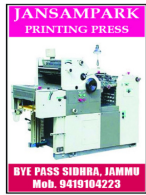




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Lt Governor participates in the celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day at Palli, Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, APR 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha participated in the celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day at Palli, Samba today.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor conferred awards to the concerned awardees of UT Level Panchayat Awards. He also launched 'Mera Samba' Swachhta App for Community Participation and inaugurated 18 Nokia Smartpurs for Samba & 6 for Anantnag.

The Lt Governor addressed the Panchayati Raj representatives and highlighted the stories of best performing Panchayats of J&K that have been



awarded in three categories at the national-level. These Panchayats are inspiring other PRIs for improving delivery of services and public goods, he

added. "As powerful agents of Socio-Economic change and engines of rural development, Panchayats are making a sig-

nificant contribution to the nation building and empowering the citizens to meet the challenge of sustainable development," said the Lt Governor.

Collective efforts of common man and Panchayats are playing an important role in realizing big dreams of small villages of UT. By establishing and strengthening three-tier grassroots democracy in J&K, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has ensured rapid & inclusive development, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor urged all the public representatives to give priority to the

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LG Reviews Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission & SBM-G with senior officials

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mis-

sion-Gramin (SBM-G) today at Raj Bhawan.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Union Secretary of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, (DDWS) in Minis-

try of Jal Shakti, Vini Mahajan; Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, along with other officers attended the meeting.

The Lt Governor appraised

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PM Modi blames previous Congress Govts for meting out 'step-motherly' treatment to villages

AGENCIES
REWA, APR 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday blamed the previous Congress governments for meting out "step-motherly" treatment to villages in the country after independence and breaking their trust.

Addressing a public event in Rewa on the occasion of the National Panchayati Raj Day, Modi said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government has changed the situation and pumped in huge grants to panchayats.

"The party which ruled the most after independence broke the trust of villages...Meted out step-motherly treatment to them," Modi said.

"People, schools, roads, electricity, storage facilities, economy of villages...All these were kept at the bottom of the government's priorities during the Congress regime," he said



after virtually inaugurating a number of development projects.

The previous governments used to avoid spending money for villages, because a village was not vote bank in itself.

"That is why they were ignored," he said. "Many political parties were running their 'shops' by dividing village folks," he said.

The BJP has ended this injustice meted out to villages and opened our treasury chest for their development, he added.

The prime minister extended wishes to people on the National Panchayati Raj Day and

said more than 30 lakh panchayat representatives from across the country were virtually connected to the programme held in Rewa.

"This is certainly a very powerful picture of India's democracy," he said.

Modi said in the 10 years before 2014, around 6,000 panchayat buildings were built with the help of the then central governments.

"But, our government, within eight years, has got more than 30,000 new panchayat buildings constructed," Modi said.

Since 2014, the country has

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Conductor dies, driver injured as dumper crashes into truck

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APR 24

A conductor died and a driver was injured when two vehicles crashed into each other on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur district last night, officials said.

Officials said that a dumper crashed into a truck inside Chani-Nashri tunnel in Udhampur last night.

He said in the incident conductor of the dumper died on spot while its driver was injured.

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Govt employee arrested for raping woman after posing as 'Tantrik'

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, APR 24

An employee of the Jal Shakti Department was arrested on Monday for allegedly raping a woman after posing as a "tantrik" with powers to heal skin ailments in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The employee, a resident of the Ramgarh area, was arrested after police registered a rape case

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J&K NIA attaches properties of Hizbul Mujahideen Chief's Sons

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 24

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday attached a house and two kanals of land belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahudeen's two sons in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam and Srinagar districts, officials said.

A team of NIA officials first attached a house in Ram Bagh area here registered in the name of Syed Ahmed Shakeel, son of designated terrorist Salahudeen, they said. "The house, registered in the revenue records in the name of Syed Ahmad Shakeel, was attached by the NIA on court orders under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," an NIA official said.

Later, the team went to Soibugh in Budgam district, the ancestral place of one of the most wanted terrorists in India, and attached a plot of agricultural land measuring two kanals (10,880 square feet), the officials said.

The land is registered in the name of Salahudeen's



another son, Shahid Yusuf. Notice boards announcing the attachments were installed at both the premises by the NIA sleuths.

Besides, the NIA also seized six shops in Awantipora area of Pulwama district in a case relating to a 2018 attack on CRPF Group Centre at Lethpora, J&K.

In a statement, the NIA said it attached two properties of the sons of designated terrorist Syed Mohammed Yusuf Shah @ Syed Salahudeen, the self-styled Supreme Commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Chairman of United Jihad Council (UJC).

"The immovable prop-

erties of Shahid Yusuf and Syed Ahmed Shakeel, located in Kashmir - in Soibugh Tehsil, Distt. Budgam and Nursing Garh, Mohalla Ram Bagh, have been attached under section 33(1) of UA(P) Act," the NIA said.

Both Shahid Yusuf and Syed Ahmed Shakeel are lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since their arrests in October 2017 and August 2018. They were chargesheeted on April 20, 2018 and November 20, 2018, respectively. The duo had been receiving funds from abroad from the associates of their father and underground workers of HM, it added.

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PM Modi brings forth the captivating success stories of the people of J&K: Ravinder Raina

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Modi ji has brought into the limelight the captivating success stories of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, said

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Poonch Terror Attack

Over 40 detained for questioning; search operation enters fourth day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

More than 40 persons have been detained for questioning as part of a massive operation currently underway to track down the terrorists involved in the Poonch terror attack, officials said on Monday.

Additional troops have been inducted to further intensify the cordon-and-search operation (CASO) in Bhata Dhurian-Tota Gali and neighbouring areas. As the operation entered fourth day on Monday with engagement of multiple security agencies, the entire belt is put under cordon, they said.

Five Army personnel were killed



and a sixth was seriously injured when their vehicle caught fire during a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch on Thursday. According to the investigation, the

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Farmers turn Bholderwah town into 'capital of lavender'

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 24

A 33-year-old resident of Bholderwah town in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir claims to have helped at least 2,500 farmers in Chenab region to increase their income manifold by switching from traditional maize and paddy farming to lucrative lavender cultivation.

Touqeer Bagban, a resident of Mohalla Vasuki Dhera in Bholderwah town, belongs to a farmer's family and owns a cedar wood extraction oil unit.

"I always wanted to utilise local available natural resources to create jobs and provide profitable livelihood avenues



for the small and marginal farmers," Bagban said.

Touqeer, a class 12 dropout, got inspiration from a workshop organised by IIM (Indian

Institute of Integrative Medicine) in 2014 and convinced his family to switch from traditional farming of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dr Jitendra Singh announces special university drive for startups in J&K, Northeast

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 24



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO,

Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced a special drive for StartUps and R&D activities in the new and emerging areas in the University

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India launches operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from Sudan

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 24

India on Monday launched 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate its nationals from violence-hit Sudan.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India's ships and aircraft are set to bring the Indians back home.

"Operation Kaveri gets underway to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way," Jaishankar tweeted.

"Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. Committed to assist all

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Dr. Nirmal Singh asks JDA to clear the cases pertaining to UTEIC permissions



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Dr. Nirmal Singh asked JDA to clear the cases pertaining to UTEIC permissions. He said that the order pertaining to the non-requirement of UTEIC certificate for the building permission to be acquired from the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has long been circulated under the official orders from the department. Subsequently, Divisional Commissioner Jammu (Chairman UTEIC) has also cleared air on the

matter asking various departments to not linger on the building permission cases for the want of UTEIC permissions. "BJP is concerned about the issues faced by the masses. The party is up for the sensitive approach to all the issues", stated Dr. Nirmal Singh. Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. Chief Minister, accompanied by J&K BJP Secretary Venu Khanna, and BJP Maha Sampark Abhiyaan Department Incharge Ankush Gupta, was listening to the public

grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Numerous people, individually as well in the form of deputations, visited the BJP office to discuss their respective issues with the senior party leaders. Various issues represented contained matters of individual concerns as well as development oriented related to their respective areas. A deputation apprised that some people have encroached on the space of the Mata Alksheshwari,

Roop Bhawani Mandir of Sh. Alakh Sahiba Trust in Laar, Ganderbal. A deputation from Mandal area apprised that they have not been paid compensations for the installation of high tension electric poles in their private lands. A deputation of nomads requested that sufficient vehicles be provided for the shifting of their livestock. A deputation apprised that the repair works on the road connecting Chamba and Bhaderwah are delayed leading to the problems to the commuters especially for the Mani Mahesh travelers.

Besides various personal issues, other main issues presented related to PHE, PDD, roads, lanes, drains etc. Dr. Nirmal Singh listened to all the individuals and the deputations patiently and immediately took up the matters with the concerned departmental officials telephonically as well as issued letters for the others. Talking to the concerned authorities, he pressed for the prompt redress of the issues.

Chandel appeals PM Modi to take revenge of 5 soldiers martyred in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel while talking to the journalists today said that the way the people of unethical brutal monstrous terrorist tendencies are actively destroying the humanity in the country, in the same way the same treachery and treachery had happened during the Mahabharata period. The destruction of humanity today is even more heinous than it is happening all over the world even in Martyr India. At such a time, Lord Shri Krishna has said that it is foolishness to teach the lesson of morality, it should be answered in its own language. Chandel said that glorious Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mahatma Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh are a storehouse of knowledge, but in today's terroristic environment, giving moral lesson to people of demonic tendency, crying out for morality is like foolishness. Terrorists are protecting Sanatan culture and law by answering land mafia in their own language. Chandel said that any way the court Crores of cases are pending in the courts, no hearing is being done on



them quickly, whatever is happening in today's era is happening according to the will of the Supreme God. Chandel said that humanity is not ready to understand the definition of morality, today's terrorism, terrorist goons, scoundrels, then where will the upliftment of the society come from? Chandel said that in the same way, during the Mahabharata period, atrocities and misconduct had increased to such an extent that tyrannical miscreants considered humanity and manners alien to them, and

keeping the law made by God aside, they were destroying humanity by becoming savages. The terrorist miscreants were attacked in their own language and the tyrannical miscreants were almost eliminated from the earth. Chandel said that the whole the fierce Kalynag has come in the today world, justice, law, morality, on the words of God, human beings are not ready to walk on the paths, whether it is Navratri or Ramzan, on any religious, terrorist, goon, oppressor, any festival. Do not respect any belief and keep shedding the blood of humanity Chandel said that when a person becomes an evil demon and does not follow the law made by God and the law made by man, then act like Lord Shri Krishna to save humanity and human being by following Mahabharata Work has to be done, only then tyranny and tyrants will end completely from this earth. Chandel demanded from the country's proud Prime Minister Narendra Modi that revenge for the death of our 5 soldiers should be done by beheading 50 Pakistani terrorists and put them at the feet of Mother India, only then the revenge for the death of five soldiers would be complete.

Shiv Sena seek LG for free registration, warned for nationwide agitation



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Shiv Sena(Uddhav Bala Saheb Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, to immediately issue instructions for making Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra registration free , toll exemption to vehicles carrying Yatrias and free tent service for devotees at the holy cave shrine. A group of party leaders led by Shiv Sena

state chief Manish Sahni reached Raj Bhavan to submit a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir regarding above demands. While addressing media persons before proceeding to Raj Bhawan , Manish Sahni said that We are residents of the country where subsidies was given for religious pilgrimages, some state governments are running free pilgrimage scheme. But in the reign of those who claim to be Hinduists the Jizya (tax) of Rs 220/-

which is being collected in the name of online registration from the devotees coming from all over the country for the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra in union territory Jammu-Kashmir, which is reliving the memories of the Mughal era. Sahni said that along with the registration , toll is collected from passenger vehicles and not only this even those doing social and charitable work by holding various facilitating camps with provision of free food and stay for Yatrias are not spared.

He said that such stance of the Govt is reminiscent of the Mughal period when Hindus were forcibly made to pay Jizya. Sahni made a fervent appeal to all the Hindu organizations across the country to raise their voice in every nook and corner in their respective states to make darshan and worship completely free at all the religious places of the country. Sahni said in a warning tone that if a decision is not taken in favor of their above demands, Shiv Sainiks will come out on the streets all over the country. Sahni warned of nationwide agitation if the above demands were not accepted. On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Senior Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Chairman Advisor Shiv Sharma, President Kamgar Raj Singh, Titu Sehgal, secretary Mamta Devi , Mangru Ram Rakesh Bali were present.

Elections may never be held in J&K under BJP rule: Harsh Dev

JI NEWS SERVICE

CHENANI, APR 24: Pointing towards the statement of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K that PRL, LBs and Parliament elections were scheduled to be held in the current financial year, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and President JKNPP questioned the fate of Assembly elections in J&K which were being denied in the erstwhile state for the last around 5 years since the dissolution of legislature in 2018. He said that the ECI too was announcing elections for other states without uttering a single word about J&K Elections which are being delayed and denied and which may never be held as long as BJP remained in power at the centre. "If you can manage to hold the reins of power and run the affairs of state without elections, why at all should the ruling party take the risk of seeking peoples' mandate? Asserted Mr. Singh adding that the people of erstwhile state and its political leadership seemed to have reconciled to the backdoor rule imposed by the saffron regime. "What an irony! The party



which catapulted itself to power on the slogans of "one nation, one constitution" had itself dismantled the age old principles of democracy and denied constitutional rights to the people of J&K for the last five years with no hope of democracy getting restored in the downgraded state under BJP regime", observed Mr. Singh. He was interacting with various delegations of people in Chenani, Narsu and its adjoining localities during his tour of the constituency today. Urging upon the party rank and file to work for ameliorating the lot of poor and downtrodden, Mr. Singh said that all party leaders needed to work for safeguarding the rights and interests of common masses

in mission mode as against the power politics of BJP. He said the people were feeling cheated, let down and abandoned under the present regime wherein red-tape, corruption and nepotism had become all pervasive. Throwing all norms, procedures and precedents to winds, the BJP-bureaucrat nexus was allowed to float above the fray and use the resources of the state as per their own whims and fancies. Development funds were being siphoned and extortions were being made from unemployed youth in the name of govt jobs as noticed in the selections of Sub-Inspectors, Accounts Assistants, JEs, Fire Services, J&K Bank etc. Transfers in govt depts

had become an industry and the pendency of files in offices had beaten all previous records. There was hardly any connect between the administration and common masses with the latter having lost faith in the present government. And still the BJP govt did not want elections and was averse to handing over power to elected representatives by taking one freakish excuse after the other only to keep its backdoor proxy rule intact in J&K, rued Mr. Singh. Assuring the public to project their day to day problems at the appropriate forums, Mr. Singh said that the battle against misuse and corruption of the present regime shall be fought till the last.

Ravinder Raina, Kavinder, Dr Nirmal discuss current political scenario of J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Ravinder Raina, President Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir along with Kavinder Gupta and Dr Nirmal Singh today discussed current scenario of this Union Territory in the context of elections of Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies and Lok Sabha during a meeting held at the Party headquarters here

today. The BJP stalwarts at the very outset of the meeting welcomed the statement of Chief Election Officer (CEO) P.K Pole whereby he asserted that three elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory during the ongoing financial year. They said that it is the essence of democracy in India to have a three tier system in place so that the people get a feel of the

implementation of this system in letter and spirit at the grass roots level. They said that it was unfortunate that the people of J&K remained deprived of this basic democratic right for long and full credit goes to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Govt for providing the three tier democracy to the people of J&K by conducting Urban Local Bodies and Panchayat elections here.

The senior BJP leaders said that while the ULB and Panchayat elections will be conducted by the J&K government but regarding the Assembly elections the date/s and schedule announcement is the sole prerogative of the Election Commission of India which is expected any time. They said that the ECI team will be visiting J&K very soon and the outcome will depend on the visiting team's meticulous analysis of the situation in this fragile Union Territory. Meanwhile, the BJP stalwarts, while asserting that the Government at the Centre is quite serious about each and every issue pertaining to J&K, they appealed to the people to have faith in the Modi Government and wait for the announcement by the Election Commission of India after its team concludes the Jammu and Kashmir visit.

Sunil Prajapati Releases devotional Dogri Song "Kaliveer da Akhada"

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha), Gopal Gupta (Municipal Chairman Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan), Anu Gupta (State Media Secretary Mahila Morcha), Sahil Mahajan (Co- Convenier Sanskrit cell), Vikram Bhasin (BJP Leader) released Devotional song "Kaliveer Da Akhada". Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Prajapati complimented the singer making such a beautiful devotional song besides musicians and composer on the release. Observing that music knows no boundaries, the senior BJP leader said it binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society. "And, when music relates to spirituality, it directly touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and



hated. Sunil Prajapati said while releasing devotional musical Song, Sung by Ravinder Gupta, Music Ashh K, Lyrics Sonu Raipuria ,Video Director K.K.Malhotra ,Producer Rajveer Manni ,Project By Sahil Mahajan and Released under Banner Maa Bawe Wali Records . Sunil Prajapati lauded the efforts of Ravinder Gupta, saying his quest for

devotional songs holds a promise to be a leading artist in the near future, "Devotional music quenches the spiritual thirst of devotees", he said, wishing the young singer a bright future. He said music plays a pivotal role in preserving culture and taking it beyond boundaries. The Senior BJP leader said that the Union Territory has no dearth of talent but the only need is

to identify and polish it by expert hands. He also hoped that the album will inspire young artists of the UT to explore their hidden talent and make their niche in the society. He hoped this would go a long way to promote local talent and said that youth should be educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage.

