dak Bungalow, Kotranka.

Dev Raj Sharma, BJP senior leader and Incharge Budhail Constituency, organized the meeting. Jugal Kishore Dogra (Prabhari District Rajouri), and Dinesh Sharma (District President Rajouri) were the other prominent BJP



leaders present on the occasion. Retired Army personnel Naik Yash Paul Sharma, Naik Faiz Mohammed, Naik Subhash Chander, Sepoy Mohd Gafoor, Naik Mohan Lal Sharma, Sepoy Harshdeep Singh, Sepoy Mohd Jameel, Naik Indrajeet Sharma, Capt Kabul Singh, Daleep Singh (Ex Sarpanch Sakri).

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Kathua School gets facelift after class 3 student's video appeal to PM goes viral

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, JAMMU, APR 20

Days after a Class 3 student urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a video message to ensure basic facilities at her school in Kathua district, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has started work to give it a facelift.

Seerat Naaz's appeal in a video to the prime minister last week, which was shared widely on social media, prompted Director of School Education, Jammu, Ravi Shankar



Sharma to visit the government school in the remote Lohal-Malhar block.

"Assalam Alaikum Modiji. Kaisa ho aap... aap sab ki baat suntye ho,

meri bhi baat suno (Hello, Modiji. How are you? You listen to everyone, please listen to me also)." Naaz said in the beginning of her over four-minute video.

Speaking about the dilapidated condition of the school, Naaz said students are forced to sit on dirty floors, which often stain their uniforms. She also highlighted the bad condition of the toilets, problems of open defecation and the unfinished construction work of the building.

"You listen to the entire nation, please listen to me as well and build a nice school for us so that we can continue our

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

# GCW Udhampur holds Geographical tour

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 20: A group of college students of 2nd semester of Geography from GCW Udhampur recently embarked on a geographical tour to tourist destination ,Patnitop under the guidance and support of Principal Dr. Monika Sharma.

HoD chemistry Prof. Kewal Kumar along with senior faculties formally flagged off the tour at college campus.

The tour organized by the college's Geography Department, aimed to expose the students to the physical, cultural, and economic aspects of the area and its surrounding regions.

The geography tour began with an introduction to the hill station's geography and topography. The students were fascinated by the diverse Relief Features, flora and fauna of the region They also learned about the hill station, which is characterized by its rugged terrain, deep valleys, and steep slopes.

The students also learned about the economic significance of the hill station and its surrounding regions. The hill station is a major tourist destination,



attracting visitors from all over the world. The students visited local hotels and restaurants and learned about the hospitality industry and its role in the local economy. They also learned about the agriculture and forestry industries, which are important sources of income for the local community.

The geography tour was not only an opportunity for the students to learn about the physical, cultural, and economic aspects of the hill station but also to develop important skills such as teamwork, leadership, and communication. The students worked together to plan and execute the tour,

taking on different roles and responsibilities. They also had the opportunity to interact with each other and develop meaningful relationships that will last long after the tour has ended. The college's Geography Department is proud of the success of the geography tour and hopes to organize similar tours in the future.

The tour was a testament to the department's commitment to providing students with a well-rounded and comprehensive education that prepares them for the challenges of the real world.

The staff members who graced the study tour were

Prof.Yash Paul (HOD History), Mr. Arun Gupta ( Librarian) Prof.Raheev Singh (HOD EVS), Prof.Pooja Bharti (HOD Geography), Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Music), Mr. Jaswant Singh ( Lecturer Geography),Ms. Sonakshi (Lecturer Geography).

Non-teaching staff Who accompanied the tour were Mr.Girdhari Lal (Lab Assistant), Mr Balbir Singh (Lab Attendant) and Kuanmi Rectu ( Lab Attendant), Department of Geography, Govt. College for Women Udhampur

Thank all the teaching and non teaching staff members and all the students for making the event a success.

# Modi setting an unparalleled example of development: Vibodh

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary J&K Vibodh Gupta chaired the organizational meeting of BJP District Jammu South regarding the upcoming program of the 100th episode of PM Mann ki Baat organized by District President BJP Jammu South Rekha Mahajan in the esteemed presence of Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billowaria, Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Sec Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, Co incharge Mann ki Baat J&K Sanjay Baru also shared their views.

District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and Pushpinder Singh, District Incharge Mann ki Baat Narinder Gupta, Mandal Presidents, Mandal Incharges of Maan ki Baat were present in the meeting.

Former MLC Vibodh Gupta demanded an unconditional apology from Rahul Gandhi

for his 'Modi surname' remark after the Surat sessions court dismissed an



appeal by him for a stay on his conviction in the criminal defamation case.

He further asserted that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed Indian political culture by ending Congress's Vanshvaad and setting up an unparalleled example of Vikasvad.

He said BJP promoted Atam Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India), Skill India, and Startup India while Congress encouraged Corruption, Criminals, and Conspiracies against the country.

On one side there is the BJP and its leaders who are marching ahead with the agenda of development, while on the other hand,

there are Congress leaders who want to deflect public attention from development," said Vibodh.

Sanjay Baru said to party cadres to celebrate the 100th episode of PM Mann ki Baat in a grand slam manner throughout Jammu District South and also reach out to the general populace at the ground level.

Rekha asserted that the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat, which is going to take place on 30 April, 2023, On this 100th anniversary of the radio program, it will not only listen to India but also the rest of the world.

The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) is also in full prepara-

tion mode. Rekha directed all Mandal presidents to commemorate the event like a festival in all wards as well as in booth-level plummets under Jammu District South and make the public aware of it and organize this program by staying in the middle of every class of society. She emphasized that Mann Ki Baat's hundredth show will go on the air.

The BJP is getting ready to broadcast the 100th episode in more than one lakh booths to make it a triumph, Rekha said.

Akash Chopra conducted the proceedings of the program and the Vote of thanks presented by Pushpinder Singh.

# Dy Mayor inaugurates Junior Delhi School

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated the Junior Delhi School at Sector-7 Channi Himmat in Bahu constituency.

Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria was the Chief Guest and the Chairman Senior & Junior Delhi School, Vishva Deepak Gupta, Member Gandhi Global Family Amit Verma was the special guest of honor.

The Deputy Mayor and the special guest of honour jointly inaugurated the school by cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor of Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the Junior Delhi School will provide quality education with best practices and modern techniques. He also praised Director Junior Delhi School, Monika Narula for her work and dedication towards this project. Deputy Mayor of Jammu praised the initiative taken by the school director, saying, "This is a great achievement for our



youth and a clear indication of our commitment to the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

He said that it is our utmost priority to provide best education and learning environment for the children and Junior Delhi School is the start of something great for the children of Jammu. Deputy Mayor of Jammu expressed his confidence that the school will become a benchmark of excellence in the city. He said that the school will also promote values and culture of Jammu. He further added that the school will provide quality educa-

tion to the kids, allowing them to develop the skills necessary for building a better tomorrow". The Deputy Mayor of Jammu also encouraged the teachers and staff of the school to providing quality education to the students.

The Deputy Mayor was accompanied by the special guest of honour, Vishva Deepak Gupta, who praised the school and said, "It is heartening to see the efforts taken to ensure the children of Jammu get access to quality education. The Director of the Junior Delhi School", Monika Narula, expressed her grat-

itude to the Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, for gracing the event with his presence, and to all the guests for taking the time to be present at the opening. She said that the Junior Delhi Public School provides an environment that is conducive to learning, creativity and the teachers are well trained and they focus on the overall development of the children. The school also provides various activities like sports, music, art, and drama to ensure that the students get the best out of their education.

# GCOE organized Demonstration-cum-Awareness programme on Disaster Management

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: NSS unit of Govt. College of Education, Jammu in collaboration with State Disaster Response Force organised a demonstration-cum-awareness programme on Disaster Management and Safety measures under the patronage of Prof. Akta Gupta, Principal, GCOE. The awareness program offered a platform to all students and faculty of the college to get aware about the latest technology being used in Disaster Management, advance equipment and to share their best practices. Prof. Akta Gupta said the goal of this program was to mitigate the risk of natural disasters that has the potential to result in property damage and personal injury.

Speaking on the occasion, Dy SP Arvinder Kotwal said that it is not a



hidden fact that Jammu and Kashmir is prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, landslides and snowstorms. Every year J&K faces several deaths and destruction by the impact of natural disasters or extreme weather conditions. Dr. Shubhra Janwal, NSS PO thanked the skilled team of SDRF on behalf of GCOE, Jammu for imparting the knowledge

about the same to staff and students. Sh. Sudershan Sharma, Sh. Sunil Sharma, Sh.Vikas Sharma elaborated that the colleges takes these kinds of emergencies on a serious note and is all prepared for such situations. Mock Drill with first aid methods was also performed in the college premises in order to create awareness among the students and staff during any

disaster. The programme was attended by the students and faculty members Prof. Anju Bala, Dr. Shalini Rana,Dr. Shalini Sharma,Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Shania Shameem, Prof. Neeraj Verma and Prof. Seema Kumari, Prof. Sunita Devi, Prof. Vinay Lata, and non-teaching staff of the college also attended the program.

# BJP committed to support genuine demand of every aggrieved: Sham Lal Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APR 20: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice President & former Minister assured a PHE deputation that the BJP stands with the every aggrieved. BJP has pursued their case positively at every level required. He

assured them that the party would support them in every genuine demand. Accompanied by BJP Library Incharge Kulbhushan Mohtra and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Incharge Er. Dil Bahadur Janwal, Sham Lal Sharma was listening to the grievances of a large number of

people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP has always tried to reach out to public and know their issues well in order to sort them out in time bound manner. BJP is pursuing the same

problem solving approach while conducting these camps at party headquarters," said Sham Lal Sharma. Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances. They narrated their woes and sought kind intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved.

Besides general issues, a number of deputations representing different issues of PHE workers, requested their grievances redressal. Sham Lal Sharma gave patient hearings to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

# BJP scared of Assembly Polls in J&K: Harsh Dev

JJ NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APR 20: Pointing towards the fresh exercise initiated in J&K for revision of electoral roll Mr. Harsh Dev, Former Minister and JKNPP President said that it was yet another egregious move to avoid the state elections for vested political reasons. He said that having failed to deliver and to redeem its promises the BJP was trying to postpone elections on one pretext or the other. Having antagonized its own electorates as well, the BJP was trying hard to buy time and thereby resorting to delay and deny tactics over the issue of conduct of Assembly elections in J&K. Scared that the people in the wake of its multiple betrayals with peoples' cause, it preferred

repeated postponement of polls and continuation of its proxy rule in the UT, said Mr. Singh. He was addressing public meetings in Barneem and Dhandhal East in Chenani constituency today. Reiterating the need for the early elections to J&K Legislative Assembly in J&K, Mr. Singh said that any delay in this regard would not only amount to subversion of democracy but also violate the orders of the Supreme Court. "The people could not be deprived of their democratic rights in the state only for the political inexpedien-

cies of the ruling party at the centre by taking to frivolous excuses", said Mr. Singh. He said that a full time elected govt was a must to deal with the armed insurgency in the erstwhile state besides coping with the multiple issues confronting the UT. The militancy which had erupted in early 90s in J&K had gradually subsided after the formation of an elected govt in the state. It had almost died down during popular govts but unfortunately got revived during the centre's proxy rule. Any delay therefore in handing over power to the sons of soil through free and fair elections could prove counterproductive and further complicate the already volatile situation in the UT said Harsh. Pointing towards the growing tensions in various parts of the UT and the failure of administration to come up to the peoples' expectations, Mr. Singh said that bureaucratic rule was no answer to the prevalent crisis. The LG administration had lost contact with the masses. The unemployed, semi-employed and contractuals were on the roads with none to even take note of their sufferings and grievances. The people inhabiting the rural areas were suffering badly for basic amenities with no access whatsoever to the corridors of power. With hardly any room to ventilate their grievances, the people were suffering badly in the absence of a popular govt thereby resulting in growing alienation amongst the masses.

# JKNC distributes stationery, sweets to children

NC always remained on fore-front to help poor: Abrol

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: On the eve of Eid Festival Ankhush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District Urban JKNC, today organized a programme at Qasim Nagar here wherein they distributed copies, pencils, Pencil Boxes, pen and sweet items to deprived children.

The programme was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma and Ankhush Abrol was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Abrol said, "National Conference has been doing social works from time to time and always remains on the front to help the needy persons indiscriminately."

He further said that the Party President, Jenab Dr.



Farooq Abdullah was always keen and encourages party workers to help the community irrespective of caste, creed or color. He assured that in future such functions shall also be organised in the interest of indigent and needy persons.

Dr. Vikas Sharma also spoke and elaborated upon the priorities enlisted by the party for development and welfare of masses.

He also said, "We stand

committed for secularism and social equality. The National Conference has a legacy of serving the poor and weaker sections of the society which was started by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah."

Highlighting achievements under NC rule, especially during the times of Sher-e-Kashmir Jb-Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jb. Omar Abdullah, he said "lots of revolutionary steps in Jammu & Kashmir were initiated to inculcate the spirit of Unity, Integrity, Prosperity as well as brotherhood to work for overall development/welfare of the people of J&K, in general and especially the downtrodden sections of the society in particular."

Others who spoke on the occasion were Ashwani Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Ram Singh, and others.

# Kavinder meets Maharashtra CM Shinde, seeks cooperation for tourism promotion

J I NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, APR 20: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday called on Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at his office in Mumbai and sought cooperation for tourism promotion in J&K.

At the outset of the meeting, Kavinder discussed the present political scenario and prevalence of long lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He told Maharashtra Chief Minister that all the bottlenecks which were hindering the occurrence of tranquility have been removed by the Modi Government by taking revolutionary steps since 2014 with abrogation of Article 370 being the turning point in 2019.

The senior BJP functionary from J&K urged Shinde to rope in Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to give impetus to the tourism sector in J&K as cooperation between



MTDC and its counterpart in J&K can boost tourism in a big way. He said that the atmosphere in J&K has become conducive for tourism as there is complete peace and normalcy.

Apprising Shinde that the UT is now gearing up for the ensuing Shri Amarnathji Yatra beginning from July 1, 2023, Kavinder invited him to join the annual pilgrimage and see the difference himself. Earlier, Shinde felicitated Kavinder Gupta after

visiting the Valley. He said that the atmosphere in J&K has become conducive for tourism as there is complete peace and normalcy.

Apprising Shinde that the UT is now gearing up for the ensuing Shri Amarnathji Yatra beginning from July 1, 2023, Kavinder invited him to join the annual pilgrimage and see the difference himself. Earlier, Shinde felicitated Kavinder Gupta after

he visited Maharashtra CM's office.

After giving patient hearing to J&K's former deputy chief minister, the Maharashtra Chief Minister assured full support in promoting tourism through out of the box initiatives. He also accepted the invitation to become part of annual Amarnathji Yatra and also visit to the Valley to see the beauty of Paradise on earth.

# Laghu Udyog Bharati will going to organize Investors Meet on Apr 23

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Laghu Udyog Bharati today held a press conference under the leadership of J&K President Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Parveen Gupta accompanied by Seh-Prabhari Rajinder Gupta, Vice President Advocate Ishant Gupta, Vice President Mukul Mahajan, Secretary Aagam Jain, and Treasurer CA Pranav Gupta.

Parveen Gupta, while briefing, said that Laghu Udyog Bharati is going to organize MSME North Zone Conclave - 2023 and Investors Meet in Jammu as on Sunday, 23 April 2023 at KC Regalia, Banquet Hall situated at Trikuta Nagar near Bahu Plaza, Jammu. He said that the programme is going to be start at 09:30 AM covering the First Session upto 11:40 AM in which Union Minister of State for Culture, GOI Arjun Ram Meghwal will going to be the special guest accompanied by Member Parliament Jammu-Poonch Jugal Kishore Sharma, and BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina, there after Second Session starts at 11:40 AM upto 3:00 PM in which officials from Ministry of Defence and Railways will be going to address. Gupta further added that the main and important session i.e Third Session named as "Investors Meet" starts at 03:00 PM upto 05:30 PM in which His Excellency



Lieutenant Governor, UT J&K Manoj Sinha will be the Chief Guest, Seh Sarkaryavah, RSS Dr. Krishan Gopal will be the main speaker, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GOI Narayan Rane will be Guest of Honor, all accompanied by Laghu Udyog Bharati National th and 25th President Baldevbhai Prajapati. He said worthy delegates around 300 across the country will go to attend the mega event and around 200 delegates are from J&K.

On 24 April, 2023 there will be an internal organizational meeting "National Executive" will be held this time in Jammu at Hotel KC Residency in which 165 office bearers and executive members will going to participate.

Under the supervision and guidance of Seh Sarkaryavah, RSS Dr. Krishan Gopal, the national executive meeting will be held to discuss about future programme and

strategies to strengthen the organisation and how to work for the welfare of MSMEs. Parveen Gupta said that Laghu Udyog Bharati is a registered all India organization in service of Micro, Small and Medium Industries in India since 1994. He further added that today, Laghu Udyog Bharati has its membership spread over the length and breadth of the country. It has over 40,000 (forty thousand) members across the country and has operations in more than 550 Districts with 750 Industrial Estates all over the Country.

He said that the main objectivity of Laghu Udyog Bharati is fighting the various ills plaguing the sector and to remove impediments coming in the way to MSMEs, encouraging new Entrepreneur's especially young encouraging new Entrepreneur's especially self-employment, organizing seminars, conferences, debates, Participation in

Trade-Fairs and Exhibitions for better exposure, and overall sustainable growth of Micro, Small & Medium Industries resulting in sustainable growth of country. Gupta Further added that Laghu Udyog Bharati is being represented in all the important Committees/Boards/ Agencies constituted by the Government of India concerning MSMEs.

Ishant Gupta appeals to all the investors, industrialists especially young entrepreneurs who wish to set up a new industrial unit to come forward and participate in the event and get an opportunity and exposure of interacting with the industrialist from across the country and dignitaries.

He further requests all the Electronic and Print Media, Local as well as National to provide a good and vast coverage of the whole event and deputate their representative on the day of event.

# Yudhvir listen public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President today listened to the public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior BJP leader said that the Party is committed to serve the nation, society and especially the needy persons in every tough hour in their every need. For this the party has taken initiative to let them share their issues with the party leadership so that their issues could be sorted out at the earliest.

He further said, "In order to augment the service to the masses, party leaders are putting their constant efforts in providing solutions to the problems faced by the public in the grievances camps." During the camp, people from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan in the form of deputations to represent the issues of their



respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership. Main issues presented were related to the installation of Ration card, verification of land titles, transformer issues, electric poles, street lights,

repair of lanes/ roads, job issues etc. Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, Sethi telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and assured them that their issues would be addressed soon.

# Party of nationalists, BJP is a true friend of everyone: Ashok Koul

Retired Army personnel join BJP in presence of Ashok Koul



J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDHAL, APR 20: Bharatiya Janata Party, (BJP) led by Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Org.) held an organizational meeting of Budhal constituency at "Dak Bangalow, Kotranaka.

Dev Raj Sharma, BJP senior leader and Incharge Budhal Constituency, organized the meeting, Jugal Kishore Dogra (Prabhari District Rajouri), and Dinesh Sharma (District President Rajouri) were the other prominent BJP leaders present on the occasion.

Retired Army personnel Naik Yash Paul Sharma, Naik Faiz Mohammed,

Naik Subhash Chander, Sepoy Mohd Gafour, Naik Mohan Lal Sharma, Sepoy Hardeh Singh, Sepoy Mohd Jameel, Naik Inderjeet Sharma, Capt Kabul Singh, Daleep Singh (Ex Sarpanch Sakri), Prem Singh (Member Panchayat Dhar sakri) and others were amongst the prominent to join BJP on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while welcoming the new entrants praised the Army personnel for their bravery to serve the Nation at the frontier. He said that the residents of a great Nation could think of development and worldly pleasures, when a Jawan sacrifices own life very far away

from near and dear ones. He said that the Indian forces have always brought great name to the Nation and saluted them from the core of heart.

Similarly, Koul said, BJP is a party of hardcore nationalists who sacrifice

their own personal benefits and desires for the good of society and the Nation. He said that BJP under the strong leadership of Modi ji has proved itself to be a friend of everyone and has framed effective policies to meet the needs of every downtrodden.

Koul welcomed all the new entrants, while wishing them good luck with the new endeavour in the political life and expressed satisfaction that the brave Army Jawans have chosen BJP for their dedicated services.

Dev Raj Sharma assured the senior leadership that the new entrants will work for the welfare of the party and the society.

Jugal Kishore Dogra asked the new entrants to study the party principles and policies well while serving the party.

# Chandel condemns Poonch terrorist attack

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Hinduist BJP leader Mr. Raju Chandel while talking to journalists in Jammu today said that

Five jawans killed and another injured in a terrorist attack in Poonch district

Chandel said that the cowardly traitor Pakistan will avenge the death of these Indian soldiers by selectively killing their terrorists.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Chandel said that we have demanded from the Union Defense Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh that all these terrorists who are in the possession of Pakistan, are running their network from there, as soon as possible, another biggest surgical strike car.

These terrorists should be buried in their graves in PoK itself and there should be such a tremendous attack that many ethnic groups of Pakistan remember this surgical strike.



Chandel said that we have to take revenge on the cowardly traitor terrorists of Pakistan by counting the drops of blood of our Indian Army, we will not sit peacefully until these terrorists are counted and defamed.

Chandel demanded from the country's proud Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Pakistan is continuously doing such cowardly acts due to the

death of terrorists, soon G-20 meeting is going to be held in Jammu and Kashmir and Baba Amarnath Yatra.

There is a need to account about 50 companies of soldiers to Jammu and Kashmir in view of the fact that it is going to start and one crore rupees should be given to the martyred soldiers as assistance.

Chandel said that terrorism has almost ended in Jammu and Kashmir, these terrorists have become desperate and in this way they are secretly attacking Hinduist leaders with armies, now the time has come to give a befitting reply to this terrorism.

Chandel said that today, at about 1500 hours, terrorists ambushed an army vehicle moving between Bhimber Gali and Poonch in Rajouri sector, taking advantage of heavy rain and low visibility, in which five Indian soldiers were killed. Veeragti received and other injured are reported

# Div Com Kashmir greets people on Eid ul Fitr

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 20: On the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today extended his greetings to the people of Kashmir.

In his festival message, Div Com Kashmir prayed that this Eid brings peace and prosperity and espouse harmony among citizens.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

**5 soldiers killed...**

under treatment.

The army's statement further added that operations are in progress to locate the perpetrators. Further details are being ascertained.

Meanwhile, defence experts said that the terrorists laid down the trap in a planned manner, leaving very little scope of reaction time for the trained Rashtriya Rifles, who were traveling in the truck. They added that modus operandi of attack is also new to Jammu and Kashmir and it was earlier seen in North East, where terror groups target army and paramilitary convoys on isolated roads.

The attack came at the time when the Jammu and Kashmir government has been preparing for hosting median G20 meetings in Srinagar. Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a detailed security review earlier this week and issued directions to security agencies to work in a coordinated manner for the success of the event.

Moreover, the Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) is going on in New Delhi to deliberate on the country's internal and external security.

Yesterday (April 19) while addressing Army Commander's, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the home for its synergised operations in the Union Territory. The Minister claimed that synergy between the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Police forces and Army in tackling the menace of terrorism led towards stability and peace in the region. The defence minister also commended the Army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed condolence with brave hearts.

"Anguished by the tragedy in Poonch District (J&K), where the Indian Army has lost its brave soldiers after a truck caught fire. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," defence minister tweets.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed anguish over the loss of lives.

"I am deeply anguished by the loss of lives of brave Army personnel in a tragic incident in Poonch. Their rich service to the nation will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families," Lt Sinha tweets. KNO

**PM Modi speaks...**

diplomatic relations in 2024. Appreciate her support for India's ongoing G20 Presidency."

The Danish PM in a tweet said the two leaders had excellent talks on regional and global issues and that Denmark is ready to support India's G20 Presidency.

"Thank you @metarendamodi for good discussions on taking our Green Strategic Partnership even further.

"Also excellent talks on regional and global issues, including India's G20 Presidency. Denmark is ready to support you. #GreenStrategicPartnership."

According to an official statement, PM Modi congratulated PM Frederiksen on her appointment as the Prime Minister of Denmark for a second term.

"The two leaders reviewed the progress of the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership. They expressed satisfaction at the recent high-level exchanges and the growing cooperation."

"PM briefed PM Frederiksen on India's ongoing Presidency of the G20 and its key priorities. PM Frederiksen appreciated India's initiatives and conveyed Denmark's full support to them."

"The two leaders agreed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the India-Denmark relations next year in 2024 in a befitting manner and to explore areas to diversify their relations further."

**India attaches special...**

Qingdao Summit of the grouping in 2018.

SECURE stands S - Security, E - Economic Cooperation, C - Connectivity, U - Unity, R - Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and E - Environment Protection.

Under the leadership of Modi, India attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects, an official statement said.

Shah said India attaches special importance to disaster risk reduction and is ready to share its expertise and experience in this field for greater cooperation and mutual trust among SCO member states.

He said India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind.

Shah said India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved.

He said the forecast not only warns India about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is likely to cause. According to Shah, at the time of a natural disaster, it is of great importance how quickly the relief reaches the affected area and this speed reflects the preparedness of the team and the efficiency of their training.

He said India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 and playing an important role as an observer country, since then.

At the 17th Summit in 2017, India became a full member of the SCO as part of an important step in the process of expansion of this organization.

Shah said it is a matter of pride that India is donning the mantle of the chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the very first time since becoming a full-fledged member state in 2017.

He said the SCO will probably be the largest regional organisation in the world at this time, representing 40 per cent of the global population, 25 per cent of the global GDP and 22 per cent of the world's total land area. Today, the SCO has developed into an international organization and it has provided an excellent platform for harmonising cooperation with all member countries, he said.

Shah said each and every life, family and their livelihood are priceless and all possible efforts should be made to protect it.

He said India's approach to early warning system is people-centric. "We want to ensure that our forecasting and warning system is not just scientifically advanced but it is also communicated in a manner that is understandable, usable and actionable by common people."



The home minister said there was a time when cyclonic storms in India used to cause huge loss of life and property, but, India has made "community empowerment" the basis of its efforts, due to which the damage caused by cyclones has been reduced, which is being appreciated by the whole world today.

He said India has taken several important initiatives of international cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction.

He said the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) today has 39 members from across the world.

The CDRI is working with member countries to ensure that all investments in infrastructure is made in a manner that it makes our infrastructure resilient to disasters, thereby securing not just our present but also our future. Along with this, CDRI is placing particular emphasis on some of the most vulnerable regions of the world, such as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Also, on India's initiative, a Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction has been constituted at the G20, and the first meeting of this group was held recently in Gandhinagar in Gujarat, he said.

The home minister said the "Tsunami Early Warning System" for the Indian Ocean Rim Countries established by the Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS) serves not just India but nearly two dozen other countries.

Along with this, he said, India has hosted joint bilateral exercises with SAARC, BIMSTEC, and SCO countries. (Agencies)

**ECI revises schedule...**

Ranjana Desai. The delimitation exercise concluded on May 5, 2022 by the panel when it unveiled the final electoral map of J&K, Jammu & Kashmir is without an elected government for almost five years.

The erstwhile state is under the central rule for June 19, 2018 when BJP withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led government, citing "deteriorating security situation" in J&K. KNO

**B&J hospital...**

whole Jammu province as well as the neighbouring States of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh shall be benefited and patients of Jammu province will no longer have to go to outside the State for specialized orthopaedic treatment," he said.

The proposal for creation of posts of all cadres for the Bone & Joint Hospital has already been submitted to the Administrative Department, he said. KNO

**All J&K Transport...**

pending demands.

A delegation from Dudu comprised of Thakur Hans Raj, President Kailash Kund Yatra Committee and PRI members called on Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of demands.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues put forth by them during the interaction. KNO

**Former Minister...**

Lt Governor about various concerning issues of registered vendors and suppliers working with the Rural Development department.

Surbhi Bhal discussed with the Lt Governor various matters pertaining to promotion of sports and implementation of Sports Policy in J&K. KNO

**No witness about...**

Board, Mufti Himayon, Shabir Ahmed Geelani, Abdur Hameed Nayemti, Moulana Younus and Abdur Rehman Ashrafi from Qazigund. From Jammu, Ulema's who were part of the consensus include Mufti Nazir Ahmed, Mufti Shabir Ahmed Noori, Qari Ali Hussain, Haji Muhammad Shaif Nasri, Mufti Lyqat Ali Rajouri, Master Ashraf from Kathua, Moulana Muzaffar Hussain Rizvi from Jammu, Moulana Shaif Rizvi from Samba, Mufti Muhammad Iqbal from Poonch, Hafiz Syed Yasir from Udhampur, Bashir Ahmed Qadri and Reasi and Haji Muhammad Tariq from Jammu.-(KNO)

**CS directs for...**

Traffic departments.

During the tour, the Chief Secretary visited IG Road, Jhelum Riverfront Development Project, Residency Road, Maulana Azad Road, Cupkar Junction, Boulevard Footpath, Nishat Garden precinct, Northern Foreshore Road including cycle track, Shalimar Canal and Dargah-Hazratbal Shrine.

Dr. Mehta while taking stock of the works carried out at all these locations directed the concerned officers to further accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of all these projects within fixed deadlines.

He also directed to make all necessary arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr festival including sanitation, cleaning, traffic management etc.

Reviewing the progress of Dal Lake cleaning at Nishat precinct, the Chief Secretary directed the VC, LC&MA to expedite the Houseboat sewerage connections and cleanliness of remaining patches of Dal with special focus on shoreline. He also directed him to start water sports activities in Hazratbal basin by 15th of May.

The VC, LC&MA apprised the Chief Secretary that the EOJ is being floated by I&FC and Tourism Departments shortly. He further revealed that the activities identified for water sports include Waterpark, Jet skies, Zorbing balls, Parasailing etc.

Later, Dr Mehta visited Hazratbal Shrine where he gave necessary directions to the concerned officers for face-lifting of compound wall and other make-over works for the comfort of the devotees. KNO

**HC quashes detention...**

Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, placing Shah under preventive detention to "prevent him from indulging in the activities which are prejudicial to the maintenance of public order."

During arguments, counsel for Shah, N. A. Ronga, described the allegations against Shah as baseless,

**Eid prayers to be held at Jamia after 3 years**

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

Anjuman Aulqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar Thursday announced that due to inclement weather and water logging at historic Eidgah Srinagar, Eid-ul-Fitr prayer will be held at 9:00 at Jama Masjid Srinagar.

The Eid prayers will be held at Jamia Masjid after the gap of three years.

In a statement issued to the news agency, Anjuman urged Muslims to pay Sadaqah Fitr, which is fixed at Rs 65 per person, before Eid prayer so that deserving people also join Eid festivities.

Anjuman strongly demanded unconditional release of its detained head Farooq-e-Kashmir Dr Mouli Muhammad Umar Farooq before Eid. KNO

**Three drug peddlers arrested in Kashmir: Police**

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three drug peddlers in Handwara & Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Handwara, a police party of Police Post Zachaldara at a checkpoint established at Sultapura crossing intercepted 02 suspicious persons who tried to flee from the spot on seeing the police party but were apprehended tactfully, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

During search, 45 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Farooq Ahmad Dar @jungle son of Mohd Sultan resident of Lachipora and Bilal Ahmad Khan son of Mohammad Anwar Khan resident of Wadipora. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody, police said.

In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Chadoora at a checkpoint established at Nowpora Chadoora, intercepted a suspicious person carrying a nylon bag. During search of the said bag, Poppy Straw weighing about 18 Kgs was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Ahanger Son of Gulham Mohiuddin resident of Watakal Charar shareef. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody. After sustained questioning, on his disclosure 08 more nylon bags containing Poppy Straw weighing about 125 Kgs were recovered from deserted shed located at Nowpora Chadoora, police added. Accordingly, police said that the cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigation has been initiated.