DGPC Jammu to provide financial assistance to aspirants for IAS/KAS coaching



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: DGPC President S Ranjit Singh Tohra along with S Balvinder Singh Vice President, S Surjit Singh Gen Secretary, S Ranvir Singh Jt Secretary, S Harjit Singh & S Gurmeet Singh Incharge Dharam Parchar Committee while addressing the press conference announced new initiatives taken by DGPC Jammu to provide financial assistance to Sikh aspirants for getting coaching for IAS/KAS and other Competitive exams. They further stated that from the day DGPC members taken over the charge had decided upon to lay stress and formulate the process to arrange education to under privilege stu-

dents of Sikh Community and also to impart coaching to deserving aspirants for IAS/ KAS/ICSSB and other competitive Exams. To work on the issue, three months ago, DGPC had made a request to the community to submit applications for seeking financial assistance for the students belonging to weaker section and DGPC received number of applications which are being shortlisted keeping in view the family income and merit of the applicants and the shortlisted applicants will soon provide financial support in shape of fee directly to the School. S Balvinder Singh Vice President stated that DGPC Jammu in continuation to their efforts to give

their best to the society in the field of education has taken some new initiatives. While giving detail of the initiatives taken by DGPC he stated that in the current year we have decided to provide financial assistance to the aspirants for imparting coaching for IAS/KAS and other Competitive exams through the reputed coaching centre of Jammu. Singh further said that we have decided to start with minimum numbers of twenty to twenty five aspirants for giving financial support and the numbers will be increased in the days to come. The list of aspiring candidates shall be scrutinized through written exams or on the basis of personal

appearance before a panel of experts and percentage of financial assistance shall depend upon the financial background and merit of the candidate. Balvinder stated that this scholarship will be for both who want to appear in 2023 & 2024 sessions. So the interested candidates are hereby directed to fill and submit their application form (available at both the Gurudwara) at DGPC Head Quarter Guru Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chand Nagar Jammu and DGPC Sub office at Gurudwara Baba Fate Singh ji in between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM daily on or before 30th April 2023 and submit it there along with annual income proof. Desirous candidates can also avail free counseling for the preparation of IAS/KAS exams. Some of the prominent personalities of the community who were present in the press conference are S Rajinder Singh Sudan, S Rajinder Singh Retd ZEO, S Manjit Singh, S T.P. Singh, S Tejinder Singh, S Faranjit Singh, S Daljeet Singh, S Makhan Singh Retd DSPS Jasbir Singh, S Onkar Singh, S Baldev Singh, S Dalip Singh, S Partap Singh, S Balwan Singh etc.

PM Modi brings forth the captivating success stories of the people of J&K: Ravinder Raina

JAMMU, APR 24: Modi ji has brought into the limelight the captivating success stories of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, said Ravinder Raina. Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir reviewed the preparations for the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' with senior party leaders.



J&K BJP Vice-President Shakti Parihar, General Secretary Dr. Devinder Manyal, BJYM Incharge Munish Sharma, District President Gopal Mahajan, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Co-Treasurer Prem Gupta, DDC Drabshalla Ashok Parihar and BJYM Vice-President Danish Mishra participated in the meeting. Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting said that the Lakhs of people of Jammu & Kashmir would listen to the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's AIR programme 'Mann Ki Baat' at about 10,00,000 booths. Ravinder Raina said that PM Modi has brought into the limelight the captivating success stories of the people of Jammu & Kashmir through 'Mann Ki

Baat'. He said that the PM's words bore a scintillating effect on the minds of common but extraordinarily skilled residents of this region. He said that his repeated sharing of stories from J&K has given energy to many to do extraordinary things in their respective fields. Ravinder Raina said that PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' is a non-political motivational programme in which he shares the stories of real heroes from the ground level to give a new direction and inspiration to the common people to do something special. Ravinder Raina said that 'Mann Ki Baat' is the first ever programme of such type to be telecasted for consecutive 100 episodes. The very purpose of broad-

casting this program from the radio was that PM's voice could be reached to remote villages because TV is not accessible in many rural and hilly areas. Raina added that the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat is going to be special, which will be a benchmark for a more transparent and dialogue driven government. "All the senior party leaders must ensure their presence in the massive programmes to listen to the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' at their respective booths with the participation of party activists and common masses", said Ravinder Raina. Raina further asked the senior party leaders to personally monitor the prepa-

rations to listen to the programme. Shakti Parihar said that as the Mann Ki Baat reaches 100, it has sparked mass enthusiasm across the country. He said that party activists as well as common people are eagerly waiting to listen to the people's PM in the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat'. Dr. Devinder Manyal, who also addressed a meeting through Video-Conferencing soon after, asked the BJP's District President, General Secretaries and other leaders to ensure the participation of various organizations including religious, trade, commerce, Business and NGOs to listen to the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' amongst the masses.

AAP working as BJP's B team in Punjab elections: Mula Ram, Hari Singh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, APR 24: Mula Ram, former Minister and senior JKPC leader along with Hari Singh Chib, President District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural have accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of being B team of the Bharatiya Party in the upcoming Jhallaandhar by-poll which is conducting itself just for the benefit of BJP in these polls. The senior Congress leaders from Jammu stated this while addressing an election meeting here this evening. The said meeting was called in support of Congress candidate Smt Karanjit Kour Choudhary at Lambi Gali here this evening. While addressing the Punjab Congress leaders, workers and activists, Mula Ram said that BJP is adopting a strategy in areas wherever it feels its position is weak. At such places it is pushing forward AAP

on the front as its B team for which AAP will have to pay a heavy price. He said that AAP Govt in Punjab has already proved to be an utter failure on all fronts having taken this state from bad to worse. He said that like the BJP it made hollow promises never to be fulfilled. He said that AAP National convener Arvind Kejriwal had promised that AAP Govt will directly provide Rs 1000 in the accounts of women as part of its women welfare and empowerment commitment. He had said that this would be the world's biggest welfare and empowerment. Unfortu-

nately nothing of the sort has happened till date thus proving them as ace liars. He said that the people of Punjab have now understood AAP's game plan and can't get befuddled any more. He appealed to the people of Punjab to teach AAP and BJP a lesson in the upcoming polls. Hari Singh Chib, President District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural while addressing the meeting said that people are fed up with AAP Government's misgovernance as the drug abuse is on the rise and terrorism seems to be sprouting yet again in Punjab. Law and order sit-

uation existing in Punjab today clearly indicates that the perpetrators of crime and the corrupt are hand in glove with the AAP leaders in Punjab. He said that AAP had also promised to end unemployment in Punjab but the same continues to be a distant dream never to be fulfilled. He said that Punjab people are direly in need of a change in governance and the people of Punjab should support Congress wholeheartedly just like the people of Himachal Pradesh. He asserted that Congress is the only panacea to cure Punjab of all the social evils existing there today.

Laghu Udyog Bharati All India Working and Executive Meet at Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: A meeting of All India Working and Executive Committee of Laghu Udyog Bharati started today at hotel KC Residential at Jammu. Where Central Body of Laghu Udyog Bharati headed by Dr. Krishangopal ji, Seh Sarkaryavah, RSS, Shri Prakash Chand ji, All India Sangathan Mantri, Shri Baldevbhai ji Prajapati, All India President and Shri Ghan Shyam ji Ojha, All India General Secretary along with office bearers from all the States are participating. This meeting would continue for two days on 24-25 April, 2023 covering various aspects such as reviewing the progress of work of Laghu Udyog Bharati and further development of the organization. Members of Laghu Udyog Bharati from various States gave details of the work done for the benefit of the society like conducting health check-up programs for the work in the industrial area conducting training programs for Skill Development of youth from the rural area. Even Employment Generation Centres are operating in many States for spreading



awareness about how to start their own work and to avail financial facility from Bank etc. Members of Laghu Udyog Bharati are absorbing such trained youth in their organisation. Discussions were held to finalize vision document of Laghu Udyog Bharati. Dr. Krishangopal ji in his address touched various points to be included in the vision document for development of Laghu Udyog Bharati which motivates all the members participating in the above meeting. Technical sessions covering Artificial Intelligence and how to promote export from India were also held for the benefit for the members of Laghu Udyog Bharati by experts from IT industry and DGFT

Department. Following the vision of Atamirbhar Bharat and Make in India given by Hon'ble Prime Minister, deliberations are also held to develop various products to substitute items being imported into India. With the objective to promote women entrepreneurs and to provide them marketing facilities, discussions on holding exhibitions exclusively by women entrepreneurs under the registered Brand name of "Swayamsiddha" are held. It is a matter of great pride for Laghu Udyog Bharati Jammu and Kashmir as for the first time in its 29 years history, such a high level meeting of Laghu Udyog Bharati has been held in Jammu. For hosting such a suc-

cessful meeting in Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Krishan Gopal ji blessed the whole unit of Laghu Udyog Bharati J&K which includes Sh. Parveen Gupta ji President LUB J&K, Sh. Rajinder Gupta ji Prabhari, Adv. Ishant Gupta and Sh. Mukul Mahajan Vice President ji, Aagam Jain ji Secretary, CA Pranav Gupta Treasurer, Sh. Ajay Pargal ji and Sh. Amogh Gupta ji. More than 150 members from all the States are participating. In 2025 Laghu Udyog Bharati principal organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will celebrate 100 years of their Establishment. Laghu Udyog Bharati targeting 100000 members throughout the Country.

Truecaller launches AI-powered SMS Fraud Protection; Empowers users against

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Truecaller has been warning users about potential fraudulent phone calls for over a decade. We have been relying on community-driven feedback to tackle the spam SMS. Now, with the rise in SMS fraud, we have also initiated 'Fraud Protection': an active effort that combines user feedback with our proprietary machine learning intelligence to effectively combat fraudulent messages and senders. This is especially helpful for people who may not know how to spot fraud and mistakenly believe they are dealing with legitimate businesses. Currently available to all Android users, Fraud Protection intelligently recognizes fraudulent senders and messages. Our system also adapts to automatically discover new forms of fraud, even without user

reports. Unlike regular spam, frauds and scams are often malicious in nature. There are always new types of fraud around, especially in the name of legitimate businesses. This often leads to victims getting duped of hard earned money within a fraction of a second. How Fraud Protection Works: When it comes to scam and fraud, you are not alone! We estimate that over 100 million people using Truecaller have received at least one fraudulent SMS over the past three months. These frauds range from electricity bill payments, banks, job offers, KYC related, loans, charity, lottery and many other types. Fraud Protection is completely free and available to all Truecaller users across India. For every single fraudulent message that a user receives, Truecaller will show a clearly marked red notification, warning the user not to take action.

The notification will remain on screen till it is manually dismissed. It is important to note that Truecaller does not upload any messages. All processing happens locally on the device, thanks to our advanced AI filters. Even if the user misses the warning and opens the fraudulent SMS, Truecaller automatically disables all links. The SMS thread will only be accessible if the user explicitly marks that sender as safe. This adds yet another layer of protection against fraud. What sets Fraud Protection Apart? Truecaller has been analysing fraud for many years and has developed advanced artificial intelligence technology to predict them. We call this Fraud Intelligence. Our community of 338 Million helps us stay ahead of the latest frauds since we get daily feedback on SMS fraud from many thou-

sands of users. Unlike other SMS applications, Truecaller partners with the government and businesses to ensure safe and efficient communication. Legitimate senders are verified on Truecaller by a verified badge and prominent green colour. Businesses and various Government agencies trust us by sending us regular scam reports, allowing us to further improve fraud detection. By using Truecaller as your default messaging app, you can be rest assured that you clearly recognise legitimate businesses and are protected against the latest frauds. You can help Truecaller and play your part in the community by reporting fraudulent messages with in the app. It also helps greatly if you can spread the message to friends and family so that they can be aware and protected against the latest frauds.

Govt Distt Library Kathua celebrate world book day Organised book exhibition



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APR 24: In order to commemorate the world book day today district library kathua organised book exhibition with the mission to promote the importance of books. In this



exhibition Readers of Distt library Kathua, prominent citizens were actively participated in the exhibition and read the available books. The said exhibition is inaugurated by renowned writer M. L. toofan, (Retd.IRS) Officer, Manuj

kesar, chairman press club kathua, Madan Sharma Sr. Correspondent. while addressing Sunil sharma incharge Distt library Kathua brief the details of the program. Incharge Distt Library Kathua Sunil SHARMA shed light on the history and significance of world book day. Manuj Kesar Chairmam press Club assured full support to the district library kathua in this. On the other side Chief guest Madan Lal. Toofan appreciated the step taken by the district library to aware the youth about the importance of this day he Put all sincere efforts to motivate the students to adopt books in their life. The event received an overwhelming response and was appreciated by Program Baldev raj btajer, Sr member, Vijay kumar,jatimdar kumar, Ramesh lal sharma were present

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor participates...

underprivileged to realise the Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Poorna Swaraj through Gram Swaraj. Our efforts should also focus on removing developmental imbalances, he added.

"Rural growth is the main pillar of the Country's development and to achieve our objectives, Gram Panchayats will have to play a major role in economic empowerment of all the citizens, ensuring benefits reaching the last mile & active participation in grass-roots planning and execution," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the historic visit of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji to Palli laid the foundation for making panchayats in the UT strong & Atmanirbhar. I am proud that Palli is shining in various sectors and it has emerged as a model of rural development, he added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the major steps taken to strengthen grassroots democracy in Jammu Kashmir.

"Devolution of Funds, Functions & Functionaries and seamless coordination at each of the levels of three-tier system of Panchayati Raj has given tremendous boost to aspirations of rural society. It is our firm resolve to make PRIs more powerful, efficient and effective," the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also spoke on progressive policies and schemes aimed at increasing farmers' income, enhance their skills and directly connect them with various Centrally Sponsored and UT's schemes.

The Lt Governor called upon the elected representatives to complement government's efforts in implementation of the ground-breaking 29 projects worth Rs. 5033 crore for the holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors.

I am confident that the success of this Holistic Agriculture development plan will guide the prosperous future of Jammu Kashmir and help in doubling the contribution of agriculture sector in J&K's GDP in the next 5 years, he said.

The Lt Governor also inaugurated Smriti Kaksh and flagged off 'SwachhataKarwan' to mark the occasion. A compendium on Amrit Sarovars & Coffee Table Book on the capacity building & training of Elected Representatives of J&K was also released.

Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Sh. Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba; DDC Chairpersons: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Administrative Secretaries, PRI members, senior officials and a large number of people were present.

LG Reviews Implementation...

the district-wise status of ongoing and completed works under Jal Jeevan Mission across J&K UT, and discussed the quarterly action plans for coverage of Household Tap Connections and the community mobilization in implementation of JIM.

The chair was briefed on the various important components of the Jal Jeevan Mission including status of tendering/allotment of works, procurements, financial requirements under JKIDFC & JIM, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance, NABL Accreditation of District Level Laboratories, Slow Sand Filtration Plants etc.

Discussions were also held on SBM-G. The chair was briefed about progress in construction of Community Sanitary Complexes, targets for ODF Plus villages and Solid Waste Management. The Lt Governor observed that community participation is key to speedy implementation and JIM & SBM (G) should become a Jan Andolan with the help of PRIs and Citizens.

PM Modi blames...

taken up the cause of empowerment of its panchayats and the results are visible today. Now, India's panchayats are emerging as the lifeline of development of villages, the PM said.

The governments after independence destroyed the Panchayati Raj system in the country. The system which existed hundreds and thousands of years ago, the same Panchayati Raj system was not trusted after independence, he said.

Referring to the digital development of rural areas under the present regime, Modi said in this era of digital revolution, panchayats are also being made smart.

The e-GramSambodh (e-government e-marketplace) integrated portal has been launched on Monday. This will make the process of procurement done through panchayats simple and transparent, he said.

"We have had a lot of confusion regarding the property papers of houses in villages. Due to this, there were various disputes and possibilities of illegal possession. Now, all these things are changing with the 'PM SVAMITVA Yojana'," he said.

When villages of the country are powered with the facility of banks, then people in rural areas are being provided help in everything from farming to business, the PM said.

"We have opened bank accounts of more than 40 crore people in villages by running the Jan Dhan Yojana. We have increased the reach of banks to villages through the India Post Payments Bank," Modi said.

He said the previous governments had connected less than 70 gram panchayats with the optical fibre (system).

"It is our government which has taken the optical fibre to more than two lakh panchayats of the country," he said.

Every panchayat, every institution, every representative, every citizen of the country will have to be developed India. This is possible only when the basic facilities reach 100 per cent beneficiaries expeditiously, without any discrimination, PM Modi said.

He said it is necessary to develop the economic system of villages in India. It is also necessary to strengthen the panchayat system to make the country developed, he said.

"With this thinking, our government is continuously working to strengthen the panchayat system of the country," he said.

The PM said his radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' is slated to complete the 100th edition due to public support.

Modi said he is also eagerly waiting for the 100th episode (on April 30) and urged people to join him on the occasion. (Agencies)

J&K | NIA attaches properties...