"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

unfounded vague and without any substance, saying there is not an iota of truth in the allegations.

Shah was arrested on February 2, 2022, by Jammu and Kashmir police in Pulwama district and booked under Section 13 of ULA (P), section 124A and Section 505 IPC. Shah filed a bail application before a Court in Pulwama and he was granted bail. However, when the order of the Court was served upon the police concerned, they did not release him and shifted him to the Police Station Imam Sahib Shopian.

In Shopian, an FIR under sections 153 and 505 of the IPC was registered against him. In this case, he filed a bail application before the Court and was granted bail. But he was not released by the police and was shifted to the Safakadal area of Srinagar. At the police station, Safakadal another FIR was registered against him. While in custody at Safakadal, the district magistrate Srinagar passed a detention order against Shah.

Ronga argued Shah was not provided with a copy of the dossier, material or other records including the copies of FIRs that have been referred to and relied upon by the detaining authority while framing grounds of detention and passing the detention order. "Thus he was deprived of his constitutional and legal right of making a meaningful and effective representation against his detention."

He also said since the bail was not granted in the FIR registered at the police station Safakadal against Shah there was no reason to detain him under J&K Public Safety Act. KNO

**Party of nationalists...**

Prem Singh (Member Panchayat Dhar sakri) and others were amongst the prominent to join BJP on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while welcoming the new entrants praised the Army personnel for their bravery to serve the Nation at the frontier. He said that the residents of a great Nation could think of development and worldly pleasures, when a Jawan sacrifices own life very far away from near and dear ones. He said that the Indian forces have always brought great name to the Nation and saved them from the core of heart.

Similarly, Koul said, BJP is a party of hardcore nationalists who sacrifice their own personal benefits and desires for the good of society and the Nation. He said that BJP under the strong leadership of Modi ji has proved itself to be a friend of everyone and has framed effective policies to meet the needs of every downtrodden.

Koul welcomed all the new entrants, while wishing them good luck with the new endeavour in the political life and expressed satisfaction that the brave Army Jawans have chosen BJP for their dedicated services.

Dev Raj Shanta assured the senior leadership that the new entrants will work for the welfare of the party and the society.

**Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil distributes relief among Hazratbal fire-hit families**

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil while expressing grief over the damage to six residential houses and several shops in a recent fire incident at a complex outside Kashmir University in Hazratbal, expressed heartfelt sympathy and solidarity with the victims on behalf of its patron Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Mouli Muhammad Umar Farooq and emphasised the need for immediate rehabilitation of the victims.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, a delegation of Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil, under the leadership of its member Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon, went to the Asar Colony and presented rice, flour, blankets, kitchen kit and other basic necessities to the victims of the Asar Sharif Welfare Committee, and expressed sympathy and solidarity with them.

The Millat-e-Kashmir is aware of the fact that Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil since its inception has been providing financial and material support to the people in need during the calamities without discrimination of caste, creed and religion, and is engaged in the rehabilitation of the victims as much as possible. As such, it has reiterated its appeal to the affluent people to continue supporting this welfare organisation so that it continues with its work of providing help to the needy and affected people. KNO

**Youth jumps from Wayil Bridge on first day of traffic trial; cops save him**

JNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APR 20

The newly-constructed Wayil Bridge in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district was opened for traffic on a trial basis on Wednesday. However, on Thursday, a youth attempted to end his life by jumping into the river from the bridge but his life was saved by two alert cops.

An official told the news agency that the police are trying to ascertain the reason behind the youth's suicide attempt.

The youth (name withheld) is a daily wage worker in the Wildlife Department, the official said, adding that the youth was rescued by the on-duty police personnel of Police Post Gutlibagh Hilal Ahmad and Muzaffar Ahmad.

"The police officers present at the site immediately sprang into action when they saw the youth attempting to end his life. They managed to pull him out of the river and provided first aid to him," the official said, adding that the youth is undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital and his condition is stable. KNO

Jugal Kishore Dogra asked the new entrants to study the party principles and policies well while serving the party.

Dinesh Sharma also welcomed the new entrants and assured them of full support from the BJP family.

**Avalanche warning...**

Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Baramulla, Kupara and Bandipora districts.

The communique also reads that 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

**Kathua School gets...**

education and not get scolded by our mothers for getting our uniforms dirty," the girl said in her passionate appeal to the prime minister.

Taking note of the video clip, the Jammu and Kashmir administration immediately swung into action to give the school a facelift.

"A project worth Rs 91 lakh was sanctioned to upgrade the school on modern lines but the work was stalled due to some issue related to administrative approval. It has now been sorted out and the work is underway," Sharma said after visiting the school.

The official said hundreds of schools are running in the remotest parts of the Union territory and the government has already chalked out a detailed project to ensure proper and modern facilities at all of these schools.

"We have also started constructing 1,000 new kindergartens in all districts of Jammu province, and in the next three to four years, we will be able to ensure the construction of 250 kindergartens in each of the 10 districts (in Jammu province)," he said.

Sharma said there are three types of funding available for improving school infrastructure under UT CAPEX, district CAPEX and Samagra. Over 2,500 projects have been completed under Samagra since 2018, while 6,000 more are in progress.

He said the department is also utilising the UT capex and district capex to ensure the best facilities for the students.

Naaz, who aspires to be an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, said she had made a video and she is happy that her message has received a positive response.

"I made the video myself to share my thoughts with our prime minister. I am glad that action was taken and our school is getting a facelift," she said.

Villagers are also cheerful about the renovation of the school and expressed hopes that it will be developed on modern lines like schools in urban areas. (Agencies)



## Centre committed for overall development of rural areas: Bharat Bhushan

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Jammu today asserted that PM Modi led Govt at the Centre has prioritized the overall development of rural areas with main focus on far flung and remote areas.

While addressing a public meeting in Village and Panchayat Sandhbaan in Marh constituency, the DDC Chairman said that the Union Govt is paying special focus on Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and is determined to give a great fillip to developmental activities. He said that Modi led Govt at the Centre has prioritized the overall development of rural areas with main focus on far flung and remote areas. He said that Modi led Govt stands fully committed to ensure the improvement of roads and infrastructure in rural areas as proper road connectivity is the lifeline for every area and the people living there. In the meeting, the people of the area apprised the



DDC Chairman about the deplorable condition of road from Main Road to Choi. Besides, they also raised serious concern over High School in the Village in which children facing trouble during rainy season while going to school. They said the school has 07 rooms for 11 classes and a

building has to be demolished which is unsafe.

Giving a patient hearing to the people, the DDC Chairman assured to get the same addressed at the earliest by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

Bharat Bhushan also asserted that government

stands fully committed to the development of multiple infrastructure especially its remote and far flung areas. He said that Govt will ensure that all the developmental projects in such areas get completed at the earliest so that these areas along with the villages in their vicinity undergo a complete transformation.

The DDC Chairman apprised the people of the area that the Central Govt has rolled out multiple well-tailored schemes for all sections and categories especially for youth and women. He asked the people to come forward and avail the benefit of the schemes best suited to them. Prominent among those who were present include Rajinder Singh Chib, in-charge of District Jammu Border Cell; Bharat Bhushan Sharma, President of Ghou Manhasan Mandal; Manohar Lal Bhagat, Sohan Lal Sharma, Sushma Saini, Bandhana Sharma, Gharu Ram, Ashwani Singh, Boshan Chauhan, Subhash, Balraj Singh and large number of women of the area.

## BJP Kissan Morcha delegation calls on Atal Dulloo

Assures to work vigorously for promoting organic farming, millet cultivation

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kissan Morcha Jammu and Kashmir headed by Sarabjit Singh Johal, President BJP J&K Kissan Morcha met the Additional Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo here today.

During the meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary, Sarabjit Singh Johal conveyed thanks on behalf of the Kissan Morcha for the financial package of Rs. 5013 cr appropriated for agriculture and allied sector and sanctioned by the Union Govt. He also apprised the ACS about the intense campaigns launched by Jammu and Kashmir's BJP Kissan Morcha across this Union Territory to propagate and promote organic farming besides making the farmers aware about the countless benefits of millet crop cultivation.

During a detailed and healthy discussion between the ACS and the delegation members, Sarabjit Singh told Atal Dulloo that the Kissan Morcha members are receiving a very healthy response from the farmers for shifting to organic farming on the whole and according preference to millet crop cultivation.

He said it was quite encouraging to witness that some farmers had already started shifting to organic farming and many had commenced the cultivation of the millet crop.

He said that these farmers said that Agriculture Department has been



relentlessly educating the farmers of the region about the latest trends in farming and the ways and means to ensure that their incomes get substantially increased in a short span of time.

Atal Dulloo, while lauding the efforts of the Kissan Morcha in augmenting the UT Administration's efforts in bringing a revolution in J&K's farming sector, apprised them of the schemes and projects rolled out by the Govt especially for the farmers.

He asked the Kissan Morcha leaders to leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the benefit of the aforesaid schemes reaches the tail-enders in line. He also assured them full

support of the department's men and machinery in the endeavours launched by them to ameliorate the food producing community.

Sarabjit Singh assured the ACS that Kissan Morcha will vigorously work at the grassroots level to make the movements regarding organic farming and Millet crop cultivation a great success.

Prominent among others present in the delegation were Rakesh Pant General Secretary Kissan Morcha BJP J&K, Vice President Narinder Singh, Rohit Verma, Vice President Darshan Choudhary, Secretary Kulbir Kour, Gurbachan Singh, DDC Member Abhinandan Sharma, Bakshi ji and Ajay Singh ji.

## Zulifkar Malik, Saima Malik awarded for their outstanding contribution in Social Welfare

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 20: The Bhartiya Baudh Sangh an organization that works towards the promotion of Buddhism and social welfare in India honored Sh Zulifkar Malik and Smt Saima Malik Chairman of the National Development Organisation in Jammu and Kashmir with the Dr Ambedkar Ratna 2023 Samman Samaroh Award. The award was presented by the Honorable Union Minister for Rural Development Sh Fagga Singh Kulaste, on behalf of the state government of India Sh Zulifkar Malik was awarded for his outstanding contributions towards social welfare and development in Jammu and Kashmir. He has made significant contributions to improve the lives of people in the region particularly in



the areas of education healthcare and employment. The award ceremony was held at the NDMC Auditorium Palika Kendriya Sansad Marg, New Delhi and was attended by dignitaries including Sh Ven Sangh Priya Rahul, the National President of the Bhartiya Baudh Sangh,

Member of Parliaments and former ministers. During the event Sh Fagga Singh Kulaste commended Sh Zulifkar Malik for his dedication and hard work towards the betterment of society. He also emphasized the importance of recognizing and honoring individuals who

are making a positive impact in people's lives. Sh Ven Sangh Priya Rahul the National President of the Bhartiya Baudh Sangh congratulated Sh Zulifkar Malik on his achievement and expressed his gratitude for his exceptional work in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Modi Govt committed to end scourge of drugs from country: Dr Parneesh

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Urging people to join hands with Modi government for combating drug menace, Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training, BJP J&K said that those steering the country are committed to end this scourge once and for all.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP leader said that the statement given by Home Minister Amit Shah that India will become drugs



free by 2047 holds much significance as the government is focusing on eradicating drug menace by adopting a multipronged strategy to tackle the issue. He said that people should act as ears and eyes of the

government in rooting out this scourge as the same is eating up the vitals of the society.

Dr Parneesh said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has adopted a policy of zero tolerance against drugs and the same will help in effectively countering the menace in the coming days.

"The problem of drug addiction is also a big challenge for national security,

which can be stopped and eliminated only with coordination of all", Dr Parneesh maintained, adding that the Government of India is working extensively for the complete eradication of drug trafficking.

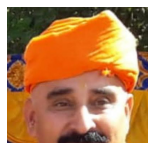
The senior BJP leader said the people should play an active role in this war against drugs as drug abuse not only makes society hollow but money earned from drug smuggling is also a big threat to national security.

## Modi Govt transformed J&K into industrial hub: Raj Rattan

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina said that the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has turned J&K into a new industrial hub capable of generating lakhs of jobs and providing livelihood to numerous souls.

The BJP leader, in a statement issued to media fraternity, said that the target set by Modi government for J&K is worthy and the imagination of the people because the Prime Minister



has special affinity towards the people of the Union Territory and he wanted the people in the region to lead a convenient life full of dig-

nity and pride.

Citing the report that 42 new Industrial Estates are being established in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for which 48,301 kanals of additional land has been earmarked by the Government, Raina said that this is just a tip of an iceberg because the coming time for the people of J&K is going to be the golden period as PM Modi had envisaged lot of things to ensure rejuvenation of the UT providing number of opportunities to the people, who were subjugated

during the reigns of successive governments.

The BJP leader asserted that the new industrial estates have the potential to create over 1.5 lakh jobs making J&K the prime destination for the job aspirants.

He said that all out efforts are being made by the government to bring socio-economic changes in the UT to increase the per capita income of the citizens and make it comparable to the big metro cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi.

## Restore functional Cremation ground to people: RHV to administration

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Restore functional Cremation ground in Purmandal to people, that has been stayed by the administration restricting its use by general public, stressed Rashtriya Hindu Vahini (RHV).

Rajinder Hindu, State President, Rashtriya Hindu Vahini took strong exception to the 'Administrative Order' debarbing the peo-

ple from using the historic and culturally significant cremation ground in Purmandal for the public use.

Rajinder Hindu termed the order as barbaric and colonial in which the orders are just imposed on the public for the better perception of some persons.

He said that the people from all the areas of Jammu region come to perform the last rights of unmarried

young persons in Purmandal with strong belief in rituals. He said that this ritual has been continuing since times unrecorded and it is just unimaginable that how could any order be issued with the implementation of 144 section to forcibly deny people of their religious and cultural right.

Instead, he said, that the DC should discuss the matter with the prominent locals and all the stakeholders with the involvement of religious and cultural representations. He insisted that all the prominent individuals and organizations are in favour of development and the good works in Purmandal initiated on the behalf of administration but the place is originally a centre of belief and culture so it is just senseless to murder the basic foundation of this historic place just on the name of development.

Referring to the criminal activities in these areas, it was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and eradicate other social evils from the society and to take a pledge to serve the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. The participants were stressed to co-operate with Police in maintaining Law and order and identifying anti national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment. The participants appreciated the role of Police for conducting such interactive meetings which further boost community policing and public confidence.

## Police observes Thana Divas in Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 20: As a part of public outreach programme and an initiative by Government of J&K, Police have observed Thana Divas meetings at Police Station Yaripora, Police Station Manzgam, Police Station Devsar, Police Station Kund and Police Station Behibagh.

These 'Thana Divas' meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional Police officers and were attended by the respectable citizens of surrounding areas of Yaripora, Kanchlo, Kanoo, Kund, Palnoo, Matipora, Behibagh, Manzgam, Pahloo, Devsar including respectable members of Auqaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars and Traders Federation. During the meetings, participants

highlighted various issues of public importance. They were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that policing at grass-root level in the district would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people.

Chairing officers while speaking on the occasion, said that Thana Divas is an initiative started by the Government of J&K to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to hear and redress the grievances of common masses and further added that community policing is mandato-

ry to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils.

Referring to the criminal activities in these areas, it was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and eradicate other social evils from the society and to take a pledge to serve the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. The participants were stressed to co-operate with Police in maintaining Law and order and identifying anti national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment. The participants appreciated the role of Police for conducting such interactive meetings which further boost community policing and public confidence.

## Kazmi appeals Govt to regularize Daily Wagers, Anganwari Workers, Home Guards, Rehbar-e-Khel

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 20: Apni Trade Union, J&K President, Ajaz Kazmi has appealed to the Govt to regularize all the daily wagers, need based workers, Anganwari workers, Home Guard, Rehbar-e-Khel and others.

In a statement issued to the press, Ajaz Kazmi expressed serious concern over the delaying policy adopted by the Govt which has triggered uneasiness among the thousands of workers.

"These daily wagers over 61000 have been working in different Govt Depts for the last twenty years and many of them retired from the service without getting any kind of

benefit from the Govt in recognition of their services," he added.

He said that many of the daily wagers working in PDD have lost their lives in the line of duty in Jammu as well as in Kashmir, but the Govt has not taken any humanitarian decision to regularize their services and provide jobs to the next of kins of the deceased daily wagers in the power department.

"These brave daily wagers put their lives at risk during covid19 pandemic when J&K was under lockdown. The Govt should come up with a policy for their families, children to support their education free of cost. These people have served honest-

ly to the people without caring for their lives. Therefore, it becomes imperative for the Govt to regularize them and provide them needed support like it is done in case of a regularize Govt employee," he said.

He said that the daily

wagers are the backbone of the Govt Depts. "Many departments have poor manpower and hence, these daily wagers work during odd hours to make the Govt mechanism function in Jal Shakti, PDD, and other Govt sectors," he stated.

## GDC Kishtwar celebrates World Earth Day

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: World Earth Day was today celebrated by NSS, NCC and Eco-club at Government Degree College Kishtwar under the supervision of Principal of the college, Dr Jyoti Parihar.

On the occasion, a plantation drive was conducted on the college campus. As many as 20 plants of different species were planted by the students and the staff.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Farmers reaping the benefits of peace on borders

Jammu and Kashmir has been facing the challenge of hostile neighbours on its borders, especially with Pakistan. Peace along the International Border and Line of Actual Control has always paid dividends to the people living on both sides of the fence. The year-long ceasefire has started showing its impact on ground with the farmers living close to the border in Jammu and Kashmir right from Chhamb in Jammu district up to areas falling on Zero Line in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district, beginning harvesting. The farmers, who could not cultivate their land for about two decades on Zero Line or near the fence are now jubilant seeing the bumper crop on their fertile land which had over the years turned barren due to non cultivation after continuous border skirmishes and shelling from across the border. The record suggests that the harvesting has been taking place on about 2,300 acres of land spread on two sides of the border fencing. After completion of the harvesting on this side, farmers would undertake harvesting across the fencing on an area of 280 acres of land with the support of BSF. It has also generated a new hope among the border dwellers who had suffered extensively over the years due to loss to human lives, livestock and crops following heavy shelling and firing. Two hostile nations have announced the ceasefire, thereby bringing normalcy in border belts. It is not only agricultural produce which is directly affected due to border skirmish. Blazing Pak cannons, flying mortars and bullets aimed at Indian villages along the International Border and Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir always prompt closure of hundreds of schools due to heavy cross border shelling and firing. The schooling suffers as authorities remain in dilemma about the opening of schools in shelling-prone areas due to "element of surprise" in Pakistan firing. More than 250 government schools remain directly affected due to border firing and shelling on the international border and LOC. For villagers, life is more important than anything else. A chill runs down the spine when Pakistan starts shelling villages on this side of the fence. The parents don't want to risk the lives of their children. The ceasefire has silenced the blazing guns, though temporarily, on the borders which brought cheers on the faces of thousands of affected farmers living along LOC and IB in the UT. The harvesting has already begun and they now expect a bumper crop after a gap of two decades. Definitely, the credit goes to the policy of Government of India, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Government for taking an initiative in ending border skirmishes and paving way for farmers to cultivate their land. According to statistics, around 256 acres of land in the border belt of Kathua near the fence has been cultivated by farmers for the last over two years now. The UT administration, headed by the Lieutenant Governor, local agriculture department and BSF too deserve appreciation.

Economy needs growing gig workforce

THE GIG ECONOMY AND THE GIG WORKER HAVE A CRUCIAL ALLY – THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. WHY? BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT REALISES THAT NO URBAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS A GREATER POTENTIAL TO CREATE JOBS AMONG THE EDUCATED YOUTH THAN THE GIG ECONOMY. NITI AAYOG'S ESTIMATE IS THAT THE NUMBER OF GIG WORKERS WILL GROW FROM 77 LAKH IN 2020-21 TO 2.25 CRORE IN 2029-30.

SUBIR ROY

Thousands of gig workers of Blinkit, the Zomato-owned quick commerce firm engaged in home delivery of consumables ordered online, have been protesting since early April against a new payout policy that they say will halve their monthly income and make it impossible for them to hang on to their jobs. A look at the economics that underlines the whole conflict will tell us why gig workers are important for the economy and why a resolution of the conflict, systemically important, has been elusive till the time of writing.

Earlier, workers used to be paid Rs 50 per order executed. This was first reduced to Rs 25 per order and now it is Rs 15 per order, with the payment varying according to the distance covered. As per the new system, delivering an order requiring travelling, say 5 km, will not fetch the same amount as the one requiring travelling 2 km. If in a day you end up executing more long-distance deliveries and, therefore, fewer orders, then under the old system, you would be worse off than a worker executing more short-distance delivery orders. But it is not so under the new system.

The dispute seems intractable because both the sides appear to be engaged in a do-or-die battle. The workers in question earn so little and they and their families are so dependent on what they earn every day to survive (they are in a daily business as they are not employees earning a salary and enjoying social security benefits, no matter how meagre) that they cannot give up even a tiny bit of their income.

Normally, unorganised workers spread over large areas would have never been able to get sufficiently organised to engage in industrial action. But the same digital technology that created the gig jobs in the first place, by enabling online ordering and payment, has enabled the protesting workers through WhatsApp groups to select location and timing of protests in such a way that their protests deliver the maximum punch.

It is understandable that workers at the bottom of the income ladder earning Rs 500 or a bit more for a 12-hour day and no weekly off cannot negotiate anything at all, but why is Blinkit being so firm? In its own way, it is at the end of the tether. It is losing heavily and unless it cuts back on expenses (workers' earnings is a major head), it will not survive. If it closes down – innumerable startups do – then the workers will have no employer to fight against and zero income to boot.

To understand the underlying reality, it is imperative to comprehend the gig economy landscape. It covers those who engage individually and contractually with businesses which are typically enabled by platforms. The gig



economy has grown along with the spread of the Internet, smartphones, digital technology and, of course, platforms where information is exchanged.

Critically, the gig economy and the gig worker have a crucial ally – the Central Government. Why? Because the government realises that no urban economic activity has a greater potential to create jobs among the educated youth, say those who have been up to high school or thereabouts, than the gig economy. And it goes without saying that for social peace and a stable economic environment in which development can take place, this group of youngsters has to be engaged in delivering a service that helps both themselves and society.

Given the government's interest, Niti Aayog has done a comprehensive report on the subject which looks not just at the opportunities and challenges on hand but also global best practices. The report's aim is threefold – create more job security for these non-formal workers, enable them to be better trained and create an economic environment that can lead to more such non-formal jobs.

Since gig workers thrive and multiply through digital platforms, how can these be taken forward? Through pushing 'platformisation' by simplifying official procedure which they have to go through, by offering financial support to them and spreading social and financial inclusion. Unless more and more people have a minimum amount of spending power and the skill to operate digitally, plus, of course, a decent smartphone, platforms cannot go forward. And unless they do, gig workers cannot

grow in numbers. Niti Aayog's estimate is that the number of gig workers will grow from 77 lakh in 2020-21 to 2.25 crore in 2029-30, that is three times in nine years.

When the government wants the gig economy and platforms to grow, why is Blinkit being contrarian? This is because it is losing money heavily. In Q3 of financial 2023, it lost Rs 288 crore, against a revenue of Rs 300 crore. Such a situation is unsustainable. Things cannot continue the way they have been doing till now as Blinkit is now owned by Zomato, which is listed. So, losses of such dimension can neither be swept under the carpet nor digested.

In January, for the first time, Zomato's bottomline, of course, very carefully defined, turned positive if, and this is a big if, you left out Blinkit. Remember, all this is taking place at a time when investor cash for startups is drying up.

Unless a successful working model for Blinkit-like ventures can be found, platforms cannot be created, for example, for the home delivery of rural, regional and urban street food, or for a passenger-carrying three-wheel scooter. Ideally, you should be able to book a ride on a three-wheeler scooter and pay for it online the same way you book a ride on an Uber car.

Upcoming platforms cannot grow as rapidly as well-fed adolescents do unless they can access institutional finance.

This can be done by the funders financing the platform-based business' working capital, the need for which can be ascertained from the platform itself.

Starship could be a game-changer for space travel

DINESH C. SHARMA

Whatever Twitter CEO Elon Musk does is bound to become a spectacle. The test launch of the Starship rocket built by Musk-owned SpaceX scheduled for April 20 is no exception. The rocket would be the heaviest ever to take off from the earth. It was all set to zoom on its maiden flight on Monday morning, but the launch was called off due to a last-minute hitch during fuel loading though the countdown was continued till 10 seconds before the scheduled ignition time.

Starship is 120 metres tall, compared to 55 metres of the now-grounded space shuttle of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its payload capacity is nearly five times that of the shuttle.

When it gets launched, the rocket's flight duration will be about 90 minutes. It will fly east over the Gulf of Mexico and between the Straits of Florida, get into space 100 km above the earth's surface and then re-enter the atmosphere, finishing off near Hawaii after nearly encircling the earth.

Both rocket and the spacecraft will splash down into the sea, rather than making a soft landing on a spaceport. SpaceX has tested different stages, systems and software of the spacecraft in dozens of flights in the past years (with a few of them exploding

Unlike state-funded agencies such as NASA and ISRO, which have long timelines and funding constraints, private companies like SpaceX have ambitious timelines and clear commercial goals. This has lessons for India where the space sector has been opened to private players. The road to a reusable space vehicle is long and challenging and it needs both ambition and technology.

too), and Thursday's launch will be the first fully integrated flight of the mega rocket.

In the past two decades, SpaceX has developed numerous space technologies and demonstrated that rockets can be partially or fully reused. Normally, a rocket burns down after propelling a satellite into a designated orbit. They are expendable. So, for every launch one has to have a new rocket which makes satellite launches a costly and time-consuming affair. SpaceX wants to change this and has developed fully reusable rockets. Its first operational partially reusable spacecraft is Dragon which is capable of carrying up to seven passengers to and from the earth's orbit and beyond. It has been used for ferrying astronauts to space and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS) since 2012. It is the first certified private spacecraft to take humans to the space station. Dragon is powered by Falcon 9 rocket which is also reusable.

The Starship is the next-generation spacecraft, powered by a new rocket named Super Heavy. Once operational, it will be 'a fully reusable transportation system designed to carry both crew and cargo to the earth's orbit, the moon, Mars and beyond,' according to SpaceX.



Thursday's flight is only the first step towards validating several new technologies and making the vehicle capable of transporting humans.

The size of the spacecraft is astounding – it will be able to transport 100 persons. It will enable the launch of multiple large satellites and space telescopes, as well as the transport of cargo not just to the ISS, but to the moon where NASA plans to build a base in the future. The space agency has already signed up with SpaceX to provide a human landing system for its Artemis lunar mission. Before the crewed mission, SpaceX plans to land an uncrewed Starship on the lunar surface. In addition to the plans to land on

the moon and take on interplanetary missions, Starship has aroused curiosity for 'point-to-point' travel on the earth too. The company claims that it can disrupt air transport with the Starship as most international long-distance trips would be completed in 30 minutes or less. Besides the speed advantage, such travel will be much smoother as the Starship will travel outside the earth's atmosphere, which lacks friction and there is no turbulence and weather disturbance. This is, of course, the long-term vision and its realisation will take a lot many tests over the next many years.

Interestingly, India has been working on the concept of a reusable space vehicle for a long time. It was first

envisaged by former President APJ Abdul Kalam while he was still the head of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the 1990s. He called it Hyperplane which was to be a single-stage-to-orbit launch vehicle. Kalam first proposed it as a space plane that could fire missiles with smaller propulsion systems without being intercepted by the enemy. During his presidency, Kalam advocated the idea of making space transportation cost-effective by using reusable vehicles to launch satellites.

Since then, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been working on technological building blocks of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV). In May 2016, the space agency first demonstrated the re-entry of its winged vehicle in a hypersonic flight experiment. Earlier this month, it conducted another crucial technological test for RLV. It was to test autonomous landing system. The RLV prototype was flown as an underslung load of an IAF helicopter and dropped mid-air at a height of 4.5 km.

It was to test certain technologies in conditions similar to those experienced by a space vehicle upon re-entry into the atmosphere. The

unmanned RLV made a precise landing at a high speed (350 kmph) at the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

Separately, the ISRO a few years ago tested the scramjet engine that can power conventional satellite launch vehicles as well as a future RLV. All these developments form a part of the ISRO's launch-vehicle platform called Avatar. With the latest test, the ISRO says, "The dream of an Indian reusable launch vehicle arrives a step closer to reality."

Being a private company, SpaceX has been able to take the risks associated with the space business and has moved forward, undeterred by inevitable failures during the experimental and testing phase. Unlike state-funded agencies such as NASA and ISRO, which have long timelines and funding constraints, private companies like SpaceX have ambitious timelines and clear commercial goals. This has lessons for India where the space sector has been opened to private players. Many startups are working in different segments of the space business, but we still lack a maverick like Musk. The road to a reusable space vehicle is long and challenging and it needs both ambition and technology.

## Alaya F says she's not fully nepo baby as Pooja Bedi quit films before her birth: 'There are levels of nepotism...'

Alaya F, who is the daughter of Pooja Bedi and grand-daughter of veteran actor Kabir Bedi, opened up about not considering herself a 'nepo baby', at least completely. Alaya said she has not grown up going to industry parties. She said her mom had quit acting before she was born, and sometimes it does get frustrating, when people speak about nepotism, without understanding that there are levels of nepotism.

Alaya had made her acting debut with Saif Ali Khan and Tabu-starrer Jawaani Jaaneman in 2020. Since then she has acted in films such as Kartik Aaryan's Freddy (2022) and Almost Pyaar with DJ Mohabbat (2023). In her

recent interview, Alaya said although she does 'come from privilege', it's unfair to say that everything she does comes her way because of where she was born.

"I don't count myself as a fully nepo baby, because you need to understand there are different levels in that. My mother was done with the industry, she had quit acting before I was born. I have not grown up among industry parties, that's not been my life. So sometimes it does get frustrating because there are levels of nepotism. At the end of the day, I do come from privilege and that's half of someone else's journey. It does get me into rooms but it doesn't really guarantee



## Sara Ali Khan would love to work with Kartik Aaryan in Aashiqui 3 if offered the part



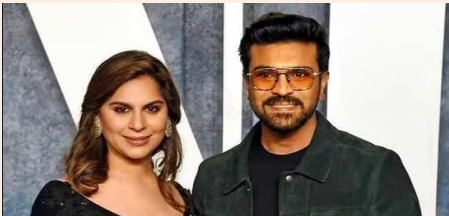
After they starred together in Love Aaj Kal (2020), fans are keen to see Sara Ali Khan and Kartik Aaryan again on the big screen. Kartik's upcoming film Aashiqui 3 still does not have a female lead and many fans are hoping to see Sara opposite him. The actor recently shared that she would love to work in the film with Kartik, but she hasn't been offered the film as yet. The shoot for Aashiqui 3 is expected to begin in December with Anurag Basu as director. (Also read: Gaslight review: Sara Ali Khan, Vikrant Massey are wasted on a dumb whodunnit) Sara is already working with Anurag on his other film, Metro In Dino. The anthology film will tell the story of four loving and heartwarming intertwined stories in modern India. It also stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkana Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal and Fatima Sana Shaikh. Both films also have a common co-producer with T-Series. Speaking to Faridoon Shahryar for Connect FM, Sara shared, "I haven't been offered Aashiqui 3 as yet but I would love to. If I am offered the film then yes, sure."

The Aashiqui franchise was launched in 1990 with Rahul Roy and Anu Aggarwal. Directed by Mahesh Bhatt, it became a musical blockbuster.

## Ram Charan and Upasana are due in July; she reveals, 'I will be using insurance for my child birth'

Entrepreneur-philanthropist Upasana Kamineni Konidela is currently in her third trimester and reveals she is 'due in July'. "Like every parent, we are also excited," she says, adding how her actor-husband Ram Charan has been 'very supportive' throughout her pregnancy. She adds, "The child will be allowed the freedom to be themselves, but with a certain set of guidelines and responsibility that they actually carry forward because sometimes fame comes with a huge responsibility and it must be valued."