Salahudeen, who had fled to Pakistan in 1993, was

designated as an individual terrorist by India in October 2020. He continues to operate from Pakistan, from where he is guiding and instructing Hizbul Jihad as well as activists of UJC, also known as Muttahidul Jeddah Council (MJC) which is a conglomerate of around 13 Pakistan-based Kashmiri centric terror outfits.

Besides instigating and operationalising militant activities in India, primarily in Kashmir valley, Salahudeen has been raising funds and routing finances to India through hawala channels and international money transfer channels for furthering the terrorist activities of HM cadres.

The NIA launched investigations in November 2011 into the criminal conspiracy to raise/collect/provide funds to commit terrorist acts and distribute funds among the terror groups and their sympathizers in J&K for the purpose of committing terrorist acts. The Special Cell of Delhi Police had initially registered a case in January 2011 and the case was subsequently taken over by the NIA. Chargesheets as well as supplementary chargesheets were filed against eight accused in the case, including in 2011 and 2018.

The NIA has launched a crackdown on terror funding machinery in a bid to dismantle the terrorist financing ecosystem operating in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of individuals based in Pakistan and other countries. (Agencies)

PM Modi brings...

Ravinder Raina, Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir reviewed the preparations for the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' with senior party leaders.

J&K BJP Vice-President Shakti Parihar, General Secretary Dr. Devinder Manyal, BJYM Incharge Munish Sharma, District President Gopal Mahajan, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Co-Treasurer Prem Gupta, DDC Drabhalsha Ashok Parihar and BJYM Vice-President Danish Mishra participated in the meeting.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting said that the Lakhs of people of Jammu & Kashmir will listen to the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's AIR programme 'Mann Ki Baat' at about 10,00,000 booths.

Ravinder Raina said that PM Modi has brought into the limelight the captivating success stories of the people of Jammu & Kashmir through 'Mann Ki Baat'. He said that the PM's words bore a scintillating effect on the minds of common but extraordinarily skilled residents of this region. He said that his repeated sharing of stories from J&K has given energy to many to do extraordinary things in their respective fields.

Ravinder Raina said that PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' is a non-political motivational programme in which he shares the stories of real heroes from the ground level to give a new direction and inspiration to the common people to do something special.

Ravinder Raina said that 'Mann Ki Baat' is the first ever programme of such type to be telecasted for consecutive 100 episodes. The very purpose of broadcasting this program from the radio was that PM's voice could be reached to remote villages because TV is not accessible in many rural and hilly areas.

Raina added that the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat is going to be special, which will be a benchmark for a more transparent and dialogue driven government.

"All the senior party leaders must ensure their presence in the massive programmes to listen to the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' at their respective booths with the participation of party activists and common masses", said Ravinder Raina.

Raina further asked the senior party leaders to personally monitor the preparations to listen to the programme.

Shakti Parihar said that as the Mann Ki Baat reaches 100, it has sparked mass enthusiasm across the country. He said that party activists as well as common people are eagerly waiting to listen to the people's PM in the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat'.

Dr. Devinder Manyal, who also addressed a meeting through Video-Conferencing soon after, asked the BJP's District President, General Secretaries and other leaders to ensure the participation of various organizations including religious, trade, commerce, Business and NGOs to listen to the 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' amongst the masses.

Over 40 detained...

terrorists likely hid in a culvert on a stretch of the Bhimber Gali-Poonch road before they attacked the truck that was carrying army jawans, officials said.

A sniper is believed to have targeted the army truck from front before his associates showered bullets and lobbed grenades at it from opposite sides, apparently giving the troops no time to retaliate, they added.

"Terrorists used steel core bullets that can penetrate an armoured shield," officials said, adding, "before fleeing, the terrorists also stole soldiers' arms and ammunition."

The armoured vehicle was found riddled with more than 50 bullet marks, they said.

During the search operation, troops came across a few natural cave hideouts in the area, which could possibly have been used by the terrorists in the past, they said, adding the troops are also looking for any improvised explosive devices (IEDs) terrorists may have planted in the densely forested areas, especially in deep gorges and caves.

The army truck attacked in Poonch was carrying fruits, vegetables and other items from the Bhimber Gali camp to Sangote village for Itar celebration scheduled to be held at 7 PM Thursday, officials said. The slain soldiers were from a Kashmiriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-terror operations.

The Bhimber Gali-Poonch road, which was closed for vehicular traffic following the terror attack, was reopened for traffic on Sunday.

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Divedi Sunday said necessary action to nab the terrorists responsible for the deadly attack is under way.

Experts from various agencies, including the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), have visited the site of the attack in the past two days to probe the incident, the officials said.

Hundreds of people in Kishtwar Sunday took out a candle light march in solidarity with the family of the

jawans killed in the attack. (Agencies)

Farmers turn Bhadarwah...

growing maize and paddy to cultivation of aromatic plants.

His 74-year-old father Gaffar Bagban is well aware of the medicinal and aromatic plants grown widely in high altitude Himalayas mountain. Gaffar also encouraged his son to engage locals in lavender farming.

Inspired by his father's ideas and subsequent IIMM workshop, Touqeer started motivating and encouraging other farmers to start cultivating aromatic and medicinal plants.

"Initially, I found no taker for my ideas and it seem a herculean task to make it possible from switching to the new way of farming," Touqeer said.

He travelled extensively in the lengths and breadths of the region to promote his ideas and convince farmers to switch to the new crops.

"I even offered and assured farmers that I will bear all the losses if they don't find growing of aromatic and medicinal plants profitable in comparison to their traditional crops," Touqeer added.

The farmers gradually began to switch from traditional crops.

In 2016, the Ministry of Science and Technology along with CSIR-IIMM started Aroma Mission and the initiative started gaining momentum.

As a result, presently 2,500 families are growing exotic lavender and Bhadarwah has become the leading producer of lavender in India.

After seeing the interest and success story of the farmers, he said Bhadarwah was not only named as the capital of lavender in India but the Union government also included lavender under the 'One District One Product' or promoting the crop in Doda district.

Union Minister for science and technology Jitendra Singh installed 11 lavender distillation units in Bhadarwah.

Touqeer, after resounding success of bringing purple revolution and becoming instrumental in making Bhadarwah the capital of lavender in India, has ventured in value addition of locally grown aromatic plants.

"We have been getting rave reviews for our products from the word of mouth as lavender soap, rosemary soap, balm, incense sticks, hair oils and sanitizers are selling like hot cakes," he added.

Touqeer's venture has also helped more than 100 women find livelihood by working in lavender fields and nurseries.

Lavender flowers grow in temperate areas and are drought-resistant.

"A single plant bears flowers for 15 years, needs a little maintenance and can be harvested from the second year of plantation onwards. The oil extracted from the plant is used in soaps, cosmetics, perfumes, room fresheners and medicines, among others," he said. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra Singh...

ecosystems of Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern region, in addition to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana, and Rajasthan by providing high end facilities such as learning science facilities at the 'Vishwavidyalaya Anusandhan Utsav 2023' organised today at Dr Ambedkar International Centre here.

On the occasion, each of the Vice Chancellors of different Universities was also handed over a PURSE grant up to Rs 12 crore by the Minister.

"In India's quest for competitive advantage, our universities and related institutions need to play a major role towards generating high calibre human resources as repositories of national intellectual wealth in the S&T sector. In light of the vision of PM Narendra Modi that India's self-reliance will be based on five pillars – economy, infrastructure, technology-driven system, vibrant demography, and demand it is prudent to strengthen the foundation of relevant R&D infrastructure across the Nation to contribute to the development of a self-reliant India," Dr. Jitendra Singh said at the inauguration of the Utsav.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that in order to meet these digital challenges and strengthen the S&T infrastructure support system in the universities and other related academic institutions, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) nurtures and supports a variety of infrastructure related schemes like FIST, PURSE, SAIF, etc. towards augmenting/ facilitating the R&D equipment for research activities at various Universities/ Institutes and other Academic organizations as well as promote industry-academia linkages. It's our endeavour that the youth of our country have access to quality R&D infrastructure to pursue research in all areas of S&T," Dr. Singh added while speaking at the Utsav organised to showcase the achievements of the PURSE supported Universities.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Honourable Prime Minister's vision is to step up the efforts in various fields to make the country "the most advanced laboratory for modern science" in the 'Amrit Kaal' the next 25 years leading to the centenary of India's Independence. Working towards this vision, the Government has committed to invest heavily on building research infrastructure in the country. Under FIST Program, DST has supported 3074 Departments and PG Colleges at a total budget of about Rs. 3130.82 crores for Scientific Infrastructure Building in various STEM Departments in Universities and academic institutions. Flexible infrastructure grants are being provided to universities nationwide to keep up the vigour of conducting highly challenging R&D activities with an investment of Rs 550 Crores till date. The Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) with a nationwide reach supports the university's research ecosystem by making high-end research equipment available to our academicians/scientists, enabling our universities to compete with global standards," Dr. Singh pointed out.

The Union Minister launched a new scheme, SUPREME, a first-of-its-kind program by the Government of India, to provide financial support for repay/repurchase of research equipment. The Government has committed additional attachments to increase functional capabilities of existing analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs) during the programme.

Dr. S Chandrasekhar, DST Secretary said that the

Ahead of 100th episode, IIM**Survey finds Mann Ki Baat has reached 100 crore listeners**

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 24

Nearly ninety six percent of the population is aware of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat. The programme has reached 100 crore people who are aware and have listened to the programme at least once. These statistics were revealed in an exhaustive study commissioned by Prasar Bharati and conducted by Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak. The findings of the study were brought out in a press conference by Shri Gaurav Divedi, CEO, Prasar Bharati and Shri Dheeraj P. Sharma, Director, IIM Rohtak.

Sharma, speaking about the findings of the study further said that 23 crore people tune in to the programme regularly while another 41 crore constitute an occasional audience that has the scope of being converted into a regular audience.

The report delves into the reasons behind the popularity of PM's radio broadcast and lists out the most liked characteristics that hook people to the broadcast. A powerful and decisive leadership that speaks to establish an emotional connect with the audience is cited as reason for the following of the programme. The Prime Minister has been credited by the population of the country as knowledgeable and having sympathetic and empathetic approach. Directly engaging with the citizens and guidance is also cited as a reason for the trust the programme has established.

The study has tried to gauge the impact Mann Ki Baat has had on the population over the 99 editions so far. It states that a majority of listeners have become aware of governments working and 73% are optimistic and feel the country is going to progress. 58% of listeners have responded saying their living conditions have improved while a similar number (59%) have reported increased trust in Government. The general sentiment towards the Government can be gauged from the fact that 63% people have said their approach to the Government has become positive and 60% have shown interest in working for nation building as per the survey.

The study distributes the audience across 3 platforms with 44.7% people tuning in to the programme on a TV while 37.6% access it on a mobile device. Viewing the programme is favoured over listening to it, as 62% of the respondents between the age of 19 to 34 preferred watching it on a TV.

Hindi grabs a major chunk of listeners of Mann Ki Baat with 65% audience preferring it over any other language while English comes in at second place with 18%.

Speaking about the profile of respondents, Director Shri Dheeraj Sharma informed that the total sample strength of 10003 was polled for this study of which 60% were males while 40% were females. This population was spread over 68 occupations sectors with 64% being from the informal and self-employed sector while students constituted 23% of the studied audience.

Sharma further said that Data was collected from North, South, East, and West regions of India using snowball sampling with approximately 2500 responses per zone, through a psychometrically purified survey instrument

future of scientific research will call for deeper and more widespread multidisciplinary collaboration among countries which will enable researchers to optimize the precondition of securing sustainable scientific collaboration. India can escalate this through deeper collaborations while hosting the G20 nations.

The Department of Science and Technology has supported numerous Universities to augment their research infrastructure as they are striving towards potentially high-impact, interdisciplinary research (both basic and applied) aligned to national priorities and missions. Universities supported under the various programmes showcased their research accomplishments, novel findings, and technologies under the common platform for knowledge sharing provided by Vishwavidyalaya Anusandhan Utsav. A Book on the achievements of various universities supported under PURSEwas also released.

India launches operation...

our brethren in Sudan," he said. India on Sunday said it has positioned two transport aircraft of the IAF in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah and a naval ship at a key port in Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate the stranded Indians.

The government had on Friday said it was focusing on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens presently located throughout Sudan.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last days. India has reportedly left around 400 people dead. (Agencies)

Conductor dies, driver...

The deceased was identified as Balbir Chand of Samba.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the accident. (KNO)

Govt employee arrested...

against him on the directions of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Samba, a police official said.

He said a middle-aged woman had filed an application in the court of CJM, Samba alleging therein that she was raped by the accused at his house after posing as a 'tantrik' possessing supernatural healing powers effective enough to cure her skin disease.

The victim said she fell into the trap of the accused during a visit to a temple, the official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said the priority of the police is to curb the crime against women in the district.

Zulfkar asks party workers to gear-up for Panchayat elections in J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 24: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali has directed party leaders and workers to gear-up for Panchayat elections which are likely to be held during this financial year.

Addressing a workers meeting at Kotranka, the Former Cabinet Minister said that the Panchayat elections may be held in the month of September-October in order to strengthen the grass root democracy.

"The genuine and honest people should be elected in panchayats who can ensure grass root level strengthening of democratic institutions with

the fulfillment of demand of the people in the villages," he said. He said that the developmental activities have slowed down for the last several years under the bureaucratic system and it becomes important for the present Govt to pull up the officials who have delayed the implementation of the developmental schemes on the ground. "The prestigious projects like Anas Irrigation Canal, Eco-Tourism Park, Budhal - Shopian road and many other projects which were approved by the previous Govts are still to be completed," he said. He said that there must be accountability of the officials who have authority to complete the develop-

mental works in their respective areas within a stipulated time frame.

Referring to the very slow pace of developmental works, he expressed shock over no construction of building for the Govt Degree College in Kotranka which was sanctioned in 2018.

"It shows the seriousness of the authorities. The Degree College was sanctioned keeping in view the long, pending demand of the people in Kotranka and other demands were also fulfilled by then Govt. The college was sanctioned, but it is very unfortunate its construction work has yet to be started," he said.

He said that the LG administration has not acted responsibly towards issues of the general masses especially in the rural belt of Jammu and Kashmir.

"If there had been an elected Govt in J&K, the pending developmental projects would have been completed timely.

However, the babus have given rise to the feeling of alienation and the people hesitate approaching them due to the existing set-up of bureaucratic rule," he added.

He said that "The holding of assembly elections are important to restore confidence among the people who have lost their hopes with the present form of Govt.

Delegations call on MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, highlight demands



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: A large number of delegations today called on BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali

Khatana and narrated him their demands. A delegation of nomadic Gujjars/Bakkerwals today apprised MP Gulam Ali about the inability of the district Jammu administration to provide them vehicles for transportation of live stocks. They alleged that district administration has adopt-

ed no criteria for providing vehicles to the really poor nomadic population.

MP Gulam Ali called upon the district administration to formulate a uniform and justifiable policy for providing the vehicles to nomads.

A delegation from district Kathua led by Ali Mohd. Chechi called upon MP Gulam Ali and apprised him about the scarcity of drinking water facility in district Kathua. He said that with the onset of summers drinking water scarcity has hit the area.

MP Gulam Ali asked the district administration and Jal Shakti dept to prepare themselves for meeting the demand of water supply and deploy adequate tankers for meeting the demand of potable water.

Women empowerment on prime agenda of Apni Party: Manjit Singh



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has said that his party aims to empower women in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Former Minister was addressing a women wing meeting at village Kartholi which was organized by Provincial President, Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour, and Shivani Koul.

Addressing the women wing meeting in the above village, S. Manjit Singh said that the Apni Party is committed to empower the women in J&K socially,

politically and educationally. He said that the party has adopted a policy to upgrade the living standard of the people especially women without discrimination in all the regions equally.

"We are committed to enhance the widow pension/old age pension up to Rs 5000 from Rs 1000. We will also provide 4 cooking gas cylinders every year under the Ujjawala scheme to the people and marriage assistance up to Rs 1 lakhs to the poor girls on the occasion of their marriage," he said.

He said that the party has given representation to the women so that they can represent the women from across the section of the society and address their issues. Appreciating the women wing, he said that the women leaders have worked hard among the people and emphasized on the need to involve more and more women both in rural and urban areas to educate them about social, educational, and political rights. Referring to the issues of pension holders, he said that "The aged pensioners are forced to stand in queues and move from pillar to post for the completion of formalities and get certificates at the age. The

formalities have been made tougher which needs to be simplified."

He said that the Govt should organize camps for the pensioners and should not force the people to queue up in the Govt offices and banks to get the formalities completed.

He also referred to various social evils which have direct bearing on the lives of the women in day to day lives when he raised the issue of growing menace of drug addiction.

"The drug addiction must be controlled with the involvement of women and society in general to curb the menace which has given rise to many criminal activities and crime against women," he said.

On this occasion, Pavneet Kour also spoke and highlighted various issues of the women like underdevelopment, skill development, political empowerment, educational issues etc.

Prominent among those who attended the workers meeting include J&K President ST Wing, Saleem Alam, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President Women Wing Jammu, Ritu Pandita, Sunita Koul, Madu Devi and others.