While being pregnant, Upasana, who is currently working, wishes to be an advocate for working mothers. "Why should motherhood be different from any other time in your life?" she questions. "I do



have a lot of help but the thing is that I also want to be a hands-on mother. While being a hands-on mother, I want to try and strike the absolute balance between

taking care of my child and my career at the same time. I'm still figuring out how I can use myself as an example to get more women back into the workforce as soon

as possible without compromising the well-being of their child." Moreover, Upasana aims to bring awareness when it comes to motherhood in the corporate world. "Why is maternity leave only structured to six months and why not three months or nine months. And why cannot it be personalized?...Health care is very affordable in our country. We must know the different channels to actually afford it. While I have all this support I know my organization is going to take care of my childbirth. So insurance will cover me. So even I will be using insurance for my child birth." Upasana and Ram have been married for over a decade now. Over the 10 years of their relationship, the two continue 'growing' together.

## Thankful to have found an audience: Yami Gautam on 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga' success

With four back-to-back successes on streaming platforms, Yami Gautam is on a roll but the actor says she never signs a film thinking whether it is for OTT or theatre.

The actor is currently receiving praise for her performance in 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga'. The suspense thriller became the most viewed Indian film on Netflix within two weeks of its premiere on March 24.

While this is her consecutive fourth release on a streaming platform after "A Thursday", "Dasvi", and "Lost", Gautam said she isn't someone who discriminates between audiences or mediums.

"For me, an audience is an audience...I'm coming from a background that whatever you do, you get labelled by some bracket. I don't want to be under any kind of labels. I'm just very thankful to have found an audience," the actor told agencies in an interview.

Gautam said she often gets lines like "so now you are the queen of OTT or 'now you are doing such roles' but she takes such comments with a pinch of salt as she believes she has earned the trust of her audience.

"Audience has started developing this faith that if Yami is a part of a film, it must be something interesting... Even before the pandemic, 'Uri' and 'Bala' were the last two theatrical releases I had and I was fortunate that they were an amalgamation of not just successful films but good films," the actor said.

"I'm an actor, when I sign a film I don't think in my head if this is for OTT or theatre. A film is a film. Our job is to entertain, engage the audience and we will continue doing that.

## Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas get romantic in lift and balcony, fans say 'you can really tell he loves her'

Nick Jonas has shared a few romantic pictures from Priyanka Chopra and his photo shoot as they attended the London premiere of her upcoming show, Citadel. Priyanka decked up in an off-shoulder red gown and Nick complemented her to perfection in a black suit paired with a turtle-neck. Priyanka was widely praised for her fiery red look.

In the pictures shared by Nick, the two can be seen getting romantic in the lift, posing in the balcony and sharing a laugh in the theatre. While he has his hands on her waist as they are about to kiss in the first picture, the second shows Priyanka moving a finger on Nick's cheek as they stand in the balcony. The third shows them sharing a light moment.

Sharing the pictures, Nick wrote on Instagram, "Congrats to my (heart emoticon) @priyankachopra and the entire cast of @citadelonprime on the world premiere. Streaming April 28th on @amazonprime!" A fan commented on the post, "Red is her color y'all look amazing!!" Another wrote, "Rare is it that you see celebrity couples



that seem like they're genuinely in love. All of the Jonas Brothers clearly have true love and I love it." One more said, "you can really tell in these photos that he loves her (ps im very jealous)."

A comment also read: "Nice! Love that you are so supportive." Priyanka's Citadel co-star Richard Madden, her mom Dr Madhu Chopra, cast members from the Indian version Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and director duo Raj and DK were among those who attend-

ed the London premiere of Citadel. Priyanka continues to keep busy with Citadel promotions but does try to balance work and family life. She and Nick are now parents to one-year-old daughter Malti. In an interview to PTI on her recent India visit, Priyanka had said, "It's very important for me to have time with my family and to be able to finish working in the evening and go back home and actually have just time for myself. I go away for the weekends. So I don't feel perennially exhausted."

## Antara Marwah wows everyone as she bares her baby bump on ramp



Actor Mohit Marwah's wife Antara Motiwala Marwah made a stunning appearance at the Lakme Fashion Week. She walked the ramp for Itrh in a shimmery number and proudly bared her baby bump.

Antara wore a full sleeves cropped top with a plunging neckline along with a skirt with a ruched front. She confidently walked the ramp as her family and friends cheered for her. Mohit was also seen at the fashion show.

Antara is the niece of businessman Anil Ambani's wife Tina Ambani. Mohit is the elder son of Sandeep Marwah and Reena Marwah, the sister of Anil, Boney Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor. He made his Bollywood debut with Fugly in 2014. In 2017, he played a soldier in Raag Desh, directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia.

Mohit and Antara tied the knot in February 2018 in the UAE. The wedding was attended by the entire family along with late Sridevi, who died hours later in her Dubai hotel. On Holi Antara shared photos of her family's Holi celebration. They were joined by their daughter Thea, who recently celebrated her first birthday.

Also part of the fashion show were Anshula Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha and Anaita Shroff Adajania. Anshula also wore a shimmering blue outfit. Sonakshi was the showstopper in a brown outfit and Anaita wore a white one with a cape. Arjun Kapoor cheered for his sister Anshula as she walked the ramp.



## Samantha Ruth Prabhu feels truly lucky and blessed, shares pics from Citadel premiere: 'Amongst the world's best...'

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she was 'truly humbled' to attend the world premiere of Citadel on April 18 in London, where she mingled with 'some of the world's best'. Samantha is set to reunite with her The Family Man directors Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK for the Indian chapter of Citadel, a globe-trotting spy drama. She also gave her co-star Varun Dhawan a shoutout as she shared their photos on Thursday from Citadel's London premiere. Samantha posed with Citadel's lead actors Priyanka Chopra and

Richard Madden, among others in the pictures. Samantha, who was dressed in black for the event, wrote in her Instagram caption, "Truly humbled to be amongst some of the world's best at the global premiere of Citadel in London. The camaraderie, the creativity, the talent, the love, the shared vision, the dream of the people in that room was so inspiring and invigorating that I feel truly lucky and blessed to be part of this team and the Citadel Universe." The actor further wrote as she wished Priyanka Chopra

and the Citadel cast and crew the best, "In awe of this world created by @therussobrothers and kudos to @primevideo for backing that vision. All the best to @priyankachopra @maddenrichard @stanleytucci, Leslie Mannville and the stellar star cast. Be ready to catch the exhilarating series, @citadelonprime on April 28 on @amazonprime. This is just the beginning. We cannot wait to bring to you the Indian chapter soon @rajandk @varundvn @mensit."

Samantha is working alongside Varun Dhawan on the Indian original series within the Citadel franchise, whose flagship show, featuring Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden, starts streaming on Prime Video on April 28. The upcoming series is full of action. In a recent interview, Samantha said even though her health posed a major challenge, she enjoyed doing action for Citadel. "Physically, the show is very intense, there is a lot of action in Citadel and we're really enjoying something and we're very happy and proud to show it to the world, I am really looking

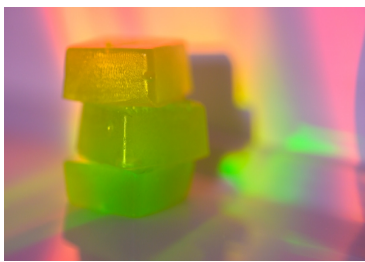
forward to that. Considering the challenges that I am facing health wise, I am glad I am able to do what I am doing in Citadel. Everyone is being patient and kind and I am truly grateful for that," the actor had told PTI earlier this month. Samantha had opened up about being diagnosed with myositis last year. She had taken a break from films after she was diagnosed with the rare autoimmune disease, while shooting for her Telugu film Kushi. She was last seen in Shaakuntalam, which was released on April 14.

# Why Weed Is the Missing Ingredient in Your Workout Routine

Athletes have always been ahead of the curve on weed's potency as a wellness product. From ??Ricky Williams to Chris Ball to Calvin Johnson, former football players and cannabis entrepreneurs are proof that cannabis can aid in athletic training and recovery – even when it comes at a high price.

Williams has said that pot cost him at least \$10 million in fines and suspensions over the years, but claims that number is "pennies" compared to what it brought into his life. The former NFL rushing champion can't imagine his playing days without cannabis. There are many resources on the internet about "how to train like an athlete." But if you really want to workout like one of the greats (on their own terms), you might want to try doing it ...on weed. According to Dr. Benjamin Caplan, a physician and founder of the Massachusetts-based CED Clinic, some athletes have reported that cannabis reduces their pain, inflammation and anxiety, all of which would understandably improve a person's workouts by making it possible to train harder. Cannabis can increase blood flow and oxygenation, Caplan explained, which is thought to improve endurance.

At the same time, "the euphoric effect of cannabis is likely to improve self-confidence, support mechanical relaxation and steadiness of the body, and relieve the stress of competition," Caplan added. This is par-



tially why the World Anti-Doping Agency lists cannabis products as a banned substance, with the exception of CBD. But experts contend that it's not a performance-enhancing drug. This debate aside, there is reason to believe that a little weed can make physical activity a lot more enjoyable. In one survey of 101 adults aged 18 to 55 years who use cannabis during exercise, a majority of people said they combined it with more relaxing endeavors (hiking, yoga, aerobic machines), but 44% said they paired weed with weightlifting. The respondents cited its assistance in focus and concentration, its capacity to make exercise more enjoyable, and a certain intangible – working out on weed enhanced their "mind-body-spirit connection."

This mystical combination isn't just reserved for athletes. "Anyone can take advantage of these potential benefits," Caplan said. Stoned + Toned.

For instance, take Morgan

English, the founder of the cannabis and fitness platform Stoned + Toned. She hated working out for most of her life. After being told she was conventionally overweight growing up, the pressure to exercise filled her with anxiety. It wasn't until college, when she started smoking weed recreationally, that she discovered her love for spin class.

"I had the ability to be present and finish a workout and not worry about what other people are thinking, or if I'm doing enough," English told me. After spinning, she started getting stoned before barre and pilates. They're now her favorite types of workouts to do high; the weed helps her feel her muscles working and building. "I'm feeling my muscles, and I'm aware of where there's pain and where there's muscle building," English said. Now a fitness instructor herself, she's aware that there's a crucial difference between building muscle and straining it – it's the same dis-

inction between feeling the burn and feeling pain. (The only strain English wants to be talking about is whatever she's smoking.)

How to Work Out on Weed While studies show cannabis can reduce inflammation and pain for some people, it's typically not in a way where you're going to overextend and further injure yourself, English says. That's because cannabis is not compatible with the "no pain, no gain" mentality that usually gets people hurt. As much as it can curb pain, weed workouts are more about being mindful of your body.

According to English, using cannabis as a workout enhancer involves shifting your perspective on exercise in a similar way that she has – by crafting an experience that's pleasant enough to repeat several times a week. How do you do that? For some experienced cannabis consumers, it can be as simple as finding the right gym or fitness studio (within walking or ride-share distance) to try working out high. English, though, experienced a lot of judgment about showing up to the gym smelling like weed – even years after weed was legalized in California. That's partly why she started Stoned + Toned, to create a more inclusive community, where being high is an implicit part of showing up.

The studio's online platform shows just how many forms of exercise can be performed after a tok. The library ranges from pilates to barre, and yoga to spinning, and pairs a different

strain with each exercise (though other strains are welcome, it's just a suggestion). And if you're less experienced with weed and accidentally get too high to finish the workout, there's no judgment. To prevent that from happening, Stoned + Toned offers online educational resources about how cannabis can enhance your workouts and support your recovery.

"We're here to change the narrative around fitness and we're here to bring joy to it," English said. "And if it's movement that isn't bringing you joy, stop doing it."

Tokes, Tinctures and Topicals In terms of strains that spark joy, Blue Dream, Super Lemon Haze and Headband have been endorsed by the Stoned + Toned team. Although any type of smoking can damage your lungs and make exercise more difficult, English considers the method of consumption highly personal. She prefers to take a few puffs off of a joint, or a vape that uses cannabis flower rather than liquid or concentrates.

On the flip side, most of the serious athletes Caplan treats do not prefer to smoke weed. They'll stick to tinctures and topicals. Edibles, for their part, are less predictable because the high largely depends on a person's metabolism. As the effects take longer to kick in, the risk of growing impatient and overindulging is generally higher. Ultimately, "there is no one-size-fits-all approach to using cannabis," Caplan said, and he recommends consulting with a doctor for optimal results.

## Blow up Your Shoulders and Build Stamina With This 420-Rep Single Dumbbell Workout



When it comes to building an imposing body, nothing says "yeah, I workout..." quite like a gargantuan set of boulder shoulders.

This single 'bell burner can be performed with either a dumbbell or a kettlebell, and is designed to not only build death start deltsoids, but also to fire up your metabolism and sear through calories, all while delivering a serious shoulder pump. Work through five rounds of the following circuit, resting only as needed to keep your form sharp and movements controlled, but keep the pace up for maximum muscle building and metabolism boosting benefits.

human body, human leg, shoulder, active shorts, standing, elbow, joint, barechested, board short, chest. Hang Snatch: Deadlift up a single bell from the ground and hold it between your legs. Hinge down with soft knees dropping the bell towards your knees (A). Drive up through your hips and knees, generating momentum to pull the dumbbell or kettlebell directly overhead in one movement (B). Lower the weight under control back to between your legs and repeat. After six reps, switch sides and repeat.

Push Press: After your final snatch switch hands and clean your 'bell onto your shoulders, palms facing in. Take a breath and brace your core. (A) Dip at the knees and use your legs to help (B) press your bell overhead. Lower under control to your shoulder and repeat. After nine reps, switch sides and repeat.

Hang Clean: Push presses finished, drop your 'bell back between your thighs, then hinge at the hips to lower it to your knees (A). Stand back up with a slight jump, using the momentum to pull the bell on to your shoulder (B). Stand up straight, then lower back to between your legs and repeat.

## Why fennel seeds work on weight loss, keep your heart healthy and the gut happy

BENGALURU : Much is talked about the efficacy of seeds as they are nutrient-dense, rich in fibres and low in calories, attributes that are best suited for your sound metabolism and health. And when it comes to heart health and weight loss, the use of fennel seeds as an add-on to your lifestyle correction, diet and exercise, improves your nutrition profile. Dried fennel seeds are low in calories, high in fibre and packed with both macro and micro nutrients. They are rich in Vitamins C, E and K as well as minerals like calcium, magnesium, zinc, potassium, selenium and iron. Of course, they come loaded with antioxidants which reduce inflammatory markers in your body, the root cause of many of our chronic illnesses.

GOOD FOR HEART HEALTH In the Journal of Food Science (2012), researchers from Anna University, Chennai, had shown how nitrates in fennel seeds play an important role in the cardiovascular system. The study results had shown that fennel seeds "contain significantly higher amounts of nitrates when compared to other commonly used post-meal seeds." It also showed that chewing fennel seeds enhanced the nitrite content of saliva. Nitrates dilate blood vessels of the heart, reduce the stress on them, relax them and in the process improve blood flow to the heart muscle. Fennel also helps in angiogenesis or the formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing ones.

## Watch: Deepika Padukone's trainer drops an unseen video from her workout regime

Talk of fitness and wellness is mentioned. Be it at the Oscars or at any other national or international event, the Pathaan actress knows how to rule the red carpet and a lot of it is owed to her physique which is an outcome of unmatched dedication to fitness. While videos from her wellness routine are available in abundance on social media – both on her official profile and her trainer Yasmin Karachiwala's, but getting an extra anecdote is always a delight for fans. And recently, Karachiwala, who is also a celebrity fitness and Pilates instructor, took to the platform to share a short unseen video from the Bajirao Mastani actress's routine – in the video,

she was seen working with a MOTR (Movement On The Roller) machine.

In the video, Deepika Padukone is seen performing full-body exercises while maintaining a strong core and moving legs and arms in synced repetitions. She was also seen practising variations of leg raises and side bends. Karachiwala also explained that MOTR is a lightweight, easy-to-carry tool used for people who travel a lot.

Every Indian Should Get This Incredible Rs.1999 SmartwatchLEARN MORE

"Deepika Padukone's MOTR Pilates routine - a perfect way to kick off Monday with a burst of energy and positivity. MOTR is indeed a great tool for those who love to travel and stay fit. The MOTR (Movement On The



Roller) is a portable Pilates machine that combines the benefits of a foam roller, a resistance band, and a Pilates reformer into

one compact and versatile piece of equipment. The machine is lightweight and easy to carry, which makes it perfect for taking

with you wherever you go," Karachiwala captioned the video.

MOTR, like other forms of pilates, is known to be beneficial for people recovering from injuries. The cardiovascular exercise raises heart and breathing rate, boosts blood circulation and allows one to burn maximum number of calories in a smaller period of time thereby improving overall bodily functions.

Disclaimer: Tips and suggestions mentioned in the article are for general information purposes only and should not be construed as professional medical advice. Always consult your doctor or a dietician before starting any fitness programme or making any changes to your diet.

## Meet the Experts Fighting Against Fitness Misinformation on TikTok

Brian Johnson, better known as the fitness influence Liver King, is a beast of a man. Jacked up with bulging biceps, rippling abs and a thick beard, he exploded in popularity on social media throughout 2022. He claimed his physique was a result of an "ancestral" diet consisting of raw animal organs, including testicles but especially the liver, hence the name.

Millions of people watched Liver King on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube, but Johnson's impressive physique wasn't because of his diet. He was taking steroids. A lot of steroids.

Mike Israetel, a competitive body-builder with a Ph.D. in sports physiology, was one of the folks who countered Johnson's fitness misinformation. In a video titled 'Primal In Bullsh\*t', Israetel debunked claims made by Johnson about his ancestral diet.

"Modernity is good," Israetel said in the video. "That's why 'primal coaches' all go to the hospital, use social media and shop at the supermarket."

Months after the release of Israetel's videos, Johnson admitted his use of



steroids. The Liver King reportedly spent more than \$11,000 on performance-enhancement drugs.

Israetel says the average person today has more resources than ever to improve their fitness. However, many still lack a filter to discern what approach is scientifically backed and what is "bullshit."

"I don't know how many people we converted with that video, but I will say there are lots of new people coming into fitness all the time," Israetel said during an interview in February. "And if they catch our videos earlier

than later, they might be able to prevent themselves from being too bought into something."

After taking a big hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, the fitness industry is estimated to grow to \$30.8 billion in 2023. Influencers like Johnson can amass millions of followers, and that often translates to large paychecks from sponsors or revenue generated from selling training plans, supplements or merchandise.

One study of 488 fitness influencers found that less than 20% of them had any related credentials. On platforms

like TikTok and Instagram, popularity isn't always based on good science. Algorithms can promote bad actors, creating a landscape filled with bad fitness information that, at best, could

Barrett began shooting down fitness misinformation on TikTok when he stumbled across an influencer spouting false claims after he had received an endorsement deal with a

Performance. Talking about health catches people's attention, he says, especially if what's said is intentionally audacious. When it comes to health informa-

### THE WRONG FITNESS ADVICE COULD WASTE YOUR TIME AND MONEY OR EVEN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY.

waste someone's money and time and, at worst, result in serious injury. Countering this misinformation is a group of social media influencers who use their professional experience and scientific knowledge to debunk bad advice circulating across multiple platforms. These experts lift heavy weights to build their muscles, but they also do heavy reading to make gains in their knowledge.

Lifting up the science Braydon Barrett, a kine @looklikey-oulift on TikTok, has more than 287,000 followers. As a strength coach with more than 10 years of experience, Barrett says he's learned all the "secrets" when it comes to fitness. His distaste for influencers selling harmful practices is what led him to give those secrets away for free via social media and Discod.

supplement company. Barrett used his professional experience, his biochemistry background and various studies to disprove what the influencer said. "There's a lot of fitness bull crap out there on TikTok, and, frankly, I really don't care about much of it," Barrett said. "I will respond and I will make a video if it is downright dangerous for people to be implementing." There's always been misinformation in the fitness industry. What's changed is a growing societal emphasis on health and an expansion of social media. As more people search for ways to improve their health, the volume of fitness info has exploded. With that growth comes more misinformation, according to Andy Galpin, a professor of kinesiology at CSU Fullerton and director of the Center for Sport

tion, Galpin says there are many methods, but the concepts are few.

"There's not one optimal strategy for you," Galpin said. "There are, in all likelihood, thousands of different strategies that will be equally effective for you. So you don't have to find that one perfect magic strategy. That's totally unnecessary for the vast majority of people." TikTok didn't provide a comment to fitness misinformation on its platform. The company has previously said its community guidelines "make clear that we do not allow harmful misinformation and will remove it from the platform." Hungry for knowledge gains

With all the fitness misinformation on social media, can you find good, science-backed data to help you make gains? Experts say yes – if you know what to look out for.





# DC Rajouri inspects provision of amenities in shelter home- Parisha

## DISTRIBUTES SWEETS AND GIFTS AMONG INMATE ON EID

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal conducted an inspection of Parisha, a shelter home for girls in distress or in need of care and shelter. The purpose of the visit was to review the arrangements and facilities being provided to the inmates and to interact with them to seek feedback on their stay.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner distributed sweets and other gifts among the inmates and wished them a happy Eid. This gesture was appreciated by the girls living in the Parisha and expressed their gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his concern and support. The District Social Welfare Officer also briefed the Deputy Commissioner



about the functioning of Parisha and the initiatives being taken to provide support to the girls who are in need of care and protection. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department in providing necessary care and support to the inmates.

While interacting with inmates, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the

administration's commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for girls living in distress. He emphasised the need for providing necessary facilities and support to the inmates and directed the concerned officials to take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and security. "The visit was aimed at ensuring that the inmates are provided with all necessary facilities and support", said DC Rajouri. The administration is committed to the welfare of the women living in distress and will take all necessary steps to provide them with a safe and secure environment. In addition to the visit at Parisha, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Phulwari and reviewed the facilities being provided to the newborns. He directed the concerned officials to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to provide a safe and secure environment for the babies and their mothers.

# Bandipora Admn distributes food kits among destitute families under Redcross

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 20: Taking a compassionate step towards the welfare of the destitute families, district administration today distributed food kits among needy and underprivileged families to help them meet their daily needs.

The initiative was undertaken as a part of various activities under District Redcross Society.

The food kits included essential food items such as rice, flour, sugar, tea, and other items. The distribution drive was organized by the District Administration Bandipora in the presence of District Development Commissioner Dr Owais Ahmad.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Owais, said that the District Administration is committed towards the welfare of the underprivileged sections of society and shall continue such initiatives in the future as well.

# Govt SPMR College of Commerce Celebrates Earth Day 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Dep-artment of Environmental Sciences and Eco Club of Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu, under the aegis of G20 and Mission LIFE, celebrated Earth Day 2023 by launching "Ek Ped Desh ke Naam" campaign. To mark the day, a nursery of fruit trees was inaugurated on the College Campus. For this purpose, discarded plastic bottles were used as a measure of plastic waste management. Seeds of fruit trees were sown with the help of gardeners of the college.

Tarsem Lal and Amit Mansotra. On the occasion, composting of dry leaves collected from the college was also initiated using cow dung and microbial solution as a part of biodegradable waste management.

Principal, Dr. Surinder Kumar, the Chief Guest on the occasion, apprised the students about the theme of Earth Day 2023 that is, "Invest in Our Planet". Dr. Nazia Rasool, HOD Environmental Sciences, addressed the students and stressed upon the significance of trees in maintaining life on the Earth. Dr. Deepak Pathania, convener, Eco Club, also spoke on the occasion and urged the students to collect seeds and start nurseries in their homes also. Faculty who attended the programme included Dr. Monika Malhotra, Prof. Monika Mahajan, Prof. Savita Janwal, Prof. Apfan Ali, Prof. Rajni Bala, Dr. Rita Sharma, Dr. Vaishali, Dr. Ramandeep Kaur and others.

The event was coordinated and managed by Dr. Nazia Rasool, Dr. Deepak Pathania, Dr. Jagmeet Kaur, Dr. Fayza and Dr. Sarabjeet Kour Sudan.

# District Admn Ganderbal organises Block Diwas at Wakura

JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 20: District Administration Ganderbal today conducted weekly Block Diwas at Govt Higher Secondary Wakura for Block Wakura. The Block Diwas was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani. The camp was attended by PRI members of block Wakura and prominent citizens of adjoining areas who highlighted the issues and demands pertaining to their areas.



The demands highlighted included augmentation of power and water supply, development of roads, dredging of irrigation canals and other issues of public importance. The ADDC listened to all of the issues raised by the public and PRIs and assured that demands raised will be taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal.

He passed necessary directions to the officers for ensuring timely redressal of the genuine concerns and several issues were redressed onspot.

While interacting with the PRIs, the ADDC urged them to work in close coordination with the line departments to ensure their timely completion of works. The programme was attended by CPO, Irfan Giri; ACD, Dr. Bashir Ahmad; ACP, Tehsildar Wakura, BDO Wakura besides other district and sectoral officers.

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# Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls

## ECI extends date for filling claims, objections

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: The Election Commission of India has extended the date for filing claims and objections in connection with Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls up to 6th of May 2023. According to a commu-

niqué issued here today by the office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, the eligible persons can now file their applications for inclusion, deletion and correction/ shifting of their names in the electoral rolls on form number 6, 7 and 8 respectively as the case may be, upto 6th of May 2023.

# DEO Shopian held BLO's, Supervisors Meeting



SHOPIAN, APRIL 20: Following the extension of SSR time limit by two weeks, District Election Officer, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaisya had a meeting with BLO's and BLO Supervisors of 36-Zainpora and 37-Shopian Assembly Constituencies at Meeting Hall of Mini Secretariat Shopian today.

While addressing the gathering District Election Officer said that because of good response to the enrolment, the time limit has been extended up to 6th May 2023 and the same need to be informed to the general public.

BLO's were urged to verify the Assured Minimum Facility (AMF) Status of the polling stations and report the gaps at earliest for the redressal of the same. The District Election Officer Shopian has asked the departments of PWD, School, Health, PHE, Telecom, RDD regarding the maintenance of AMF facility at all the 247 Polling Stations of District Shopian. All ERO's and AERO's have been urged to impress upon BLOs to improve the numbers of claims and objections and digitize all the pendency of claims by due dates. Further all BLO's were asked to deliver all the EPIC's to the concerned voters at earliest and furnish the report as per the format through their respective AERO offices.

It was further impressed upon ERO's and AERO's to identify and propose the district in from third gender category of voters.

Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shopian, Shahbaz Ahmed Bodha, Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed and other concerned were present.

# Cultural program mesmerises audience at Valedictory function of Fire Service Week

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: A scintillating cultural and allied activities mesmerized the audience as the Fire Service Week concluded across the Union Territory today.

A series of functions were held across the UT and the main functions were held at Jammu and Srinagar headquarters.

A cultural program was held at F&E HQRs Gandhi Nagar, Jammu under the supervision of Raj Kumar Raina, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services Command Jammu.

Earlier, a welcome address was presented by Mohammad Jaffer I/C F&E HQRs Gandhi Nagar, who also conducted the event.

The singing programme began with the melodious performance of Narinder Singh, Mechanical Driver



FES RS Pura, which enthralled the entire audience. This was followed by the performance of Rizq Ahmed, Fire Man who sang a Dogri song in a typical style. Later, a beautiful Kashmiri song was sung by Veer Ji Raina, SGMF DFO Office City.

The brilliant performances by the talented officials made the programme look utterly professional. On the concluding ceremony, the officers and officials pledged to continue the awareness programmes as

per the directions of Alok Kumar (IPS), Director Fire & Emergency Services, who appreciated the Jawans while addressing the event virtually for conducting the week long activities in a most befitting manner. Prominent among others the programme was attended by Foreman, RL Raina, Mandeep Singh and Kanwal Peshin, Divisional Fire Officer City and all in-charges of Jammu Command besides office staff and jawans.

# Value of Vote in Indian Democracy: Debate competition held in GDC Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: A debate competition on the topic "Value of Vote in Indian Democracy" was organised today by the Electoral Literacy Club, of Government Degree College in collaboration with the District Election Cell.

Dr Jyoti Parihar, the College Principal and Institute Nodal Officer

SVEEP and Nodal Officer Electoral Literacy Club Prof Swami Raj Chauhan (Head of the Department of Political Science) supervised the event attended by 100 students of which 08 students spoke on the topic. Prof SR Chauhan read the welcome address and Key Note address and highlighted the importance of Political Participation, Political

Culture and Political System, He said these are closely interconnected with increasing Political Participation positive change occurring in our Political Culture which ultimately increase the efficiency of our Political System.

Dr Jyoti Parihar, Principal of GDC Kishtwar appreciated the Students for their sense of responsibility and consciousness of such social issues.

# District Admn Pulwama tightens noose around erring traders, imposes fine

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 20: Acting tough against delinquent and erring business establishments, traders & dealers, the Executive Magistrates and the market checking squads of FCS&CA Pulwama today carried out an extensive market checking drive throughout the length and breadth of the district, imposing strictly the directions of Worthy District Magistrate Pulwama regarding rates and quality.

The aim of holding extensive market checking was to regulate price line and quality control of essential commodities in the markets of Pulwama district during these holy days.

A team of revenue officials and MC Pulwama headed by Naib



Tehsildar Pulwama carried out a market checking in order to foil any bid of overpricing and to ensure smooth regulation of traffic. Similarly, market checking was conducted by the officials of MC Khrew and a fine of Rs 1700 was

charged against adulteration and overpricing from various shopkeepers.

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. District Magistrate Pulwama Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary earlier said that no one will be allowed to resort to overcharging, black marketing, profiteering, and adulteration especially during these holy days.

He, however, appealed to the general public to cooperate with the Department and come for-

ward wherever any instance of wrongdoing is found. Public has a greater role to play in checking violations at trade and other public places, DM added.

The violator traders were warned of more stern action against them in case they continue doing violations.

Further, the shopkeepers were advised to display the rate list on the conspicuous place of their shops and refrain from overcharging and in case of failure, action as warranted under relevant law shall be taken against the erring shopkeepers. Moreover, Butchers /Chicken sellers were directed to maintain hygiene/Sanitation & Provide quality of meat to the Consumers mandated as per the Food Safety & Standards Act-2006.

# DC Ramban discusses implementation of SANKALP

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Musarrat Islam today chaired a review meeting of the District Skill Committee (DSC) for implementation of centrally sponsored flagship scheme SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) in the Ramban district. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal; ACR, Gias-Ul-Haq and various senior officers attended the meeting. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner asked the Officers of the line Departments to pre-

## DISTRICT ADMIN PLANS TO HOST ENTREPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL IN MAY

pare a comprehensive Action Plan for skilling the youth in potential sectors, boosting the zeal for entrepreneurial initiatives in the District under SANKALP initiative, extending hand holding by the District Administration for business development, to create a pool of skilled human resource and create an environment of sustainable livelihood in the District. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the training activities proposed by various departments. The DC directed to maintain uniformity in training parameters.

He further said that all these activities would be held under the umbrella of Ramban Entrepreneurship Festival, starting from the first week of May. The Committee identified sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy value creation, Handicrafts and Entrepreneurship which offer huge potential to the youth of the District to venture into. Brainstorming discussion was held on challenges involved, mobilization of candidates and monitoring of skill activities besides hosting an Idea Pitching Competition for the youth of

Ramban. The DC reiterated that the objective of the festival should be to upgrade the skill set of the youth by imparting quality and market relevant training to them along with strengthening the institutional skill imparting mech-

# Mayor SMC greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 20: As the devotees across the globe celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan, Mayor SMC, Junaid Azim Mattu has extended heartiest greetings to people in particular the Muslim ummah on Eid-ul-Fitr.