DSS celebrates annual 'Save Water Save Birds Day'

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister and President, Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir (DSS), addressed a press conference here today the 24th of April 2023 in connection with celebration of the annual 'Save Water Save Birds Day', scheduled to be held on 6 May, 2023 at the Sabha Bhawan, Dogra Hall, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak informed that DSS has been observing the Day for the last more than two decades with a sort of religious sanctity to commemorate, revive and propagate the age old Dogra tradition of feeding the voiceless creatures, before partaking of their meals. He said that providing water to the birds to quench their thirst during scorching summer heat is a sacred duty of the human beings, particularly in the urban areas, where fast emerging jungles of concrete are disturbing the habitat of mute birds and animals and depleting their sources of water and feed.

He appealed to the conscientious citizens of Duggar Pradesh to participate in the proposed programme in large numbers as a mark of their concern and respect for coexistence of human beings-birds-animals.

Shri Charak said that DSS is seeking collaboration from all concerned stakeholders and departments like the Forests,



Environment and Ecology, Wildlife, Social Forestry, Education, etc. to participate in the programme, as in the past so that the message of taking all possible steps to conserve biodiversity and to save water resources reaches to all nooks and corners of the Union Territory.

Shri Charak informed that a mass rally of men, women and children from different walks of life, including hundreds of students and the staff of different schools and colleges will be organized at Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan, adjacent to Hari Singh Zanana Park, Dogra Hall Jammu. The participants will carry banners, posters and placards on the themes, "Aao Pakshiyon ko Pani Pilaen (Come and Join us to Quench Thirst of Birds)" and "Save Water". Earthen pots and 'chhikus' will be distributed by the Sabha among the participants and the commuters, pedestrians as well as vehicle-borne citizens to provide

drinking water to birds in the scorching heat of this summer month.

Through the media, Shri Charak appealed to the people to save the birds in the scorching heat by keeping the pots filled with water hanging from the trees at suitable places in parks, gardens and also in their lawns, balconies or on the walls and window sills of their houses at open, safe places away from the reach of preying cats, etc. "The birds will come to these pots and quench their thirst," Shri Charak said that the activity will also give people an opportunity of enjoying playful activities of birds, besides bird-watching.

Shri Gulchain Singh Charak explained that although Jammu (Tawi) had a plenty of water resources, but in recent years the water crisis had increased.

He said that it was the primary duty of every citizen to very judiciously and efficiently use this invaluable

gift of God. He appealed to the people not to waste even a single drop of water. He highlighted that saving water as various scientific projections estimate that the average temperature at various places around the globe can rise by 4 to 5 degrees Celsius by the year 2050.

We will have to take appropriate precautions and necessary action to retard the trend of global warming through water conservation, tree plantation and proper management of birds and animals, he said.

He also informed that the Dogra Sadar Sabha will organize the day in the shape of a movement to generate enthusiasm among the citizens to treat the birds and animals as a part of the larger family of living beings. In the spiritual context, he reminded that providing drinking water to birds and animals, particularly during summer months, blesses the donor with good health, prosperity and happiness.

PM Modi govt committed for dev, prosperity of J&K: Ritika Trehan

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today said that the BJP and Central Government headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi stand fully committed for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The unprecedented overall development of J&K witnessed today is the result of this sincere commitment of the BJP led government at the Centre for the progress and prosperity of this sensitive Union Territory and its people, she added.

Reacting over unnecessary criticism by opposition political parties particularly Congress of BJP Govt, Ritika said that performance of her party and its Government on ground speaks for itself. She said that earlier there was only family politics but now the BJP government has reached to the common people and has been functioning actively for the welfare of



people. Successive Govts discriminated against Jammu and Kashmir for years and they are doing the same even now. "The people have already shown the opposition their place.

Ritika further said that all round and unhindered development of J&K is BJP government's top priority and to accomplish this goal, PM Narendra Modi has opened all the floodgates of funds so that no sector remains untouched from this initiative. She

said that J&K has been witnessing unprecedented development since the PM Modi led government has come to power and the works which were pending since decades have been accomplished with great ease.

Ritika said that PM has given standing instructions for ensuring all round development of the UT of J&K and that is the reason the areas which were discriminated earlier by the successive governments have now come to limelight through colossal development as roads, lanes, drains and other civic infra has been revamped in a fair manner with no prejudice on rural or urban pockets.

Ritika said the mission of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to usher in an era of peace, progress and prosperity in J&K and for this BJP is taking every possible step. She said changes on ground are already becoming visible as people of the UT are experiencing the development as never before. She said that every issue of the people is given due care and is sorted out at the highest level.

GDC Thannamandi Celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 24: Institutional Innovation Council in collaboration with NSS unit of Govt Degree College Thannamandi Celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day. The event was organized under the

patronage of the principal of the college Prof Dr Farooq Ahmed. A poster making competition was organized in which several NSS volunteers participated and presented their innovative ideas through posters. The main theme of the event was to raise awareness about the crucial role that

innovation and creativity play in human development. Creativity is the use of imagination thinking and skills to create new ideas while innovation is the process of using creativity knowledge and skills to improve existing ideas or develop new products. This day is focused on achieving Sustainable Development Goals through promoting and celebrating creativity and innovation. The event was adjudged by Prof Raheela Mushtaq Coordinator IQAC, Dr Khalid Rayaz HoD Geography and Dr Altaf Ahmed Assistant Professor of Chemistry Among the participants Ms Javaria Khan of BSc Sem 4th clinched 1st Position whereas Ms Affia Shaheen of BSc Sem 4th secured second position and Ms Sonia Khan of B A Sem 4th got 3rd position. Certificates were given to all the winners. The event was organized by Prof Muhammad Shoket NSS Programme Officer.

“ THOUGHT OF THE DAY ”

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Border disputes need amicable resolutions

Yet another round of talks between India and China over contentious border issue in Eastern Ladakh has failed to break the ice though the two nations showed commitment to resolve all outstanding issues amicably. The border issue has become a major bone of contention between two countries in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, with China aggressively moving forward under the garb of its expansion policy. Recently, China increased its defence spending by 7.2 per cent to nearly \$225 billion in 2023 and it was the eighth consecutive year of increase notwithstanding the fact that there was a global unease over its aggressive behaviour. China has already entered into several military stand-offs with its neighbour and its attempt to continuously increase its defence budget is a matter of concern for India. The reports have suggested that China has hiked the allocation for general public expenditure by 5.7 per cent and it dropped enough hints that Beijing is prioritising national security over development. What is worrisome is that it's the second year in a row that the annual hike in military spending has exceeded 7 per cent, reversing a two-decade trend under which the expansion of defence capabilities took a back seat to economic growth. If one counts on official statistics, China's military spending may only be a third of the US level, but is over three times higher than India's. The neighbouring country has even justified the increased spending as appropriate and reasonable, claiming that it faces escalating threats from the outside world. China is already having bitter ties with the United States and these ties are counterpoised by a warm embrace of President Putin. The security challenges range from Chinese-claimed Taiwan to the US naval and air missions in the disputed South China Sea near Chinese-occupied islands. Through increasing the defence budget, China has attempted to give an impression that it is on a mission to strengthen its military power and would not tolerate any aggression, of any kind, on its soil. The responses have included holding unprecedented exercises last August to punish Taiwan for hosting the then US House Speaker Pelosi. China's neighbours are already baffled due to the policy of aggressive, assertive and offensive use of military force. For India, the border standoff in eastern Ladakh stands out as unprovoked belligerence. The world is closely monitoring China's gradual military build-up through its continuous increased budget spending at a time when the National People's Congress set to confirm Xi Jinping's third term as President and head of the armed forces. The neighbouring country now controls the world's largest navy by size and it also aims high by increasing military power. Going by the media reports, China's key areas of spending are most likely to include the commissioning of its third aircraft carrier, the rapid production of new destroyers and fighter aircraft and investments in space technology and artificial intelligence for missile targeting system. Having said this, it is imperative for India and China to seriously resolve all border disputes amicably and sincerity to ensure long lasting peace in the region.

THE PERILS OF SOLAR RADIATION MANAGEMENT

The weather modifications that solar radiation management intends to usher in by dimming the incoming sunlight can upset the anthropogenic equilibrium and, thereby, have a devastating impact by way of disrupting monsoons and altering cropping patterns. They can also lead to extended droughts and incessant rains.

DEVINDER SHARMA

When megastar Shah Rukh Khan sang 'Suraj hua maddham, chand jalne laga...' in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), he probably didn't know that engineers and climate scientists were actually contemplating reducing the intensity of solar rays, thereby lowering the temperature.

Twenty-two years later, not many in India would still know that all-out efforts are being made to convince Africa, a hot continent where the solar intensity is always high, the 'immense potential' that a solar geoengineering technology offers to reduce the heat by creating an artificial veil in the stratosphere so as to reduce the intensity of the sun's rays.

The technique, called solar radiation management (SRM), aims at injecting the atmosphere with aerosols — tiny particles suspended in a gas form which reduce the heat intensity — or using giant mirrors to reflect the sunlight back. By reducing the load of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the SRM is being sold as a futuristic technology that will reduce soaring temperatures in Africa to make it relatively cooler.

An independent group of climate scientists and engineers, under the banner of Climate Overshoot Commission (nothing to do with the UN), is backing the questionable proposal; it plans to descend on Nairobi in May to draw the attention of the African leadership and, of course, heat up the media debate on how climate geoengineering will be beneficial for the otherwise hot continent. This reminds me of a weather-modification programme that the US had surreptitiously launched for a 'cloud seeding' plan that involved the Philippines, India and Vietnam. The arguments used subsequently before Senate hearings were equally promising. But first, take a look at how a secret plan was enforced to use an untested technology. It was in 1966-67 that the then US President, Lyndon Johnson, had in consultation with the then newly elected Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, sought clearance for the US Air Force to conduct cloud-seeding experiments in drought-hit Bihar. Although the results were not encouraging, Johnson didn't give up. After a study, The Big Bad Fix: The case against climate geoengineering, was published jointly by three internationally respectable non-profit organisations — ETC Group, Biofuelwatch and Heinrich Bill Foundation — Johnson pushed Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1969 to allow cloud-seeding experiments in the entire country for a 'potential hurricane modification'.

Despite the attempt not yielding any positive result, the cloud-seeding experiment was once again used in Vietnam to stop the march of the Vietnamese army, and it failed again.

The global uproar against weather modification experiments that followed resulted in the adoption (December 1976) of a UN Environmental Modification Convention. This



convention imposed a ban on such techniques, and that included 'techniques for changing...the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere or of the outer space' for military purposes (from Peter Frankopan's new book The Earth Transformed: An Untold History). But then, there are ways to circumvent military application, with inscriptions like peaceful purposes of 'humanitarian considerations' for using such misplaced techniques. The book states that numerous private corporations and dozens of research institutions are engaged in such experiments with India, the Philippines, Taiwan, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, France, Italy, Argentina and Australia.

Coming back to solar geoengineering, nearly 400 scientists have in an open letter warned against the deployment of these techniques on a planetary scale, calling them not only dangerous but also frightening and inequitable. Seeking the promulgation of an International Non-Use Agreement on Solar Geoengineering, these scientists say a better solution would be decarbonisation of our economies, which is possible and feasible. In any case, pushing these radiation techniques shows that the world hasn't learnt any lesson. Calling climate alteration an easy solution, the polluters simply want to go on harming the planet.

'Business as usual' is not the way forward. One of the best ways to decarbonise, in my opinion, is to move away from the global chase to attain a higher GDP. Although the latest Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has spelt out the dos and don'ts to keep global temperatures within the prescribed limits, these suggestions run counter to what leads to a higher GDP,

which is what the G7 and G20 countries prioritise. Unless the climate negotiations take bold steps to extend their reach over how and why the nations need to shift focus from treating GDP as a touchstone of development, I don't think it will ever be able to contain the rise in temperatures.

The weather modifications that the SRM intends to usher in by dimming the incoming sunlight can upset the anthropogenic equilibrium and, thereby, have a devastating impact by way of disrupting monsoons, altering cropping patterns and causing unforeseen problems for the local and regional biodiversity. It can also lead to extended droughts and incessant rains.

All this will have a telling effect on the livelihood security of the region, something which has not been studied thoroughly so far. In any case, I fail to understand why scientists and industrialists (with billionaires like Bill Gates and George Soros backing it) are being so generous towards Africa.

If they believe in this technology, shouldn't they be first trying it out in the US to reduce the GHG concentration? After all, many studies have shown that large tracts of rich countries will become inhospitable once the climate worsens.

The dispersal of the aerosols in the atmosphere has to be a permanent feature unless, of course, some governments want it to be scrapped later, leading to a detrimental 'termination shock'. The impact of the shock can vary, but to imagine solar geoengineering being attempted, for instance in a country like India under a public-private partnership, is simply scary, to say the least. There are more sensible and ethical solutions to keep climate from going topsy-turvy.

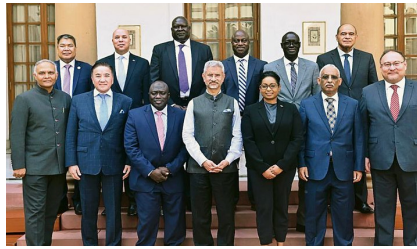
India raising the bar with Global South

GURJIT SINGH

INDIA's initiative to engage with the Global South and voice its aspirations and priorities during its G20 presidency is gaining momentum. Beginning with the 'Voice of Global South' summit held virtually in January, efforts to strengthen ties with the institutions that India established with the Global South over the decades are underway. These are a follow-up to the results of the January summit and the subsequent G20 meetings held so far. India's position as a leader of the Global South is buttressed by its multifarious dealings with regions and regional organisations. With India at the helm of G20, the presidency is being used to enhance the engagement rather than let preoccupation with it delay meetings further. For practical purposes, efforts are now not focused on summits with the Prime Minister alone; some are conducted at the level of the External Affairs Minister (EAM) or the Vice-President. With ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), India has an annual ministerial meeting and summit; it will continue this year. Indonesia, as the ASEAN chair, has advanced the 'ASEAN Plus One' meeting and the East Asia Summit to early September from November to facilitate the participation of global leaders in the G20 summit in India. The ASEAN-India summit can also be held at that time. The ASEAN-India

This year, there are some scheduled meetings like BRICS, ASEAN and EAS which India will attend and use to complement its G20 presidency. What is significant is the effort to go beyond this in a year and reach out to CARICOM, SICA, Central Asia, the Pacific Islands and Africa. This will be a real follow-up of the 'Voice of Global South' summit. In the past, India has had these interactions which bolstered India's image as a dependable development partner of the Global South.

foreign ministers' meeting will take place prior to that. The forum to engage the Pacific Island states will have a meeting in Papua New Guinea in May. Such meetings took place in 2014 and 2015, followed by a meeting around the time when the UN General Assembly was held in 2019. This was, perhaps, overdue, given the growing importance of the South Pacific countries. With Central Asia, an informal meeting may take place since all Central Asian countries other than Turkmenistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), whose summit will take place in July in India. The last India-Central Asia Summit was held virtually in January 2022. The BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in South Africa in June will add heft to these consultations because India would also use the occasion to continue its efforts to revive the trilateral engagement under IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa). The BRICS summit is slated for August in Durban, South Africa. Latin America is a neglected region in India's engagement. On April 21, the EAM started his nine-day visit to Guyana, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. Besides the bilateral talks in Guyana, which is



hosting the secretariat of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the EAM met the foreign ministers of CARICOM in the India-COFCOR format, the ministerial forum of CARICOM. In Panama, besides the bilateral meetings, the EAM will meet representatives from the eight-country Central American Integration System (SICA), thus engaging with both the Caribbean and Central America. This opportunity for ministerial discussions with Latin American and Caribbean nations in the post-pandemic period and during the G20 presidency is timely. Jaishankar had also met the CARICOM foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UNGA in 2022. The largest of the regional engagements is with Africa. The last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) was held in 2015; it has not been held since partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and disruption of the African Union's calendar of summits and partly due to scheduling issues. Despite being busy with the G20 and SCO summits this year, India now seems ready to have the IAFS-IV in an African country. The EAM recently visited Uganda and Mozambique. Uganda is the new chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in which India is evincing

great interest. The relationship with the African Union Commission (AUC), which had slowed down, is now being revitalised. During the year, there are some scheduled annual meetings, such as the BRICS, ASEAN and the East Asia Summit (EAS), which India will attend and use to complement its G20 presidency. What is significant is the effort to go beyond this in a diplomatically busy year and also reach out to CARICOM, SICA, Central Asia, the Pacific Islands and Africa. This will be a real follow-up to the 'Voice of Global South' summit. In the past, India has had these interactions that have bolstered India's image as a dependable development partner of the Global South. Rejuvenating many dormant relationships and overcoming the hiatus caused by the pandemic-enforced lockdowns, India has stepped up efforts to revive regional relationships. In these meetings, the focus will be on pursuing the G20 agenda and not allowing the Ukraine crisis to entirely hijack the G20, especially during India's presidency. Therefore, the articulation of priorities by consultations with the regional institutions of the Global South and engaging with them more robustly provide the bridge which India will need to

cross and ensure that the G20 actually reflects what is truly important while putting the Ukraine war into a box, at which some of the G20 countries may continue to quibble. Dealing with these regions, issues such as climate change, reshaping the UN and multilateral banks, financing for development of green and blue economies and prioritising South's preferences take centre stage. India is re-evaluating its development cooperation efforts. These are now becoming more strategic than overarching. The era of line of credit being liberally offered to regional institutions and their members has now ceased. India has given about \$32 billion in soft loans to developing countries across the globe. However, with debt stress, rising interest rates and problems of rescheduling and repayment, line of credit is no more an effective method for development cooperation that it once was. Therefore, India now seeks greater strategic coherence, private sector engagement and FDI-led growth, supported by grants to catalyse processes, particularly towards skilling, development of information and communication technology and innovation and implementation of sustainable development goals.