# Eid-ul-Fitr: Joint team of JMC, SHD conduct inspection of Mutton, Chicken Shops in Jammu City

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Joint team of JMC and Sheep Husbandry Department today conducted surprise inspection of Mutton and Poultry Shops here in different parts of Jammu city to ensure availability of wholesome, good quality mutton and mutton byproducts to the consumers on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Corporation stated that on the directions of Commissioner, JMC, Rahul Yadav, a joint team of Jammu Municipal Corporation and Doctors deputes by Sheep Husbandry Department, under



the supervision of Municipal Veterinary Officer Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, conducted a surprise inspection drive on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr 2023 in different areas of Jammu City to ensure the sale of wholesome, good quality mutton and its byproducts to the consumers. The surprise drive was conducted in Talab Tillo,

Bohri, Muthi, Bantalab, Paloura, Janipur, Amphalla, CPO Chowk, Narwal, Gandhi Nagar, Gangyal, Satwari etc. During the drive, mutton shops, chicken shops & fishmongers were inspected and about 20 Kg of substandard meat was seized and later on disposed of properly. A fine to the tune of Rs 21,500 was recovered from the mutton sellers for selling unstamped, unhygienic & sub-standard stuff.

Notices have also been served to the mutton shop owners to install the black colour glasses in front of their shops and restrain the open display of mutton/ chicken. The owners were also instructed to keep separate bins to collect the daily waste generated on account of refused/inedible mutton & chicken parts for further proper disposal through JMC vehicles. Municipal Veterinary Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation also sensitize all the shopkeepers dealing with meat/chicken products to maintain hygienic environment in and around their shops and adhere with the various provisions of Food Safety Act, 2006, Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and other directions & guidelines issued by the JMC from time to time so that good quality hygienic meat shall reach to the consumers.

# DFCO team conducts intensive market checking in Doda Town

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 20: Team of Food Safety (DFCO) today conducted an intensive market checking in Doda Township and adjoining areas.

The team tested 25 samples on the spot using MFTV. This was done on the directions of Commissioner FDA J&K, with the able support of District Administration Doda. The team checked the quality and safety of different food items, including mutton, chicken, bakery, milk and milk products, vegetables, sweets and essential commodities for consumer safety and public health.

During the market inspection, the MFTV was used to conduct on the spot test of 25 samples, including milk (7), spices (4), edible oil (3), and sweets (10).

The team warned FBOs not to violate the FSS Act, as it is against public health. Violators will be fined under Section 69 of the Act.

The team also destroyed around 25 kg of rotten vegetables and fruits on the spot and imparted awareness to vendors on hygienic practices to maintain well-sanitized establishments.

The team has been directed to continue the drive vigorously, ensuring that essential commodities and other food products such as meat, chicken, eggs, bakery items, sweets, milk and milk products, fruits, and vegetables are sold at government-approved rates and meet the quality standards under FSSA. This is particularly important during the ongoing Holy Ramzan and ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

# DC Rajouri reviews disposal of Public Grievances by Jal Shakti, PDD

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Khandelwal today chaired a meeting of the Jal Shakti and Power Development Department (PDD) officials to review the disposal of public grievances by the twin departments. The meeting was held in the district administrative complex, where senior officials from the concerned departments were present. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress made in the disposal of public grievances received by the Jal Shakti and PDD departments. He directed the officials to expedite the process of resolving the grievances and ensure that the complaints are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

The Deputy Commissioner also talked telephonically to some of the complainants to ascertain the status of their grievances and sought their feedback on the level of satisfaction with the department's response. He urged the officials to take the



grievances seriously and provide prompt and satisfactory solutions to the public.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of addressing public grievances in a timely and effective manner. He directed the officials to ensure that every grievance is resolved in a transparent and accountable manner to instil confidence among the public. The meeting was aimed at ensuring that the public grievances are

addressed promptly and effectively by the concerned departments. The administration is committed to providing efficient and effective public service delivery and will take all necessary steps to ensure that the grievances of the public are resolved in a timely and transparent manner.

The Deputy Commissioner also urged the public to come forward and register their grievances with the concerned departments so that prompt action can be taken to address their concerns.

# ADC Kupwara Chairs HADP meet, discusses measures for conduct of successful baseline survey, awareness

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 20: To discuss the measures for awareness for farmers and conduct of successful baseline Survey of Farmers regarding

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), ADC Kupwara, Ch. Nahi Bhat today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at the Mini-meeting hall of the DC office Complex here.

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

The ADC Kupwara stressed upon the Sectoral Officers of Agriculture and allied departments to give the programme wide publicity using social media apps and other tools of

communication so that mass participation of the farming community can be assured.

It was apprised in the meeting that the Sheep Husbandry Department in Kupwara district which is nodal department in collaboration with other Agriculture and allied departments is going to conduct Farmers Orientation programme under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in all 24 CD blocks of the district.

It was said that the programme is commencing from 24th April and will cover all panchayats of the district.

It was further said 133 Panchayat Ghars in Kupwara district have been identified as orientation spots to cover all the panchayats across the district.



The orientation programme shall be conducted by the Resource Persons including Gazetted officers and Supervisory Staff of the Agriculture and allied departments who shall record and collect the basic data and feedback from the farmers. The programme shall cover 45 projects conceived under HADP programme in which Audio visual aids will be put into use for effective orientation and awareness.

For proper monitoring and supervision of the programme, each district officer of Agriculture and allied department shall look after 3 CD blocks. Booklets shall be provided to unemployed educated youth for mass awareness. ADC Kupwara also asked the concerned to raise awareness among the farmers about modern tools and techniques that have been incorporated in HADP to overcome the

prevailing constraints and use different extension methods to motivate the farming community in adoption of proposed interventions in the approved projects.

Meanwhile, the ADC assured all possible help from District Administration for the successful implementation of the programme in the district to uplift the livelihood of the farming community. With regard to the collection of baseline survey for the holistic program the ADC Kupwara said that while conducting the baseline survey accurate and first hand information should be collected and besides information regarding landholding of farmers should also be recorded. ADC Kupwara also directed the concerned staff and filed functionaries to keep themselves updated and additional knowledge about schemes and economic models of dairy/poultry farming and advance technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, sheep Husbandry, and other officers from allied departments.

# Students Pledge to make GDC Ramgarh Nasha Mukht'

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 20: National Service Scheme unit 'Prabha' and the Department of Physical Education and Sports of Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday organised a 'Pledge and Awareness Lecture' on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The event was organized under the leadership and supervision of Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur. The lecture on the theme was delivered by the Principal of the College. In her address, she said that the College has declared at the outset that it will con-

duct awareness lectures on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan twice every week. All the enrolled students, faculty members and non-teaching staff took the pledge to refrain from the consumption of drugs and narcotics. She added that one must attempt to identify those members of the community who are into drugs, alcohol and tobacco use in order to help them stay away from substance use. She stressed upon the fact that people must come closer to their religious faiths and beliefs, which shall help them create mental and ethical resistance against drugs. Students and Youth must participate in sports and physical



activities along with the practice of meditation. She also told students to keep a vigil on use of such substances by friends in college, family and surround-

# Reasi: DHEW team organise awareness programme on Women Centric schemes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 20: District Hub for Empowerment of Women Reasi, under Mission Shakti, today organised an awareness programme here at Fanchayal Bhaghta on Government Schemes and programmes meant for the uplift and Empowerment of women.

During the programme, Monika Sharma, District Mission Coordinator, DHEW Reasi imparted awareness to a large number of women about the eligibility criteria, Documentation and the "procedure to avail the benefits under different government schemes viz. ISSS, Marriage Assistance Scheme, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline-181, BBBP, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, PMMY, Skill development courses by SBI RSETI, PMKYV, Women Entrepreneurship programme like Tejaswini, PMEGP etc.

The programme was attended by PRLs, Women of JKRLM. Grievances of the women were also noted and they were assured to provide assistance with the help of the concerned department. Pamphlets regarding women centric schemes were also distributed.

# SDRF organises Mock Drill on Disaster Management in GCOE

## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FIRST AID, CPR, RESCUE TECHNIQUES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Awareness cum demonstration event on Disaster Management was today conducted by SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu here in Government College of Education Canal Road.

The event was held under the supervision of Atul Sharma, SSP, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu.

Aekta Gupta, Principal Government College of Education along with Prof. Anju Bala (DSW) inaugurated the programme and highlighted the role of Disaster Management and need of these techniques.

Arvind Kotwal, Dy. SP SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu, and Sunil Sharma, Inspector were the overall incharge of the Mock Drill Exercise/demonstration. They also briefed the students on the occasion.

During the programme, the SDRF personnel gave demonstration on First Aid, CPR, Medical First Responder, Earthquake, Mountaineering Rescue Techniques (MRTs). Various Rescue operation Techniques of Disaster management were conducted by the SDRF instructors among the students and staff members.

A successful mock exercise, demonstration on Disaster Management as well as the Rescue Techniques were conducted by the SDRF Team.

## NASHA MUKHT BHARAT

# DIPR Cultural Unit presents cultural program at GPS Pacca Talab



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: A cultural program was today organised by the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations on the theme Nasha Mukht Bharat at Government Primary School Pacca Talab Bahu Fort Jammu.

Artists of Cultural Wing Information Department Jammu, Vijay Anand, Surjeet Singh, Balbir Singh, Bunty Kumar, Kamal Kumar and Mukesh Kumar participated in the event and presented Folk songs, patriotic songs and theme based songs.

Students of the school and teachers also presented a colourful cultural program. While speaking on the occasion Incharge Headmaster of the school Subhash Chander shared his views on the topic and also lauded Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing the program to aware the future of the nation.

Among others, staff members of the school, officials of the Information Department and a large number of audience witnessed the program.

The program was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

# Muazzam Ali assumes charge as ARTO Baramulla

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 20: Muazzam Ali assumed the charge of ARTO Baramulla.

Soon after assuming the charge, the new ARTO Baramulla head quarter Sopore interacted with the employees of the department who accorded a warm welcome to the officer.

During the interaction, he was briefed about various steps being taken to improve the traffic management system in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Muazzam Ali said that ensuring safety on roads and institutionalizing professional planning in the domain of traffic management will be his top priority.

He further said that those caught violating traffic rules would be dealt with strictly as per law.



# Kishtwar admin launches IVRS to address Citizens' Queries, Grievances over phone

PEOPLE CAN DIAL 8470-800-900 TO AVAIL AFFORDABLE, EFFECTIVE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: The District Administration Kishtwar today launched a new initiative called "Hello Kishtwar" - an Inter Voice Response System to provide poor people an effective and affordable grievance redressal mechanism. The initiative aims to reduce the financial burden of people of remote areas who have to travel long distances to government offices such as the office of Deputy Commissioner and SSP, spend money on transportation, printing of letters, and follow-ups. To provide much needed relief to the people, information technology has been used to enable the citizens to directly talk to the Deputy Commissioner, Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional District Development Commissioner,



Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer etc. on every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 AM to 12 PM to seek the redressal of their grievances and queries by simply dialling 8470-800-900. Further, a fixed date and timing will ensure that genuine grievances are noted by government offices for the timely redressal. After the call ends, the caller will receive an SMS containing a Grievance ID, which can be used to track the action taken on the projected grievance(s). Each call will be recorded using IVRS technology to ensure proper tracking of the complaints of citizens. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khali Ahmed Poswal and Additional District Development Commissioner, Sham Lal launched the facility here at a simple but impressive programme. The team members of National Informatics Centre Kishtwar and media persons were also present. During the launching ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner

informed that the Citizens can access the "Hello Kishtwar" IVRS by dialling 8470-800-900. A live demonstration was also made for the media persons about the usage of "Hello Kishtwar" (IVRS). The media persons were sensitized to encourage and aware the citizens to use the services of "Hello Kishtwar". Interacting with media persons on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the initiative has been initially launched for two days a week, i.e. Tuesday and Thursday, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon during which a number of officers would be available to receive call and forward/dispense the genuine grievance/complaints. The citizen/user/caller shall receive a Text message on his mobile number with reference ID and link for checking the status.

He further said that the district administration is committed to ensure that the public feedback is taken into account and appropriate measures are taken to improve services delivery. The SSP Kishtwar emphasized that the launch of the "Hello Kishtwar" IVRS is a step to leverage technology to ensure that grievances of people are redressed in a time bound and effective manner. ADCC Kishtwar urged citizens to make use of this citizen-centric initiatives "Hello Kishtwar" for larger benefit. Overall, the launch of the "Hello Kishtwar" IVRS is a significant step to ensure that citizens can register their grievances through a call in a hassle-free manner, and the concerned departments can respond to them in a timely and efficient manner.

## Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to industrial area of SICOP Birpur Complex, Greater Kailash, Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 21 from 4 pm to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Garh Colony, Bus stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Nagar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Roop Nagar, Muthi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 23 from 9 am to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Gandhi Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Sarjey Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Boria Bahandi, Channi Himmat, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Chowadi, Industrial Area Ganygal, Greater Jammu, Trikuta Nagar Free Nagar, Langer, Kunjwani, Industrial Estate Digiana, Babliana, Jeevan Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Adarsh Enclave, Basant Vihar, Marvel Enclave and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 23 from 7 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area of SIDCO Bari Brahmana, MES, Ratnuchak,

Birpur, Data Talab, Sainik Colony, Gurah, Smailpur, Rahya, Purmandal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 23 from 8 am to 11 am. Likewise, the power supply to Keeran Gandval, Industry Kerian, Lakhnapur, Lakhnapur village, Excise Department, RTIC Lakhnapur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 23 from 9 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Mahanpur, Billawar, Bani, Basohli, Machedi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 23 from 7 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Kathua, Mahanpur, Sewa, HEIP, Samba, Billawar, Ghatti, Hiranagar and adjoining areas and Jammu Traction Supply Manwal shall remain affected on April 23 from 9 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Sidhra, Malhori Jagir, Bahuforj/Hajarkoti, Janipur, Lakad Mandi, Patoli, Janipur Colony, Pamposh colony, Ambredhar Nagar, High Court, Daily Excelsior, Statistical Office, Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Pallara, Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Garh Colony, Bus stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar, JK

Colony, ChandanVihar, PHE, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, Sheethi, part of Sidhra, Bamyal, MES Nagrota, PHE Sheethi, BSF Paloura New Secretariat, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Rajinder Nagar, Roop Nagar, Sheethi (PHE), Laxmipuram, Swam Vihar, Bharat Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Bantlab Radio Station, BSNL, CRPF, Ayush Hospital shall remain affected on April 23 from 9 am to 11 am. Likewise, the power supply to Patoli Brahmana, Domana, Barnai, Purkhoo, Mishriwala, Baba Talab, ShamachakGurhaSinghu, Batera, Dabbin, Chorpur, Manval, Dhrankhu, TirhTalab, GREF, Gumpul, Saa No.1, Garhkal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Ratnuchak, Birpur, Sainik Colony, MES and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 24 from 8 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Biaspur, Kotli, Kalayana, Khana Chak, Kotli, Nikowal, Sai Kalar, Phallian, Ganeshchak, Soore Chak, Parladpur, Suanjhana, Makwal, Hakkal, Salehar, Rathana, Khour, Sarwan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 24 from 7 am to 12 noon.

## Div Com reviews arrangements for facilitating smooth Seasonal migration of nomads

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and concerned Officers to review the arrangements for facilitating smooth seasonal migration of the nomads Gujjar-Bakerwal community along with their livestock to upper reaches of the districts.

The Div Com directed DCs to issue permissions for movement after seeking proper satisfactory reports from the concerned departments. He also directed DCs to appoint nodal officers and share the number of Trucks required in their respective districts. The Animal and Sheep husbandry departments were directed to set up first aid camps at different locations to provide vet services to the migrants. He further directed the revenue, police and forest departments to facilitate smooth movement of nomads. Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Departments were also told to ensure tagging of each Animal. The meeting was attended by Director Animal Husbandry, Director Tribal Affairs, Director Sheep Husbandry, ADC Jammu, ACG Jammu and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing. Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner, in another meeting, reviewed the issues related to West Pakistani Refugees and cases of Displaced persons (DP) of 1947, 1965 and 1971.

## Juhi meets scores of delegations at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 20: Scores of delegations today called on Juhi Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson District Development Council at her Office in the DC office complex, to project their demands and issues.

A variety of issues were projected including provision of drinking water, electricity supply, road connectivity. A spirited deputation of Tandhar area of Chenani called upon Pathania seeking the handing over of PDC managed Chenani Hydel Project road from Village Tandar to Laddan Power House to PWD(R&B) so that the road connectivity to about ten villages of Chenani could be provided. Pathania took up the issue with the PDC and Additional Deputy Commissioner to ensure prompt and speedy redressal of the public issue. Another deputation from Chigla Balota called for provision of roads from Lehti to Ranyal via Dhara, roads from Ujh bridge to Kansala, Siamey. Various other delegations led by PRI members had detailed discussions with the Vice Chairperson regarding key developmental issues pertaining to their areas regarding shortage of drinking water, irregular water supply, electricity supply, quality of Staff in schools and health institutions. She took up these issues with the concerned departments and instructed them to provide viable solutions to the people. During the meeting, PRIs members and locals raised various issues and demands regarding water, electricity, sports, educational, health, infrastructure amenities including demand for electric poles, water supply and immediate repairing of hand pumps. Due to acute scarcity of water many handpumps are out of order for so many weeks. She called upon the Groundwater Deptt to repair out-of-order pumps.

## Chairperson DDC chairs hand holding session of JJM at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL-20- District Development Council Chairperson, Udhampur, Lal Chand today chaired hand holding session of Jal Jeevan Mission for dissemination awareness among all the PRI members, Anganwadi Workers, Asha workers being members of the Family Welfare Committees members at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur. Vice Chairperson DDC, Juhi Manhas Pathania, Additional District Development Commissioner, Gan Sham Singh, DDCs, BDCs and other officers of various departments participated in the session. More than 200 stakeholders including PRIs, Pani Samiti members, Health Department, ASHA workers Anganwadi workers, District Project Management Unit JJM Staff, Implementation Support Agency, Water Testing lab staff, The ADCC Udhampur conducted the proceedings of the programme. Superintending Engineer (Member Secretary District Jal Jeevan Mission) Udhampur during the welcome address highlighted the importance of the awareness programme besides presenting the achievements of the District under Jal Jeevan Mission. Sajal Shrivastav, expert from PMC, highlighted the different aspects of Jal Jeevan Mission, water management, over-all water conservation measures required to ensure adequate, clean tap water to every household. The role and duties of different stakeholders including Pani Samities, best practices of water management including Rain Water Harvesting was discussed in detail with the audience through Audio Visual aids. Live demonstration of Water Testing on Field Testing Kits was also presented by Water Testing Staff. While addressing the session, Chairperson DDC gave details of the Jal Jeevan Mission program launched with the aim to provide HAR GHAR NAL SE JAL and asked the PRIs to extend full support to ensure successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission program.

# Jammu Administration celebrates Civil Services Day' 23

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: A meeting was held today to celebrate the Civil Services Day 2023 here in the DC Office complex.

The ADCC Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, ADC L&O Harvinder Singh, ADC ADM Sandeep Sointra, Anant Dwivedi (IAS Probationer) ACR Piayush Dhotra, ACG



Manisha along with other senior officers attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the ADCC referred to Civil Services as the backbone of govern-

ment. He acknowledged the role of Civil Servants as the 'most visible and effective agents of change' in ensuring the inclusive

development of the nation. The ADC L & O Harvinder Singh, in his address, said that India is the largest democracy and most functional and vibrant at all levels. He stressed that our level of freedom of expression is next to none and there is no tangible reflection of enforced social. ADC ADM Sandeep Sointra, in his year's theme of Civil Services Day 'Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile' is a true reflection of the Preamble of the Indian

Constitution that seeks to secure Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity for all its citizens. All the officers present in the meeting also took an oath to perform their duties with utmost dedication to serve the people.

## Kissan Sampark Abhiyan of HADP: ADCC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for training camps

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADCC) Kishtwar, Sham Lal today chaired a meeting with the concerned officers to finalise the arrangements for the training camps being held under Kissan Sampark Abhiyan of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The meeting was held at the Conference Hall DC Office attended the Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik; Chief Horticulture Officer, Sajid Hussain; ACD/ DPO Sunil Bhutyal; SWDO Zubair Ahmed; LDM, Pankaj Bhadani; CEO Kishtwar and the officials from various departments and Banks. During the meeting, it was informed that from 24th April to 15th August, a series of 3 Day Training cum Orientation programmes will be conducted in each panchayat for the farmers. The modalities for the conduct of a 3-day-long training programme on the doubling of farmers' income through various interventions were discussed in detail during the meeting. The roles and responsibilities of different departments including Agriculture Horticulture, RDD and ICDs workers were

also discussed in the meeting. The ADCC emphasised the need for the coordination and cooperation of all the concerned departments to make the program a grand success. He stressed that the main objective of the training camp is to acquaint the farmers about various soft and technology interventions to increase the farming production and make farmers' income double for improving their livelihoods. Bankers were asked to ensure financial literacy and generate awareness about various Insurance schemes among the farmers during these camps. The concerned officers were directed to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are made for the training camp, and the farmers are informed about the same well in advance. The officials were also asked to monitor the progress of the program and ensure that the farmers benefited from it. The meeting aims to ensure the successful implementation of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. The program is expected to bring positive changes in the farming community of Kishtwar and help them improve their income.

## Kissan Sampark Abhiyan :AP&FWD Samba hosts Awareness cum Sensitization programme for Farmers' Orientation

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 20: Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department Jammu, in collaboration with Allied departments and KVK Samba, today organized a daylong awareness cum Sensitization programme to carry out Farmers' Orientation during Kissan Sampark Abhiyan under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The programme was convened by the district Administration led by Deputy Commissioner, Anuradha Gupta and chaired by District Development Council Chairperson, Keshav Dutt Sharma in presence of District Development Cell Vice Chairperson, DDC members, BDC Chairpersons and other PRI members. Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer(Nodal Officer-HADP Samba) Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Samba, other District/ Sectoral Heads of various departments and all Block Development Officers were also present. Addressing the participants, the District Development Commissioner issued directions to the Officers of different departments and representatives of PRIs present in the meeting to attend the training programmes for availing and harvesting maximum benefits from the Govt. Sponsored schemes and Projects formulated under HADP.

**UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**  
**GOVT POLYTECHNIC JAMMU**  
 Bikram Chowk, Jammu (J&K) 180004  
 Contact No: 0191-245373, 245791  
 E-mail: govtpolyjammu@gmail.com  
 No: GPJ/Est./F-720/1178-80 Dated: 17.04.2023

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Sealed quotation duly affixed with Rs. 5/- Revenue stamp are invited on letter head pad from the firms/service providers for the following service in this institution.

| S. No | Name of Item              | Quantity (In Nos.)                                | Service to be provided   | Quoted rates in Rupees including of all taxes |
|-------|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1     | Cleaning of overhead tank | 500 Ltr. = 09<br>1000 Ltr. = 09<br>2000 Ltr. = 10 | The cleaning should be done by dewatering, high pressure cleaning, sludge removal, Algae removal with antibacterial treatment, vacuum cleaning and UV treatment to make it one time bacteria free. |   |
| 2     | Cleaning of sump tank     | 03  |  |   |

**Terms and conditions:-**

- The sealed quotations should reach the office of the Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu by hand/registered post by or before **28-04-2023 upto 04:00 PM**. In case the last day of receipt happens to be a non-working day, next working day shall be considered as the last day of receipt of quotations.
- The quotations will be opened on **29-04-2023 at 12:30 PM** in the office chamber of the Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu, in presence of the quotators who may like to be present on the opening date.
- The quotators can inspect the overhead water tanks / sump tanks of the institution on any working day between 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM, before quoting the rates.
- The successful quotator shall start the work within seven days from the allotment of contract.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/-  
**(ER. ARUN BANGOTRA)**  
 PRINCIPAL

DIJ/1-476/23

# Div Com Jammu reviews preparations for Investors meet

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for Northern Level Laghu Udyog Bharti Sammelan and Investors meet scheduled to be held on April 23, 2023 at KC. Regalia hotel Jammu.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various important issues while the President Laghu Udyog Bharti apprised the Div Com about the investors meet programme.

It was informed that around 300 to 350 business delegates from different parts of the coun-



try were expected to participate in the meet.

The Div Com instructed Industries and Commerce

Department, Pollution Control Board, JDCL, Handicraft and Handloom department to establish stalls during the meet to

highlight the schemes of their respective departments and apprise the visiting Investors about the procedure of apply-

ing for different types of required permissions.

All the concerned departments were asked to appoint nodal officers for the meet.

The Div Com observed that the meet would attract more investments, generate jobs and strengthen the economy of the UT. The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Director General Industries, Anoo Malhotra; Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Vikas Gupta; ADC Jammu, Harvinder Singh; Deputy Director Planning, Manish Datta; besides President Laghu Udyog Bharti, Pradeep Gupta alongwith other members also present in the meeting.

# District Convergence Plan 2023-24 discussed at Ganderbal

JJ NEWS SERVICE



GANDERBAL, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting to discuss and finalize the District convergence plan 2023-24 under MGNREGA for fruitful utilisation of funds and positive outcomes of the MGNREGA.

At the outset, ACD Ganderbal deliberated upon the features, modes and methods of convergence under MGNREGA. The DC in detail discussed the specifications and focus areas which shall be entertained while formulating the practicable convergence plan for the district in effective manner. The DC impressed upon all the line departments for immediate submission of convergence proposals for its consolidation and approval at the district level.

He urged all the departments to work in coordination with each other so that best convergence plan is proposed for creation of durable assets.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, ACD, CEO Manasbal Development Authority ACCP besides heads of all line departments.

# DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Youth Entrepreneurship Festival in district

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for weeklong Youth Entrepreneurship Festival that is going to be held in the district in the month of May, 2023.

At the outset, the DC deliberated upon the idea behind celebrating Youth Entrepreneurship Festival and said that purpose of Festival is to provide platform to the budding youth to show case their entrepreneur abilities and share their innovative ideas.

While reviewing the activities to be undertaken during the week-long event, the DC said that event will be inspiration to the people of the district who have excelled in various fields who will be given chance to narrate their success stories during



the event. It was given out that main event will be held in the premises of Govt Degree college Ganderbal and Qamaria Stadium. While discussing the arrangements being put in place at GDC Ganderbal, Executive Engineer R&B was directed to ensure all arrangements including white washing of main block, lighting arrangements shall be completed at an earliest. EO Municipal

Council Ganderbal was directed to take all possible measures for development and decoration of main road from Towheed Check road to Qamaria Stadium including development of paths, painting, street lights, etc. Similarly, necessary instructions were also given for making foolproof arrangements including installation of stalls and Shamiyana at Qamaria Ground. The DC sought cooperation and coordina-

tion among all the departments for ensuring foolproof arrangements for making the event a success.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah; Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri; ACR, ACD besides other district and sectoral officers.

# Dubai Expo liabilities shall be paid to service providers through FICCI

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 20: Dubai Expo 2020 was held in January 2022, in which the Department of Commerce (DOC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) signed a memorandum of understanding wherein FICCI was given the responsibility of managing the Dubai Expo 2020 event, the Department of Handloom and Handicraft communicated.

The department further said that in accordance with the MoU, FICCI was given the responsibility of hiring suppliers and service providers in order to carry out the numerous activities planned for the event.

"In addition, FICCI was tasked with maintaining a ledger of account for the costs associated with the event."

The H&H department also informed that the event was conducted however, due to a delay in the submission of the bills by FICCI and a change of guard at JKTIPO and their shifting to treasury operations caused the delay.

"The amount on account of liabilities is expected to be paid to FICCI, who in turn shall make the payments to the concerned vendors", it added.

Moreover, the statement issued by H&H deptt reads, "With respect to remuneration, the Performance Fee is being paid in accordance with the rates notified by the Cultural Academy, J&K".

"Pertinent to mention, an amount of Rs. 17 Lacs approximately was spent on the Boarding and Lodging of these 11 artists, who were part of the cultural troupe", the department maintained.

# Enforcement Squad of FCS conducts market checking drive

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 20: The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department under the supervision of Assistant Director Enforcement Fayaz Ahmad Shah launched a massive drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City particularly at Sariabala, Jawahar Nagar, Dalgate, Sonwar, Nishat, Hazratbala, Zakura, Eidgab, Khanyar, Fateh Kadal & Karan Nagar areas, etc.

During the course of action as many as 118 establishments were inspected, out of which 25 erring traders were penalized with a sum of rupees 19300 for violating Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

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

# DC Shopian Greets People on Eve of Eid-UI- Fitr

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaisiyya extended warm greetings to the people of the district on auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The DC prayed for peace, happiness and well-being of the people. In his message, the DM expressed hope that the auspicious day would strengthen the bond and harmony among all communities.

# District Administration Anantnag celebrate Civil services Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE



ANANTNAG APRIL 20: On the eve of civil services Day, District administration Anantnag today organised a function at VC Hall of the DC office complex.

21th April every year is dedicated to the civil servants and to reflect back what they have done years back. On this day they make plans for the coming years for their departments. The day was chosen to commemorate the day in 1947 when sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the first home minister of independent India addressed the probationary officers at All India Administrative services training at Metcalf Delhi. Various civil service officers of District Anantnag including the CEO PDA, SE Hydraulic, SE KPDCAL, District programme officer ICDS, ACD, AD FS&CA AC Labour department recall their commitment for the cause of citizens and for the nation besides share their achievements and experience as civil servants.

Deputy commissioner Anantnag Dr Basharat Qayoom on the occasion said that being a civil service officer one needs to be very, energetic, ambitious, vibrant, honest and foremost very dedicated towards his duties and must have fast disposal rate besides to ensure administrative mechanism.

# IIM Jammu hosts interactive session by Dr. Shivendu Pratap Singh of School of Business, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville USA

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 20: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, today hosted an interactive session by Dr. Shivendu Pratap Singh, School of Business, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, USA.

The topic of the session was, "Exploring Econometrics & Experiments in Information System Research". The session started with a welcome address and introduction of the speaker by Dr.



Rambalak Yadav, Chairperson, Research, IIM Jammu. Dr. Shivendu Pratap Singh spoke about the various nuances

involved with research and publishing articles in journals of international repute. He gave practical insights into the

different ways to undertake research and presented his research work namely: a) The value of open-source innovation by firms, b) Effect of Personification of online review on its helpfulness: A case of conversation AI reviews. The session was attended by Ph.D. students including faculty, and staff, of the Institute. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Rambalak Yadav, Chairperson, Research, and was joined by Dr. Kapil M Gamte, Co-Chairperson, Research, IIM Jammu. The whole event was coordinated by the Research Office, IIM Jammu.

# JKTIPO, Invest India (DPIIT) organised Organic Certification program for Kishtwar Saffron Growers under ODOP initiative

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTIPO) under the guidance of Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal and under supervision of Managing Director JKTIPO, Khalid Jahangir, organised the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Awareness Drive for organic certification of Saffron, ODOP product of Kishtwar District in collaboration with Invest India (One District One Product) team, DPIIT, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry at District office complex here.

The workshop organised with the vision to provide training and certification to farmers who are already pursuing organic

farming but don't have the necessary certification for their products authenticity.

This workshop is one of the initiatives of JKTIPO for the promotion of ODOP products in Jammu and Kashmir which includes conduction of Buyer Seller meets, participation in national and international trade fairs/ exhibitions and capacity building programs. The drive will increase the export potential of saffron as organic certified products have huge international market.

National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) under Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India involves accreditation of Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing etc. The NPOP stan-



dards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by European Commission and Switzerland for unprocessed plant products

as equivalent to their country standards. With these recognitions, Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are

accepted by the importing countries.

This was the second National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Awareness Drive after Pulwama for organic certification of Saffron organized by JKTIPO. The workshop was attended by more than 45 saffron producers of Kishtwar district, and more farmers will come under organic certification.

On this occasion, Saffron Development Officer, Kishtwar, said: "there is a huge demand of Kishtwar saffron in India and abroad due to its unique aroma and flavour but farmers are not getting good prices due to less marketing linkages. This organic certification of Saffron will boost the demand of saffron and will help to increase the income of farmers."