ALIA BHATT posts candid picture of Ranbir Kapoor with daughter Raha, then deletes it

Alia Bhatt took to Instagram on Monday to post a picture of Ranbir Kapoor with their daughter Raha, but deleted it shortly afterwards. Earlier this year, the actor-couple had requested the paparazzi not to click Raha's pictures.

In the now-deleted post, Alia had shared a candid picture of Ranbir sitting beside Raha's stroller on her Instagram. In the picture, Ranbir was seen looking at Raha with his right arm stretched inside the stroller, as Raha was not visible on the camera. Ranbir was spotted in a tee and shorts, sitting beside the stroller on a chair. The now-deleted picture is doing the rounds on social media as many fan pages of the actor posted the candid after it was deleted. Earlier talking about Raha and how as parents they want to shield her from getting the media attention,

Ranbir had told his cousin Kareena Kapoor on her show, "So as parents, we will try to protect it (Raha's privacy) as much as we can. We just want for her to have a normal upbringing. To go to school, to not make her feel too special, different around other children. She should just have a normal life."

Ranbir and Alia got married on April 14 last year after dating for several years. They tied the knot at Ranbir's Mumbai residence in an intimate ceremony attended by family members and friends. The couple announced that they were set to become parents in June 2022. In January, Ranbir and Alia had met the paparazzi and requested them to not click pictures of their daughter.

Earlier this month, Ranbir and Alia celebrated their first wedding anniversary, where they were spotted outside their under-construction house.



AR Rahman says he composed for Fire, a 'lesbian movie': 'Those are not my values but I can stand for humanity'

AR Rahman can keep his personal beliefs separate from the politics of a film. The composer says he can take up a project even if it doesn't align with his "values" as long as he feels what a film is trying to say is important.

Citing the example of Deepa Mehta's 1996 romantic drama Fire, Rahman said he chose to compose for the film despite the fact that those were not his "values". Starring Nandita Das and Shabana Azmi, Fire was the first Indian film to feature a lesbian relationship.

Galatta Plus, Rahman was asked if he is able to separate his personal feelings from what a film stands for. The composer said he has lived a life full of varied experiences, which have formed his world view, but have never interfered with the art that he makes.

"I have seen everything. My concrete house was next to a slum. Next to my house was dance master Thankappan, who Kamal Haasan was an assistant to. The conscious decisions I take while I am speaking or what I stand for... It's not like I am Buddha. I have seen everything. I have watched all kind of films, so I know as a professional I have to deal with that stuff."

"As a personal choice, what I stand for is different. Even when I did Fire, it was a lesbian movie. Those are not my values or what I stand for but I feel like I can stand for humanity. When somebody I pushed to a core... I felt like I needed to do the movie because she is trying to say something important. Similarly, with this (Ponniyin Selvan: II) there's killing and all that stuff but that's history, you can't change it," he added.

Fire had a stormy release in the country, with backlash and protests by socio-political outfits for ' tarnishing' Indian culture. Rahman's recent film work is Mani Ratnam's much-awaited sequel, Ponniyin Selvan: II.

The epic historical action adventure, starring Vikram, Ravi, Karthi, Trisha Krishnan, Aishwarya Lekshmi and Shobhita Dhulipala, is scheduled to release on April 28.

NBCUNIVERSAL ROCKED BY SCANDAL: CEO OUSTED OVER THE INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP!

The world of entertainment was shaken on Sunday as news broke that Jeff Shell, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NBCUniversal, had been removed from his position by parent company Comcast due to an inappropriate relationship with a senior anchor. The woman in question was Hadley Gamble, a Senior International Correspondent with CNBC, and the affair had reportedly started 11 years ago and continued sporadically. While the details of the relationship were not revealed, it is known that Shell is married and had been with the company for two decades.

Comcast's decision raises questions about integrity and performance.

Comcast's decision to remove Shell came after an investigation by an outside



counsel following a complaint that had been lodged against him. The revelation of the affair has left many questioning the company's commitment to integrity, particularly as Shell was responsible for the

media giant's entertainment wing, where he launched a shakeup aimed at making its streaming business and traditional TV operations work more closely together. However, Comcast's Peacock streaming

service has struggled to keep up with its competitors, losing nearly \$1 billion despite gaining over 20 million new subscribers in the fourth quarter, according to the Wall Street Journal. Leadership gap left as Comcast-owned NBCUniversal faces challenge Shell's departure has left a void in NBCUniversal's leadership, with senior executives reporting directly to Comcast's president, Mike Cavanaugh, until a replacement is found. NBCUniversal, a company owned by Comcast, boasts a wide range of media entities, including NBC, one of the biggest television networks in the United States, CNBC, a prominent business news channel, Universal Pictures, a major Hollywood film studio, and Sky Group, Europe's largest pay-TV broadcaster.

Madhoo says her kids were fans of Priyanka Chopra, Preity Zinta; called her 'old-fashioned' after watching her film once



Actor Madhoo has said that her children were fans of Priyanka Chopra and Preity Zinta, when they watched one of her films and told her she was 'old-fashioned'. It was the 2012 film Luv U Mr Kalakar that featured Tusshar Kapoor and Amrita Rao in lead roles.

Madhoo made her Bollywood debut with Kuku Kohli's 1991 film Phool Aur Kaante and she also had her Tamil film debut the same year with K Balachander's Azhagan. The film starred Mammootty, Bhanupriya, and Geetha. She has worked in several other notable films, including the critically-acclaimed Raja that came out in 1992 and was directed by Mani Ratnam.

Asked if her acting is the same, Madhoo told ETimes in a recent interview that she would not have worked (as an actor) had she been the same. She then recalled the time when her kids watched her film and told her she was 'old-fashioned' in the film.

'Jai Shri Ram': New Adipurush motion posters present lyrical ode to Prabhas' Lord Ram

The makers of Adipurush on Saturday released new motion posters of the film, featuring Prabhas as Lord Ram. The lyrical motion posters present a reverberating audio clip of 'Jai Shri Ram' in five different languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada. The motion poster features the Baahubali star, holding a bow and arrow. The audio clip complementing the poster is composed by music composer duo Ajay-Atul, of Sairat fame.

The multilingual mythological epic, which is being touted as a celebration of "the victory of good over evil", is an adaptation of the Hindu epic Ramayana. It features Prabhas as Lord Ram and Saif as Lankesh. The film will have its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival, that takes place each spring in New York City, USA.

Directed by Om Raut, Adipurush was originally scheduled to release in January this year, but will now hit theatres on June 16. According to the makers, "The film carries forward the virtue of Prabhu Shri Ram that entails dharma, courage and sacrifice." Speaking about the period



drama, Raut had said in an earlier media statement, "Adipurush is not a film, but a representation of our devotion to Prabhu Sri Ram and commitment towards our sanskriti and history."

In order to give a complete visual experience to the viewers, we need to give more time to the teams working on the film. Adipurush will now release on

June 16, 2023. We are committed to make a film that India is proud of. Your support, love and blessings is what keeps us going."

Apart from Prabhas, Adipurush also stars Sunny Singh, and Kriti Sanon in pivotal roles. The film is produced by T-Series, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, Om Raut, Prasad Sutar, and Rajesh Nair of Retrophiles.

Radhika Apte says it's hard to reject roles: 'Sometimes you don't have anything else, you wonder if you'll get work'

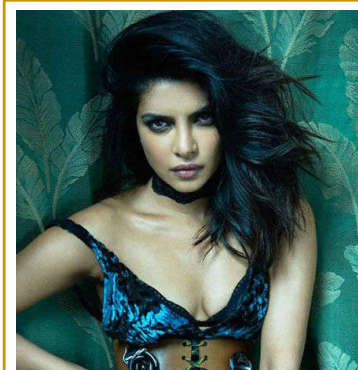


Actor Radhika Apte has revealed that there are moments when she worries about turning down a role because she wonders if the projects will keep coming. In a new interview, she also said that it's difficult to find characters that inspire her and that's one of the reasons why she chooses to do limited work.

Radhika divides her time between India and the UK. The actor is known for films such as Badlapur, Phobia, Andhadhun, and Monica, O My Darling.

In an interview with news agency PTI, Radhika talked about turning down a role, "I just say, 'I don't feel like doing the part right now'. It is hard to reject because sometimes you don't have anything else and you feel, 'Will I get work?' As a freelance actor, you are constantly thinking about your next project, it can be scary but it is ok."

She also talked about scripts, "It is difficult these days to find that good script as everyone is making everything, so fast, there are lots of other parameters that have to fit in. It is difficult to find roles that you just wholeheartedly go and feel this is so well crafted. I live in two countries, I work when I want to do work, I don't do a lot of work because it makes me feel quite exhausted, so I select less work, I like it that way. When I don't work, I write, read, and do things other than acting."



PRIYANKA CHOPRA SAYS SHE DIDN'T AUDITION FOR CITADEL: 'PEOPLE ARE CAST DUE TO MERIT AND NOT BECAUSE SOMEONE LIKES THEM'

Priyanka Chopra had made her Hollywood debut nearly a decade ago. After starring in the American TV series Quantico in 2015, followed by movies such as Baywatch (2017), A Kid Like Jake (2018) and The Matrix Resurrections (2021), among others, the actor will soon be seen in the Prime Video series Citadel. Priyanka has been busy promoting the Russo Brothers' backed show - first in Mumbai and then in

London and Rome.

In a new interview, Priyanka opened up about Citadel and how she landed the show without auditioning. Priyanka went on to speak about how 'auditioning isn't a bad thing'. She said people are not cast 'because they are the flavour of the season' or someone likes them or has recommended their name. They are cast because of merit.

Priyanka told News18, "I didn't audition for Citadel. But

I had to audition for my first project in Hollywood. And auditioning isn't a bad thing. It's normal. In fact, we should do a lot more of it... People are cast because of merit and not because they are the flavour of the season or someone likes them or has recommended their name."

She further said, "So, an actor like me who enjoyed being a leading lady in Bollywood and knows her job will not be side-lined when I'm

auditioned. I'll be good because I'm a good actor. I'll win the job like I did with Quantico because I'm good at my job. And I'm not under-confident."

The first season of Priyanka's spy series Citadel consists of six episodes, with two episodes premiering on April 28 on Prime Video. Citadel is executive produced by the Russo Brothers and showrunner David Weil, and also stars Richard Madden, Stanley Tucci

and Lesley Manville?

In a recent interview, Priyanka had said that she performed most of the stunts in Citadel on her own without any body double. In an interview with DNA, Priyanka said, "Almost 80 percent of the stunts on the show, I did myself because I trust my body and my instincts. But I learnt a lot and the action that I have done on this show is definitely very different from what I have done before."

Health Matters: Dear Mothers, Don't Blame Bournvita But Change Your 'Kuch Meetha Ho Jaaye' Mindset

I was a few months ago that my eight-year-old started resisting plain milk. After I started adding a malt-based product, she started drinking milk once again without throwing tantrums. I knew it was not a healthy option but I convinced myself that I will use it in small quantities.

With the latest controversy around Cadbury Bournvita, I confess that I'm feeling guilty and reconsidering my decision. A lot has already been written about the controversy and how the product is a "sugar bomb", but the first thing we need to change in our homes is the consumption of sugar.

Traditionally, in Indian households, cheeni (sugar) is considered auspicious and mothers are not used to rationing it from their children's diets. In fact, we believe that children and youngsters are the fittest and can eat anything and everything. You may have noticed grandparents serving paranthas slathered with butter, hot chapatis dripping with desi ghee or bowls of greasy and sweet homemade dessert. This is often considered a sign of their love and care.

Socially and traditionally, we believe that it is not for children who should ration sugar or oil but only the elderly or people with health issues, thanks to popular cliches such as - Ab nahin khaoghe toh kab khaoghe (roughly translated to 'this is the time to eat as you wish'). But with changing times, we have now realised that India is



reeling from the burden of lifestyle and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and it is time to change the basics. These NCDs include cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases - contributing to around 3.8 crore (68 percent) of all deaths globally and to about 58.7 lakh (60 percent) of all deaths in India.

HOW MUCH SUGAR IS RIGHT?

A higher consumption of free sugar, often exceeding the recommended 5 percent intake, is linked to obesity in children, dental caries and NCDs in later stages of life. You can blame the increased air pollution and lifestyle diseases, changing environmental conditions, the post-pandemic world, but there is an urgent need to change our chil-

dren's diets. Coming back to Bournvita, the label states: 'Add 2 heaped teaspoons (20 grams) of Bournvita to a cup of hot or cold milk'.

Not many of us focus on '20 grams' and use our own estimates. Rather, we focus on "heaps" and end up mixing the powder in milk, sometimes adding extra sugar as well. The company claims that "every serving of 20 grams of Bournvita has 7.5 grams of added sugar, which is approximately one and a half teaspoons".

"This is much less than the daily recommended intake limits of sugar for children," a company spokesperson told News18. But experts claim that it also includes "hidden sugar", taking the total sugar content to 73.1 grams in every 100-gram

serving. Soumya Swaminathan, the former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, tweeted that hidden sugar in such products is leading to an increase in the incidence of diabetes, even in low-income families.

The American Heart Association recommends children and teenagers should consume less than 25 grams, or six teaspoons, of added sugar per day. Similar estimates are given by the UK's health agency, National Health Service (NHS). It says children aged 7 to 10 should have no more than 24 grams of free sugars a day or six sugar cubes, whereas children aged 4 to 6 should have no more than 19 grams of free sugars a day or five sugar cubes.

MALT-BASED BEVERAGES AND HEALTH DRINKS

It's not the first time the health benefits of 'malt-based' drinks have been questioned. In fact, a group called Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI) keeps questioning the benefits on a regular basis. In 2018, it also asked Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan to discontinue his association with another malt-based drink due to its high sugar content.

These drinks claim to contain "unique" and "scientific formulas". Bournvita claims to contain an "inner strength formula" that can help develop the brain, bones and muscles as well as strengthen immunity.

But experts believe that these drinks may not even be the right supplements for children. The parental guidance booklet published by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) in 2021, recognised that malt-based milk supplements are commonly used in India.

While the primary ingredient is malt, mostly barley, or cereal derivative, the secondary ingredient is invariably high in sugar. It is the free sugar that becomes a matter of concern, as it is not only addictive and a habit-forming substance but also leads to health problems such as weight gain, dental caries, and risk for chronic lifestyle-related ailments.

These milk supplements belong to the ultra-processed food category and the IAP suggests that they should "best be avoided".

Smiling Can Cause Wrinkles Around Your Eyes! Dermatologist Shares Whether Face Exercises Are Indeed Effective



We must have come across articles or even health and beauty podcasts talking about the benefits of performing face exercises or engaging in face workouts to keep fine lines and wrinkles at bay while achieving a much-desired chiselled jawline.

However, Dr Manasi Shirolikar, a renowned dermatologist stated in brief about the reality of facial exercises and whether they can truly make our face appear youthful and flawless.

According to the dermatologist, the benefits of facial exercises to combat signs of ageing haven't been scientifically proven yet. She also stated that repetitive muscle contraction can cause the skin to wrinkle. 'Do you know what increases the chances of crow's feet in the wrinkles around eyes? Smiling a lot! Constant face workouts could instead speed up the wrinkle process!'

Talking about saggy skin, she stated that an increased muscle tone can prevent the skin from becoming too saggy. 'Unfortunately, this is usually almost an undetectable difference when compared to procedures like fillers!' she further added.

If you wish to reduce wrinkles, Dr Manasi has a hack for it as well. 'If preventing wrinkles is your goal, simple steps like using sun protection, staying hydrated, moisturizing and using collagen stimulating products like retinol and vitamin C can go a long way!'

Drinking RO water? You are at risk of Vitamin B12 deficiency

Vitamin B12, also known as cobalamin, is an essential vitamin for humans. This vitamin plays a crucial role in the function and development of brain and nerve cells. A new study conducted by the SSG Hospital has revealed that people who consume purified water through Reverse Osmosis (RO), are more likely to suffer from vitamin B12 deficiency.

According to the study, RO water consumption is an emerging risk factor as cobalt gets removed through the RO system. According to scientists, cobalt is an essential component of vitamin B12. The study also revealed that vegetarians and people with an unnatural dark complexion are also at risk of developing Vitamin B12 deficiency. During the study, the scientists enrolled 160 patients with B12 deficiency and 160 patients with B12 within normal limit were included. The study was led by Dr. Sangita V Patel, additional professor at Department of Community Medicine of Baroda Medical College.

Reportedly, the team of researchers carried out multivariate analysis to confirm the risk factors affecting Vitamin B12 deficiency using logistic regression model. The scientists found that Those who used RO water for drinking experienced 3.61 higher odds of vitamin B12 deficiency compared to controls. According to the researchers, there are three possible reasons behind adverse health effects of consuming demineralized water.

The RO system removes cobalt, reduced absorption of vitamin B12 available in diet due to low mineralized water leads to chronic atrophic gastritis and the RO system also removes microorganisms responsible for "endogenous production of Vitamin B12 directly or indirectly.

THIS YUMMY MAKHANA DOSA CAN HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT - EASY RECIPE INSIDE

Weight Loss Diet: This light and healthy makhana (fox nuts) dosa is full of nutrients. Check out the recipe below.

There are many reasons people love dosa. Firstly, it can be combined with a wide range of chutneys or just good old sambar to make a wholesome meal. Secondly, there are many ways of making dosa itself - from experimenting with the batter to playing around with fillings. Best of all, dosa in its original style is full of health benefits. Typically, dosa batter is made using urad dal and rice. But we have found an interesting recipe that uses makhana (lotus seeds or fox nuts) to make dosas. Not only is this dosa loaded with nutrients, but it is also delicious and light on the system. This particular version could especially help those wanting to shed those extra kilos. Find out more below.

Weight Loss Diet: Makhana is

a superfood that can be consumed in a variety of ways. Photo Credit: Pixabay This dosa is made using 4 unique ingredients: makhana, sooji (rava/semolina), poha and curd. As usual, salt and water are added to the batter. Each of these ingredients can contribute to your weight loss goals as well as overall health.

Makhana is low in calories while being high in protein and fibre. It helps you stay satiated for longer and hence curb cravings. It is also gluten-free and low in sodium, fat and cholesterol. Makhana has a low glycemic index. It may be recommended for those with diabetes, blood pressure and heart disease. Therefore, along with curbing weight gain, it can do a lot more! Poha is another low-cal,



high-fibre ingredient that you must include in your diet. According to dietician Manpreet Kalra, "Poha can help regulate blood glucose levels because it is a good source of complex carbohydrates, B complex vitamins and important minerals." Curd is high in protein and has probiotic properties that boost metabolism

as well as gut health. Thus, it can help balance your system and aid in weight loss. Semolina is rich in iron and contains healthy carbohydrates. It can give you a sustained energy boost. Also Read: 5 Refreshing Summer Drinks For Those On A Weight Loss Diet (Recipes Inside) | Rava (Semolina) Good For Weight

Loss? As you may know, rava or sooji is made using wheat. Hence, people may question how much this ingredient can help in weight loss. According to nutritionist Rupali Dutta, you should opt for semolina made using whole wheat rather than refined flour. This will give you more nutrients and health advantages. It is also advisable to pair semolina with prebiotic ingredients for maximum benefits. Click here to know more.

Now that you've realised just how good this dosa is for you, here's how to prepare it: How To Make Makhana Dosa At Home | Quick And Easy Makhana Dosa Recipe You can also add chopped veggies or masala of your choice on top of your makhana dosa.

Global partners announce a new effort - "The Big Catch-up" - to vaccinate millions of children and restore immunization progress lost during the pandemic

WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, along with Immunization Agenda 2030 and many other global and national health partners, are today joining forces to call for "The Big Catch-up", a targeted global effort to boost vaccination among children following declines driven by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This effort aims to reverse the declines in childhood vaccination recorded in over 100 countries since the pandemic, due to overburdened health services, closed clinics, and disrupted imports and exports of vials, syringes and other medical supplies. Meanwhile, communities and families experienced lockdowns, restricting travel and access to services, and financial and human resources were limited along with access to health commodities, due to the emergency response. Ongoing challenges like conflicts, climate rises and vaccine hesitancy also contributed to the decline in coverage rates. With over 25 million children miss-



ing at least one vaccination in 2021 alone, outbreaks of preventable diseases, including measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever are already becoming more prevalent and severe. The Big Catch-up aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks, save children's lives and strengthen national health systems.

While calling on people and governments in every country to play their part in helping to catch up by reaching the children who missed out, The Big Catch-up will have a particu-

lar focus on the 20 countries where three quarters of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021 live".

Although global coverage levels have declined, there have also been bright spots of resilience. For example, early reports indicate India saw a strong recovery in essential immunization in 2022, while Uganda maintained high coverage levels during the pandemic. Countries have also been successful at reaching groups in vulnerable situations. In Kenya, for instance, collaborations with commu-

nity health workers and local leaders have improved levels of immunization among nomadic populations in the north of the country.

To ensure progress on childhood immunization, partners are working with countries to strengthen health care workforce, improve health service delivery, build trust and demand for vaccines within communities, and address gaps and obstacles to restoring immunization. In addition to more deadly disease outbreaks, intensified efforts are needed to introduce the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to adolescents to prevent cervical cancer, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where the burden is highest.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "Millions of children and adolescents, particularly in lower-income countries, have missed out on life-saving vaccinations, while outbreaks of the deadly diseases have risen. WHO is supporting dozens of countries to restore immunization and other essential health services. Catching up

is a top priority. No child should die of a vaccine-preventable disease."

"Routine vaccines are typically a child's first entry into their health system and so children who miss out on their early vaccines are at added risk of being cut out of health care in the long run," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "The longer we wait to reach and vaccinate these children, the more vulnerable they become and the greater the risk of more deadly disease outbreaks. Countries, global partners and local communities must come together to strengthen services, build trust and save lives." "We cannot allow a legacy of the pandemic to be the undoing of many years' work protecting more and more children from deadly, preventable diseases," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. "Global health partners, working with governments and communities, must do everything we can to protect the life of every child."

"Vaccines are a public health triumph," said Dr. Chris Elias, president of Global Development at the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation. "The incredible progress that has been made toward ending polio and reducing the incidence of infectious diseases is the direct result of thousands of dedicated global partners and local health workers who have worked to immunize millions of children. We must double down to reach all children with the vaccines they need to live healthier lives and ensure that future generations live free of preventable diseases like polio."

Notes to editors For more information about The Big Catch-up, visit WHO's page, the interactive site on the newly released UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report, and the hub of partner content for World Immunization Week. "The 20 countries where three quarters of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021 live are: Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, DPRK, DRC, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Tanzania, Viet Nam.



Reasi: Special camps being held in Educational Institutes to enrol youth as voters

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 24: District Election Cell Reasi is going to organise special camps in the Polling stations, Colleges, Universities and Higher secondary schools to enrol eligible youth as voters under Special Summary Revision of the Photo Electoral Rolls of Assembly Constituencies. Special Camps will be organized in Colleges/Universities on April 28, 2023,

in Higher Secondary Schools on April 29, 2023 and on April 30, 2023 at all Polling Stations to cover the youth preferably in the age group of 18-19, said District Election Officer Reasi, Babila Rakwal while briefing the media about the ongoing Special Summary Revision of the Photo Electoral Rolls of Assembly Constituencies, which commenced on 5th April, 2023. It was told that the Election Commission of India has revised the

schedule of the Special Summary Revision and as per which, the last date for filing of Claims and Objections is 6th May, 2023 and the last date for disposal of Claims and Objections is 15th May, 2023, while the last date for publication of the Final Electoral Rolls is 27th May, 2023. The DEO said that during this period any eligible person, who has attained age of 18 years on 01-04-2023, can apply for registration as a Voter through concerned

BL0 or online on www.nvsp.in. "Persons who are going to attain the age of 18 years on 01-07-2023 and 01-10-2023, can also apply for registration as a Voter, but their claims will be disposed of in the months of July and October, 2023" she added. Persons can also apply for making Deletions of names and for making corrections in the Electoral Rolls, she informed further.

DC Doda inspects implementation of DRSC recommended Road Safety measures on NH244

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 24: Giving top most priority to Road Safety in the mountainous district to safeguard the precious lives of the commuters, District administration Doda has been conducting monthly review of the infrastructure upgradation and measures taken to ensure road safety and to sensitise the stakeholders to make the road transportation easier, safer and better.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan (Chairman District Road Safety Committee) along with SDM Assar Lekh Raj, GM NHIDCL NS Gill, Tehsilidar Assar Fareed Ahmed and other concerned officers today inspected maintenance, and upgradation of the NH244 initiated as per the decisions taken in the last District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting. The DC inspected the Crash barriers installed at the identified black spots and other vulnerable stretches of the National Highway from Balote up to Pull Doda. He directed the authorities to set up new Control and Monitoring Points with all the latest gadgets to measure the speed and other details of the vehicles crossing the point. He further issued instructions to ensure better roads and safer driving on NH 244. The executing agencies were directed to immediately install CCTV cameras on the identified points and complete installation of crash barriers at the remaining Black Spots.

Besides other directions, he asked the authorities to construct parking bays and remove encroachments along the sides of the road.

Doda Panchayats Mundhar Upper & Bhagwah Upper B bag UT Level Award for outstanding works in different categories

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, LOCALS EXTEND WARM GREETINGS TO THE RDD FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 24: In first of its kind Panchayat Level Awards instituted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir to mark National Panchayati Raj Day, two District Doda Panchayats Mundhar Upper & Bhagwah Upper B have been awarded UT Level Awards in a function chaired by Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha at Pelli, Samba. The Panchayat Mundhar Upper of Kastigarh Block has been awarded for best performance under MGNREGA while Panchayat Bhagwah Upper B of Bhagwah Block bagged the award for Good Governance theme of GDPD.

The Panchayats were awarded for outstanding works done by BDO Kastigarh Anoop Kumar, BDO Bhagwah Shabir Ahmed, Sarpanch Pyl Mundhar Upper Shafiq Ahmed, Sarpanch Bhagwah Upper-B, Sajjad Ahmed, Concerned VILWs, JEs, TAs, GRs and Panches under the guidance of District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, ADDC, Pran Singh, ACD, Phulail Singh and ACP, Ashfaq Ahmed.

Distt Admin B'pora celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 24: The District Administration Bandipora on Monday celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day at Hajin.

The programme was organized to commemorate the establishment of Panchayati Raj institutions as a system of local self-government in rural areas, providing a voice for people in rural communities to participate in the democratic process.

The programme was presided by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed and was attended by Nodal Officer Coordination M Ashraf Hakak, ACP Bandipora Muzaffar Ahmad, senior officers and PRIs. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Owais said that Panchayati Raj institutions have played an important role in empowering people in rural areas, promoting inclusive development and improving the delivery of public services. He said, the celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day by the District Administration provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Panchayati Raj institutions to rural development and to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening these institutions further.

DDC inaugurates Training programmes under PMKVY 4.0 at ITI Shopian

240 YOUTH TO BE TRAINED UNDER THE SCHEME IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24: VAISHYA



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 24: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya who is also Chairman, District Skill Committee Shopian today visited ITI Shopian and inaugurated training programmes under Pradhan Mantri Kausal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 here.

Under the centrally sponsored scheme, free of cost training shall be imparted to the unemployed, school and college dropouts in the selected job roles to enhance their employability.

It was intimated that three batches with 80 trainees (beneficiaries) were started today. Training of other batches with 160 trainees/ beneficiaries under various job roles approved under PMKVY 4.0 for Shopian district will be mobilized and started during the month of May 2023, in the second phase.

The DDC interacted with trainees/ beneficiaries of the scheme and stressed upon the importance of learning new skills with high market demand and using mastered skills for securing meaningful employment.

G20 Cell -GDC Ramgarh organises 3 day awareness activities

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 24: G20 Cell of the Government Degree College Ramgarh, in collaboration with Eco Club, Department of Environmental Sciences and NSS Unit, organised a series of activities to Commemorate the World Earth Day from April 22-24, 2023 under the theme of One Earth, One Family, One Future in India's G20 Presidency and to mark Jan Bhagidari "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." The event was held under the guidance and coordination of Prof.(Dr.) Satinder Kaur, Principal of the College.

On April 22, a Documentary was screened in online mode for the students of the College. The contents of the documentary were to explore the landscapes and beauty of nature and how to protect our planet with sustain-



able development. A large number of students as well as faculty members of the College participated in the event.

An online Intra- College Quiz competition was organized on April 23, 2023. A total of 75 students of the college participated in the Quiz.

First position was shared by Anshika Viridi and Prachi Viridi, both students of Semester 4th,

while Rahul Kumar-Semester 2nd, Amandeep-Semester 2nd and Malkit Kour-Semester 4th, Rahul Kumar-Semester 2nd shared the second position while the third position was shared by Prinka-Semester 2nd, Varsha Salaria-Semester 4th and Anish Thappa-Semester 2nd.

A model making competition on Energy Conservation was also organized in the college premises

and 12 students participated in the event.

The first position was bagged by Malkit Kour and Indeept Kour. They presented a working model on energy Conservation through the medium of Windmill. Meena Kumari secured the second position while Vishal Kumar clicked the third position.

On the concluding day of the

series of activities organized by the College, Prof.(Dr.) Satinder Kaur, Principal of the College said that the day is observed to spread awareness about issues, including the rampant increase in pollution from excess use of Natural Resource, global warming, and deforestation, which harm the environment and result in the destruction of the planet. She added that the theme of World Earth Day 2023 is "Invest in Our Planet", calling for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices which is also one of the strategies under India G20 Presidency in 2023 and we need to act boldly, innovate broadly, and implement equitably.

The other faculty members and organizers present were Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Shamsher Lal, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Prof. Rishu Kumari & Dr. Anjali Bala

Director Horticulture launches Kissan Sampark Abhiyan under HADP

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak today launched and chaired the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in village Bahroon of Batote block of District Ramban.

The programme was attended by Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban, District Nodal Officer of HADP, Sectoral officers of Agriculture & Allied sectors, Sarpanch of the panchayat & PRI members.

The programme was also attended by a mammoth gathering of farmers of the panchayat and surrounding areas. While Speaking on the occasion, the Director Horticulture elaborated the details of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme providing incentives / assistance for the welfare of the farming community.

He sensitised the gathering about the main components of the programme viz. DAKSH- Learning Management System related to skill development, SATHI- Dashboard to apply online for different Govt. schemes, etc.

During the programme, 15 videos related to HADP were also shown to the gathering to acquaint them with the benefits of the programme.

He appreciated the efforts of the Mangla Raj committee for framing such a programme covering every aspect of the farmer related issues in the scheme. He urged farmers to come forward for availing incentives under the programme and also sought intervention of the farming community for the workable reforms for the upliftment of the economic status of the nation and UT in particular.

Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban, Anil Gorkha welcomed the Director Horticulture Jammu and expressed him about Horticultural development schemes being implemented in district Ramban.

PSPS GCW Gandhinagar celebrates World Earth Day, National Pet Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Eco club of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev College for Women, in collaboration with Department of Environmental Sciences and Paryavaran Sarankshan Gatividhi (Jammu Kashmir Prant) today organised a lecture to celebrate Earth Day covering this year theme "Invest in Our Planet".

The event was held under the guidance of the College Principal, Prof. Minu Mahajan.

Dr. Harjeet Kaur, Convener, Eco club delivered a formal welcome speech. She briefed that the motive of organising this event was to raise awareness on changing climatic conditions and to look upon the ways to protect our planet Earth from further damages. Prof. Minu Mahajan applauded the initiatives taken by the organising team to sensitize and motivate students about various environmental issues like global warming, deforestation etc. She stressed on the need to utilize the existing resources with a sustainable approach. Kuldeep Sharma, Retired HOD, SKUAST, Jammu, Pravarans Sangrakhak Gatividhi, JK Prant was the resource person of the event. He elaborated on the historical background of the need for celebrating

'Earth Day', which started way back in 1970.

"The degrading environmental conditions have a direct impact on the physical, social, mental and spiritual health of an individual" he said. He sensitised the students about the contribution they can make as a student and as a citizen for the welfare of the whole society. He encouraged them to plant at least 7-8 plants per year and also to work on reducing their carbon footprints. The event was witnessed by around 80 students. Dr. Rahul Sharma, Prof. Eisha Gohil, Prof. Shivani Sawhney, Prof. Swarn Singh, Dr. Ravinder Kumar also graced the occasion with their presence. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Suraj Mohani Jamwal. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Mehak Sharma and Neharika Sharma (2nd sem).

Meanwhile, to commemorate National Pet Day an extension lecture on the "Safety of our Furry friends" was organised by the department of Home Science to celebrate the joy that pets bring into our lives and to raise awareness about the importance of animal welfare.

Dr. Jasleen Kour, Veterinary Microbiologist, SKUAST-Jammu was the resource person on the occasion.

More than 100 students of the college attended the lecture which shed light on different welfare issues encountered around us regarding animals and what can be done to reduce their effects.

The resource person also stressed upon general management measures and steps that should be taken in order to keep pets healthy and what all should be done when they are not keeping well.

Earlier, the event started with a welcome address by Dr. Irvinde Kour, HOD Home Science, who formally welcomed the Chief Guest Prof. Minu Mahajan the revered Principal of the college, the resource person, staff, and students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal congratulated the efforts of the department and stressed upon the fact that Pets can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.

The whole event was organised by Dr. Anjali Bhat, Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Dr. Ramandeep kaur, Dr. Neelima Gupta faculty of the Department of Home Science.

Vote of thanks was given by Prof. Shivani Sawhney. Present on the occasion was staff secretary Prof. Mala Bhasin and other staff members of the college.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan launched across 19 panchayats of Rajouri district

DDC INTERACTS WITH FARMERS AT AITTI PANCHAYAT

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, a crucial initiative under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, was today launched across 19 Panchayats of the district Rajouri.

The campaign aims to connect farmers with different agricultural schemes, educate them about innovative agricultural practices, and improve their overall farming experience. The campaign shall run till August 31, 2023.

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, inaugurated the campaign at Panchayat Aitti, where he interacted with farmers and encouraged them to take advantage of the government schemes. Kundal emphasised the importance of adopting millets in agricultural cultivation, as these are a sustainable crop and can withstand drought conditions.

The DDC was accompanied by District Nodal Officer HADP (District Sheep Husbandry Officer), Dr Sarfraz Naseem Choudhary, concerned sarpanch and officials of Agriculture and allied depart-



ments. The Kisan Sampark Abhiyan initiative will create awareness among farmers about the latest agricultural practices, modern techniques, and innovative solutions to address common problems faced by farmers. The programme will help farmers understand the different government schemes available to them and encourage them to take advantage of these schemes to enhance their productivity and profitability.

The DDC stated that the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan is a significant step towards

achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022. The programme will bridge the gap between farmers and the government and provide them with the necessary support and guidance to improve their farming practices.

"The programme will also provide a platform for farmers to interact with experts from the Agriculture Department and seek their advice on various aspects of farming, such as crop selection, soil management, pest control, and irrigation methods," he added.

He reiterated that the HADP initiative is

a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem for farmers. The programme aims to empower farmers with knowledge and tools that can help them enhance their productivity and profitability while also contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector.

The district administration is committed to supporting farmers and ensuring their success. The Kisan Sampark Abhiyan initiative is just one of the many steps being taken to achieve this goal.

Farmers were shown informative films that described the various programmes provided by the Agriculture Department throughout the day in all 19 of the panchayats where the Jan Sampark Abhiyan has been launched. Following the video presentations, department officers offered the farmers more help in understanding the goals and purposes of the videos.

The farmers participated in the Jan Sampark Abhiyan camp at selected areas together with PRI members, and they praised the government's choice to start this initiative to support farmers.



Div Com Jammu asks DCs to identify land for establishment of Housing colonies in districts

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar on Monday directed Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division to identify suitable land for development of Housing Colonies in their respective districts.

He issued these directions while chairing a video conferencing meeting with DCs and concerned officers convened to review the progress achieved in this regard so far.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised about the status of land identification and other preliminary



procedures initiated for establishment of Housing colonies in their respective districts.

It was informed that some districts have already transferred the land to the Housing Board for development of Housing

colonies, while other DCs were directed to expedite the process and transfer the land identified for the purpose. Div Com directed

the Managing Director Housing Board to conduct point visits at the already identified land to check feasibility of land patches.

Meanwhile, the Div Com asked DC Jammu and Samba to expedite the progress on demarcation of JDA land.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman JDA, Pankaj Magotra; MD Housing Board, Shahir Hussain; Assistant Commissioner Central, Pritham Lal Thappa and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners alongwith ACRs participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Atal Dulloo launches 'Kissan Sampark Abhiyan' at Bhadore Panchayat, Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today launched 'Kissan Sampark Abhiyan' at Bhadore panchayat of Marh Block in Jammu district under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

ACS, while speaking on the occasion, exhorted upon the participating farmers to optimally utilize this opportunity to raise their issues and concerns for redressal. He also asked them to develop a good rapport with the expert officers and learn from them certain things crucial to further improve their profession and agricultural production as well.

ACS was informed that details of about 49 schemes related to agriculture and allied sector schemes will be displayed on smart TV for 3 days. Out of which, 17 schemes were displayed today and shown to the public and queries were raised and replied on the spot by the concerned.

A large number of farmers participated in the programme and on-spot registration regarding base line survey of farmers was also done.

More than 800 farmers participated in the programme in 20 panchayats of Jammu district.

Under the Abhiyan, various schemes will be displayed during first three days of every week which will include total number of 822 trainings and 274 sessions till 31st of August 2023 to cover all panchayats of the district to reach to every farmer of the district.

District Nodal Officer, HADP, resource persons, Sarpanchs and Panchs besides public representatives were present on the occasion.

DNO HADP introduced all the resources persons to the farmers for having close rapport with the farmers through-out the campaign which will last till 31st of August 2023.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools in District Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kunal, held a meeting with concerned officers today to review the functioning of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools located in Gurdhaballa and Koreranka villages in Rajouri district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of providing quality education to tribal students and urged the officers to work towards creating an enabling environment for learning in the School. He further stressed the importance of ensuring that the students have access to all necessary resources to excel in their academic pursuits, including extra-curricular activities.

The Eklavya Model Residential School is an ambitious initiative of the Government of India to facilitate tribal students in obtaining quality education and enabling them to compete with students from other parts of the country. The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the need for regular monitoring of the academic progress of the students and suggested that assessments be conducted regularly to track the progress of each student. The District Social Welfare Officer Rajouri informed the Deputy Commissioner that presently, one school is functioning from Rajouri, while the other is operating from JNV buildings in Hubbi. He further informed that the academic work of Gurdhaballa EMRS is expected to be completed in the coming days. Additionally, he shared that the admission procedure for this session is in progress and the response is tremendous.

The review conducted by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kunal emphasized the importance of Eklavya Model Residential Schools in providing quality education to tribal students and ensuring that they have access to the same opportunities as students in other parts of the country, including extra-curricular activities.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Kick-Started on an ebullient note across 19 Panchayats of District Kathua

ALSO TAKES STOCK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR EID-UL-FITR

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 24: To promote sustainable agriculture practices and to improve the livelihoods of farmers, Kisan Sampark Abhiyan was kick-started today in 19 Panchayats of District Kathua.

The 4-month long event which begins today is aimed at reaching out to farmers and educating them on the latest agricultural practices and technology.

In Kathua, the program was inaugurated by Dr Shubra Sharma, Director Animal Husbandry Department, who is also the Advisor for Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in Panchayat Nihalpur, Block Barnoti and Panchayat Badala in Block Kathua.

The Kisan Sampark Abhiyan is a concerted effort by the government to bridge the gap between farmers and the latest agricultural practices and technology. The program aims to provide farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve their crop yield and income. The program will focus on creating awareness about the latest technology and practices, educating farmers on crop management, soil health, and water management, among other things. On the first day of the 3-day program, videos consisting of HADP and CSS were shown to farmers



for their Orientation/ Awareness Generation via a vis supporting farmers, adoption of Integrated Farming and promoting sustainable agriculture practices. The videos provided farmers with an overview of the latest technology and practices, including irrigation, crop protection, and soil health management.

Speaking after the inauguration, Dr Shubra Sharma highlighted the importance of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, saying, "This program is an important step towards empowering our farmers with the latest knowledge and skills. With the right training and guidance, our farmers can significantly improve their crop yield and income, ultimately contributing to the growth of our agricultural sector."

She urged the farmers to make most of the available opportunities through training sessions and also called upon the concerned officers/officials to acquit the farmers with the latest trends besides quelling their doubts. The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Jugal Kishore Gupta who is also the District Nodal Officer for implementation of HADP was present on the occasion. CAO Sanjeev Rai, PRIs and a large number of farmers were also present. Apart from the District Headquarters, similar activities took place in other panchayats of remaining 18 blocks across the district, where farmers were also educated on the latest agricultural practices and technology.

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

APD LAUNCHES 'KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN': FARMERS SHOWN SHORT FILMS ON HADP, OTHER SCHEMES

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Agriculture Production Department (APD) today launched four month long orientation programme for farmers of Jammu and Kashmir under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), simultaneously across all districts of the UT.

The orientation programme was held in 264 venues engaging about 14000 farmers from across the UT on first day of the innovative event.

The programme shall be held on first three days of every week. The mammoth exercise, beginning from today, shall be completed in a period of 4 months which will cover panchayats of all the districts and shall culminate on 31st August 2023.

During the orientation programme, an exhaustive district specific calendar was issued besides an innovative tool of describing the schemes using short films has also been put in place.

A total of 49 videos of schemes under HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes were shown to the farmers across all the venues.

Using audio visual aids in describing the schemes had a lasting and much more engaging, engrossing effect on the farmers. Besides, a question answer session after each screening session of videos was held to clear the doubts of farmers.

The farmers were also provided with pamphlets explaining literature on all schemes in three languages (Hindi, Urdu and English) which also contained the information about the contact details of all the departments.

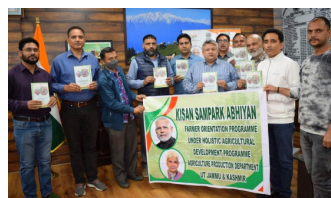
The farmers were also informed about the mode of application under these schemes using the KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of schemes developed by APD.

Regarding skill development, the farmers were also apprised of DAKSH KISAN- a learning management system developed by APD, where 118 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the UT are available for free to the farmers.

It was informed during the festival that various sports activities including indoor and outdoor will be organised for children, for both boys and girls living in child care institutions of Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that sports activities have a significant impact on the social and mental development of children, adding that the games inculcate leadership qualities and imbibe the spirit of discipline.

DC Doda launches Kisan Sampark Abhiyan



JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 24: Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan, along with District heads of Agriculture and allied departments, launched the ambitious Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, here today.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan is a prestigious programme of the Agriculture Production Department, aimed at the overall welfare of the farmers.

The District Administration Doda, along with Agriculture and allied departments, has planned to hold a series of awareness and handholding camps across all the 237 Panchayats of the district.

The visiting team of experts would stay in each Panchayat for three days to educate farmers about various issues, including business management, entrepreneurship, and government schemes. Kisan Sampark Abhiyan will include question and answer and awareness sessions about 18 centrally sponsored schemes that have been designed for the welfare and development of the farming community.

Dr Samoon reviews progress achieved under deliverables

ASKS FOR COMPLETE UTILIZATION OF CAPEX, CSS BUDGET TO FINISH NEW, ONGOING CIVIL WORKS



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review progress on implementation of deliverables during 2022-23 and finalization of departmental deliverables for the financial year 2023-24.

The meeting held detailed discussion on action taken report and progress on different deliverables. Dr Samoon directed the

officers to regularly monitor progress on ongoing works and monitor expenditure in ITIs and polytechnics.

Among the deliverables for the year 2022-23, it was informed that skill training of 13000 COVID warriors in health sector and their accreditation by NSDC/ MISE has been completed in all respects.

It was also apprised that implementation of world bank funded STRIVE scheme, up skilling of SHG beneficiaries (6000 women) and formulation of panchayat

level skill development plans has been completed.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary assessed progress on periodic revision of the course content of various training courses in line with rapidly evolving needs of the industries through their consultations.

Regarding finalization of deliverables for the financial year 2023-24, Dr Samoon directed the concerned for training of left out SHG members registered with NRLM/Tribal Affairs. He sought assessment of job

placements from Polytechnics and ITIs over the last two years.

He directed the officers for complete utilisation of Capex, CSS budget to complete new and ongoing civil works including machinery and equipment.

He also asked for identification of skill gaps and development of

required skills in coordination with the concerned departments.

He also instructed the concerned for ensuring skill development training of 11000 youth and 20000 women SHGs under PMKVY 4.0 and JKNRML, respectively, in collaboration with NSDC.

Rajouri Panchayats Sangpur Narain West, Kotledhara bag UT level Award for outstanding works under different categories

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: In first of its kind Panchayat Level Awards instituted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir to mark National Panchayati Raj Day, two Panchayats of District Rajouri, One Sangpur Narain west and Kotledhara have been awarded UT Level Awards in a function chaired by Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha at Palli, Samba.

The Panchayat Sangpur Narain west Block Doongi has been awarded for best performance under SBM ODF Plus, while Panchayat Kotledhara of Block Rajouri bagged the award for 100 percent completion of PMAY-G Houses.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri extended congratulations to the RD and PRIs for their hard work and exhorted them to work with the same spirit to achieve the set target for the current financial year.



Kissan Sampark Abhiyan kick-starts across all the districts of Kashmir

Program aims at providing farmers with necessary knowledge & skills to adopt sustainable, environment friendly agricultural practices

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: Kissan Sampark Abhiyan, a farmer orientation and skill development program, started today across all the districts of Kashmir.

At the districts' level, the programme was organized in all panchayats spanning across all blocks with an aim to sensitize farmers about new interventions approved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and benefits under other centrally sponsored schemes.

Through HADP, participants will have the opportunity to learn about new and innovative farming techniques and technologies that can help them increase their yields and profits.

At Shopian: the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan, a farmer orientation and skill development program, started across all blocks of the district.

Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, along with ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak presided over the similar program at Panchayat Halqa Aripathan in Beerwah Block.

During the program, resources persons from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and other departments raised awareness regarding various schemes available with them among the participating farmers.

The awareness was also raised through short films screened during these orientation programs. Farmers were given awareness training regarding, Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund, Integrated Poultry Development Program, Agriculture Infrastructure Development Fund, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, PM Kissan, Soil Health Card, PM Kissan Mandhan Yojna, PM Krishi Sinchai Yojna, PM Fasal Bima Yojna and other schemes and initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan said that the aim of this grand program is to ensure holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors and make farming progressive and prosperous to farmers. He urged farmers to ensure maximum participation in 'Kissan Sampark Abhiyan' to



avail orientation and skilling courses for all interventions, latest techniques, explore new possibilities and make farming more accessible and profitable. PRIs, BDOs, representatives from all departments also attended the program.

At Shopian: the Agriculture Production Department Shopian today launched an extension orientation programme 'Kissan Sampark Abhiyan' for the farmers of the district.

The three day orientation programmes were inaugurated by PRI members, including DDC members today in various Panchayats, spanning across all blocks of the district.

The main function was held at Panchayat halqa, Pahnoo where DDC Chairperson, Bilqees Jan inaugurated the orientation program in presence of DDC Member, Abdul Rashid Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Yar Ali Khan, District Officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Bank, Fisheries, NRLM and others. Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairperson said that the farmers shall be able to orient themselves about 29 projects designated for their welfare and development under the programme. She asked farmers to avail the opportunity and employ latest technological interventions in the sector for their economic benefits. She further exhorted upon the trainers/ officers to educate the farmers about the programme in detail and ensure the increased participation of farmers and Panchayati Raj Institute members. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Yar Ali Khan said that due to availability of the latest technological interventions and practices, it is easy for farming communities to increase their productivity while taking expertise of various

resource persons of the allied departments in view.

On the occasion, pamphlets with latest information about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes were also distributed among the farmers.

These programmes are aimed at helping farmers increase their spending in the sector, ultimately leading to an improvement in their productivity and production that will provide farmers with learning opportunities.

At Ganderbal: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today visited Panchayat Ghar Theera where he kick-started the 3 days training program as part of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. The orientation program was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, PRIs besides huge gathering of farmers. Kissan Sampark Abhiyan was today launched in 4 blocks of the district including block Ganderbal, block Lar, block Kangam and block Gund. The programme shall continue till 30th August during which all panchayat haqas of all blocks shall be covered. On the occasion, the DC also launched the handbook of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan besides videos on approved projects under the scheme were also screened. Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the purpose of the scheme saying, that the scheme has been launched to provide all facilities related to development of the agriculture sector under one roof so that overall development of the agriculture sector is ensured.

He appealed to PRIs and farmers especially youth to come forward and register themselves to take the benefit of the scheme and play their role to boost agriculture production and productivity

in the district to enhance the economy of the farming community.

While interacting with the officers of the Agriculture and allied departments, he enjoined upon them to ensure all doubts about the scheme are cleared during the training programme besides complete handholding is ensured to the interested farmers. During the training programme the farmers were acquainted about the objectives of the scheme, approved projects, registration process, scope besides online registration facility was also made available in all 4 blocks of the district.

Meanwhile, Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani visited Panchayat Halqa Surruf, block Kangam and inspected the proceedings of Farmers Orientation Programme there.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-U-Din Shah also visited Panchayat Waili where he participated in a training programme besides, SDM Kangam inspected the arrangements for the programme at Panchayat Halqa Margund block Gund and urged the farmers to take benefit of the scheme.

At Anantnag: As part of Holistic Agriculture Development programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom today inaugurated the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at panchayat Halqa Aukura of Khoveripora block Chief Agriculture officer, Ajaz Hussain Dar said that under the said project more than 29 agriculture and related activities will be kept open to farmers and they have to select their field of interest and expertise.

He said that it is the farmer orientation programme and the primary concern is to generate employment. The farmer can avail financial help up to 50 crores, he added. He said that the government is keen to develop the agriculture and allied sectors to make this sector an employment generation sector besides to make the farmer self-sufficient and self-reliable. The project includes the training sessions for farmers in concerned fields, said the CAO. DDC while speaking on the occasion said that Holistic Agriculture Development programme is a flagship, ambitious

programme for UT. He said that more than 70% of the population is directly or indirectly related with the agriculture and allied sectors and mass participation in the said programme will bring a sea change.

He said that farmers must avail the benefits of schemes of government like PMKSY, PMKISAN, SHC, KCC, IDDS, IPPP, AHDF, PMSBY, PMKMY etc, besides to register themselves on the portal. Implementation of new scientific techniques and technologies will definitely yield good results, he said. It is important to mention here that the Holistic Agriculture Development programme is being held in various blocks of Anantnag viz Achabal, Doru, Khoveripora etc. The programme was attended by the CHO, CAO, CSO, BDOs, officers of fisheries department, Officers of agriculture department, large number of farmers besides the field functionaries of agriculture department and media fraternity.

Later, the DC who is also the chairman of jal jeevan mission Anantnag flagged-off the prachar rath vehicle which carried the message of save drinking water in presence of ADC (A), SE Hydraulic, Xens of jal Shakti Bijbehara, qazigund, incharge DPMU besides other officers of Jal Shakti department. At Pulwama: Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department Pulwama, in collaboration with Allied Departments and KVK Malangpora, 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 (DC) Pulwama, Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary. He visited KVK Malangpora and addressed a gathering on the occasion of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at KVK Malangpora in Awantipora. Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Malangpora, other District/ Sectoral Heads of various departments and all Block Development Officers were also present.

DC Reasi launches Kisan Sampark Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 24: Kissan Sampark Abhiyan under holistic Agriculture Development Programme was today launched in various panchayats of 12 blocks of Reasi District.

In Reasi Block the training programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakwal along with BDC Chairperson Parveen Akhter and Sarpanch Raj Kumar Sharma.

Director Agriculture Jammu, K K Sharma, along with DDC Panthal and Sarpanch Rajinder Sharma inaugurated the training programme in panchayat Dadara.

The DDC said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, various steps have been taken to strengthen rural infrastructure, to increase agriculture productivity and diversification to higher value crops.

The DDC called upon all the stakeholders to come together to ensure the effective implementation of a holistic agriculture development plan.

The training was conducted simultaneously at 12 locations of District viz Dadara, Agharjito, Gran byotran, Dehote, Bidda, Dangakote, Thub, chinkak, chakkas, Baddar, Neoch, Chassana in the District.

Training was imparted to farmers by the resource persons of agriculture and allied Departments through Various audio visual aids. The Baseline survey was conducted by the skill gap study person of the farmers who attended the training programme. Pamphlets were also distributed among the farmers. About 600 farmers participated in the training programme. District Nodal officer HADP, Chief Agriculture officer Reasi Harbans Singh, attended the programme at Panchayat Gran Byotran and Panchayat Dadara, along with sub Divisional Agriculture Officer and agriculture extension officer concerned.

DC B'pora inspects Transit Accommodation at Odina Sumbal

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Sunday visited Odina village of Sumbal Sub Division to inspect the ongoing works on the Transit Accommodation Camp besides taking stock of various other ongoing development works in the area.

Officers at Transit Accommodation informed the DC that transit accommodation is coming up at the cost of Rs 57.60 crores comprising 480 flats in 30 blocks. They said each block is four-storied with four flats in each storey thus totaling up to 16 flats in one block.

The structure is RCC framed structure with arrangement for lift provided. Brickwork is provided for external and internal walls with wooden frames and shutters. Steel roof truss is provided with colour coated CGI sheets, officers informed.

Dr Owais took detailed stock at the site Odina and directed the officers to expedite the work so as to meet the deadlines. He stressed on maintaining the quality of work all along the project.

He directed the PDD officers to ensure uninterrupted electricity at work site so that they can work in night shifts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Madhu Saladha, W/o Sh. Subash Chander, R/o 151-Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu declares that my name has been wrongly written as Madhu Bala on my Aadhar Card bearing number: 65112147438. My correct name is Madhu Saladha and I am now applying with the concerned authority to update my mobile number. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days after the publication of this notice please.

Advisor Bhatnagar reviews performance, functioning of SIDCO, SICOP

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired a meeting to review performance and functioning of SIDCO and SICOP at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce department, Prashant Goel, Managing Director, SIDCO/SICOP, senior officers of both the Corporations and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon the management of both the Corporations to focus on creating a well established ecosystem for accelerated development of industrial sector across Jammu and Kashmir. This will generate employment avenues for the youth here, he added.

Advisor further asked the management of both the Corporations to intensify their efforts for revival of non-functional Industrial Estates and draft a suitable plan for the same. He remarked that revival of these units will generate employment opportunities



for large number of youth in the region. While reviewing conditions and facilities of existing industrial estates, Advisor Bhatnagar delved upon the officers that the roads leading to these industrial estates should be upgraded besides other utilities on modern lines should be put in place. He also directed the officers to develop roads and other facilities in the newly designated industrial estates on priority so that not all allotments to industrial unit holders are operationalized early.

Regarding establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP's) in industrial estates, the Advisor directed the officers to ensure that the CETP's are made essential by the industrial units besides making all completed CETP's operational at the earliest.

Advisor Bhatnagar, during the meeting, also highlighted the need for contin-

uous improvement and innovation in functioning of the industrial estates across Jammu and Kashmir. He urged upon both the Corporations to focus on creating an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive and grow by providing them with timely and effective support in areas such as finance, marketing, and technology.

While reviewing the performance of SICOP, the Advisor directed the management of the Corporation for timely completion of all the projects. He further impressed upon them to recover the outstanding amount pending with different departments of J&K and effective utilization of same for betterment of corporation.

Reviewing ongoing process of amalgamation of SIDCO and SICOP into JKIDC, the Advisor emphasized upon the Corporations to explore

progressive IDC's across the country and incorpo-

Director Agriculture monitors Kissan Sampark Abhiyan in North Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: To supervise the smooth conduct of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan in north Kashmir districts, the Director Agriculture Kashmir (Nodal Officer for Kissan Sampark Abhiyan North) Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited different areas (including Sangrama, Baramulla, Uri of district Baramulla).

Speaking at different places, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan. He said the Chief Agriculture Officers of concerned districts have been tasked with ensuring broad publicity of the program among the farmers and ensure farmer participation in the program on the scheduled dates.

He asked the concerned officers to ensure the presence of FPOs in the program. He instructed to aware the farming community about modern tools and techniques that has been incorporated in HADP to overcome the constraints and use different extension methods to motivate the farming community in adoption of proposed interventions in the approved projects.

rate some feasible ideas of these into JKIDC. He also asked them to study recruitment rules of these IDC's and accordingly draft same for JKIDC on timely basis.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was displayed by both the Corporations on performance and financial progress achieved.

UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT POLYTECHNIC JAMMU
BIKRAM CHOWK, JAMMU (J&K) 180004

ESTD: 1960
G20
Bhupinder Singh
Principle
E-mail: govtpolyjammu@gmail.com

No: GPJ/Estt./F-720/1215-18 Dated: 20.04.2023

SHORT TERM QUOTATION NOTICE FOR REPAIR OF 63KVA DIESEL GENERATOR SET

Sealed quotation duly affixed with Rs. 5/- Revenue stamp are invited on letter head pad from the firms/service providers dealing with the servicing of DG genset 63 KVA (Kilowatt Make). The rates shall be clearly mentioned in figures and words without cutting /overwriting.

The details of items /services should be quoted as per the below format:

S. No	Name of item to be serviced or replaced	Quantity (In Nos.)	Unit Rate inclusive of all taxes	Quoted rates in Rupees including of all taxes
1				
2	Labour charges including servicing of genset			

Terms and conditions:-

- The rate offered should be clearly mentioned without cutting and overwriting and full specifications of the item should be mentioned in the quotation. The participants should quote their rate inclusive of all taxes as applicable.
- The sealed quotations should reach the office of the Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu by hand/registered post by or before 02-05-2023 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 03-05-2023 at 12:30 PM in the office chamber of the Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu, in presence of the quotations who may like to be present on the opening date.
- The quotations can inspect the genset of the institution on any working day between 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM, before quoting the rates.
- Rates should be F.O.R. Government Polytechnic Jammu.
- The successful quotation 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.
- Payment shall be released after verification and satisfactory report of the committee

(-SD/-)
PRINCIPAL
GOVT. POLYTECHNIC, JAMMU
DIP/J-565/23

Union Secretary DDWS reviews Jal Jeevan, Swachh Bharat mission

ODF VILLAGES TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO ODF PLUS BY 2023-24

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Union Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, (DDWS), Ministry for Jal Shakti, Vini Mahajan, today chaired a review meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission and GOBARDHAN here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; Union



Additional Secretary and MD National Jal Jeevan Mission, Vikas Sheel and Union Joint Secretary and MD Swachh Bharat Mission, Jitendra Srivastava.

officers briefed about house-to-house garbage collection and solid waste segregation at village level to elevate their tag from Open Defecation Free (ODF) to ODF Plus by the end of 2023-24. Furthermore, it was highlighted that plastic waste needs to be segregated, shredded and packed in the form of bales for scientific disposal.

During the meeting, Union Secretary said that solid waste needs to be segregated at household level.

He congratulated the UT administration for last year's progress under Swachh Bharat Mission. She also encouraged

further momentum in solid waste management.

The meeting also covered updates on Jal Jeevan Mission works including increase in number of households having a supply of tap water from around 6 lakh to over 11 lakh since 2019.

Union Secretary asked the UT Jal Shakti Department to expedite and complete all pending Jal Jeevan Mission works and ensure participation of Pani Samitis for regular inspection and assessment of water supply projects. She also insisted on regular water quality testing by the Samitis and other stakeholders.

Tourism Deptt hosting 2-Day Tulip Festival- 2023 at Sanasar from April 26 Takes strict action against violators

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Over the years, promotion of Tourism in Jammu region has been gaining focused attention, especially in the wake of immense potential in pilgrim, nature, leisure and adventure tourism options, spread across various tourist destinations, especially in Patnitop, Sanasar, Sudhmahadev, Mantalai and areas around.

Under the aegis of Department of Tourism, J&K, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in association with Patnitop Development Authority Kud and District Administration Udhampur/Ramban has taken various initiatives for Promotion of Tourism in Patnitop, Sanasar and other tourist destinations falling within its jurisdiction in order to boost the destinations and increase the flow of tourists. Accordingly, a mega Tulip festival has been scheduled at Sanasar from April 26, 2023 to April 27, 2023 wherein Art, Cultural and Heritage of Jammu region shall be showcased.

During the two day event, celebrity singer, local cultural artists and other programmes including Adventure sports activities shall be performed. The event is being organized by Directorate of Tourism Jammu,

Patnitop Development Authority in collaboration with District Administration Ramban, J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages in association with Empryean Skyview Pvt. Ltd. And Hotel Administration, Patnitop.

The First Day would witness Cultural Performances by local artists - Ronak Thakur, Performance by Celebrity Singer - Sangram Hanjra, Nature Walk, Display/showcase of local products, Art, Craft etc and Other Activities.

Similarly, Cultural Performances by local artists - Subash Brahmanu & party, Trekking (Sanasar to Shankhpal), Horse Race, Boat Race, Display/showcase of local products, Art, Craft would be held on Day 2.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, while addressing the media, said that the Sanasar Tulip Festival is a must attend event for Nature Lovers, Tulip Lovers, Adventure Enthusiasts etc.

The two day event shall showcase the rich culture the UT has and is a celebration of nature's beauty.

While briefing the media, Sher Singh, CEO, Patnitop Development Authority said that this year a huge number of locals and tourists thronged Sanasar to get a glimpse of

the blooming tulips in the garden. This event is a part of visit Patnitop series where the visitor can enjoy adventure sporting Events and scintillating cultural performances by renowned and local artists of Jammu Division at Sanasar.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, while speaking to the media said that during spring the tulip garden at Sanasar transforms itself into a breathtaking landscape of colourful hues making it a photographer's paradise. This festival shall offer a host of activities for visitors, including cultural programs, handicraft exhibitions, horse race competition, boat race competition etc. The festival has been a great success in the past and the authorities are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that this year's festival is even better.

Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu, while inviting the media personnel and general public said that with its stunning display of tulips and cultural programs and adventure activities the festival shall surely offer an unforgettable experience. With the involvement of local youth, such activities shall surely enhance the tourist influx in the region thereby boosting the local economy.

Joint inspection squad conducts surprise inspection of schools, stationery shops

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: The Joint Inspection Squad of the Legal Metrology Department on Monday conducted Market Inspections following complaints against the private schools received in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

The teams conducted surprise inspections of several schools and stationery shops to investigate the complaints, in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The team seized certain products during the proceedings and persons/firms/schools were booked by the Legal Metrology Department under relevant provisions on the subject.

Challans were also issued in 24 instances against various schools

and stationery shops by the Legal Metrology department which shall be lodged in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu for trial, if the schools and stationery shops failed to submit an application for compounding or file an appeal.

Pertinent to mention that relevant orders, circulars and rules have been issued by the Office of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Directorate of School Education and Chief Education Officer, Jammu to ensure that necessary action would be taken against private schools and stationery shops, if found violating the rules and provisions.

It was informed that similar drives will continue to counter illegal practices if resorted by the private schools and stationery shops.

2-day Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 being hosted from April

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu in association with District Administration Kishtwar, Kishitwar Development Authority, JKAACL and Indian Army are celebrating Sinthan Snow Festival on 29th & 30th April 2023. The Sinthan Top is a highest motorable mountain pass that connects Kishtwar district with Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir and is 12,414 ft above the sea level.

This pass is the highest moun-

tain pass in J&K followed by Zojila Pass in the Himalayas i.e., 11,500 ft in Kargil, Ladakh Union Territory. One of the most well liked tourist destinations, Sinthan Top offers a 360 view of both Jammu and Kashmir regions. The neighboring Sinthan Maidan where the festival is being organized is becoming a significant hub for skiers, trekkers etc. Live performances of famous local as well as celebrity singers shall be one of the main attractions of the said festival. Kishtwar Idol Finale and Inter College Group Dance

Competition shall also be held at the Festival. Elaborate arrangements have been made for conduct of snow activities like skiing, sledging, snow kayaking, snow scooter etc. Further a trekking expedition shall be organized from Pathamorh to Sinthan Maidan jointly with the Forest Department. Besides, horse riding, treasure hunt game, volleyball, marathon, tug of war will be other attractions. Vivekananda Rai, Director Tourism, Jammu, while addressing the media said that it is for the first time a Snow Festival is

being organized at Sinthan Maidan in association with District Administration Kishtwar. "The festival is likely to bring this wonderful Tourist Spot, with stunning natural surroundings, in the limelight and capture the attention of visitors" he added. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, while speaking to the media said that Kishtwar has tremendous potential to emerge as one of the most attractive tourist destinations. "Locals as well as tourists are upbeat over the event which shall feature

musical performances, adventure activities, various competitions like Kishtwar Idol Finale, Inter College Group Dance Competition etc. at Sinthan Maidan amidst snow capped mountains and mesmerizing views" she added. Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu, while inviting the media personnel said that the Department expects enthusiastic participations of locals as well as tourists from all across the nation and this event has already evoked tremendous response from every one.

DC Srinagar inaugurates programmes under Kissan Sampark Abhiyan

AGRICULTURE IS CRITICAL FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: AIJAZ ASAD

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR APRIL 24: With an objective of sensitizing farmers about new interventions approved under the Holistic Agriculture Development programme and benefits under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday inaugurated programmes under Kissan Sampark Abhiyan here at Panchayat Halgas of Fakir Gujri as extensive orientation programme for the farmers. During the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan, capacity building/orientation programmes will be held for 3 days in all 21 Panchayats of



Srinagar District as per notified schedule to sensitize the farmers and PRI representatives about the recent Government plan to implement 29 projects costing more than Rs 500 crore from this year to increase Agricultural production aimed at holistic development and promotion of Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector. Addressing the inaugural programme under Kissan Sampark Abhiyan, the Deputy Commissioner said that the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan is a prestigious programme of the

Agriculture Production Department aimed at the overall welfare of farmers to educate farmers on various issues, including business management, entrepreneurship and Government schemes from April 24. He said the campaign will help farmers to increase their spending in the sector, ultimately leading to an improvement in their productivity and production. The DC further said with the help of PRIs focusing on farmers orientation and skilling programme will ensure that the meticulous plan reaches the fields and prepare our farmers to meet new challenges and explore new possibilities, besides making farming accessible and more profitable.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the farmers and PRI representatives to actively participate in the programme to ensure the success of the ambitious program. He said resource persons will educate farmers through 48 videos, in addition the pamphlets have also been printed for better understanding of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan so that farmers are benefited. The DC also informed that Kisan Sampark Abhiyan will include question and answer sessions for the farmers and will receive education about 19 centrally sponsored schemes that have been designed for their welfare and development in addition to the 29 projects.

GCW Udhampur organises National Webinar

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 24: Government College for Women, Udhampur organised a National Webinar to mark "English Language Day." The event was held with the aim of promoting language proficiency and literacy skills among students. Dr. Simran Preet Kaur, the distinguished speaker and Assistant Professor, Poona College of Arts, Science and Commerce, shared her extensive knowledge and expertise on the topic, providing practical tips and techniques for using a dictionary to enhance vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and deepen understanding of word meanings and usage. She highlighted the various types of dictionaries, their features, and how to choose the right one for specific language needs.

The webinar was attended by participants from various parts of the country, including students, teachers, language enthusiasts, and professionals. The event proved to be an invaluable opportunity for participants to gain insights into the importance of dictionaries and how to use them effectively for language learning and communication.

During the interactive session, participants had the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarifications, and engage in discussions with Dr. Simran Preet Kaur, who patiently addressed their queries and provided valuable guidance on using dictionaries as an essential language learning tool. The webinar also emphasized the importance of digital dictionaries and online resources, as well as the ethical use of dictionaries in academic and professional writing. Dr. Simran Preet Kaur emphasized the need to cultivate a lifelong habit of using dictionaries as a valuable resource for continuous learning and language development. The webinar received an overwhelming response from participants, who found the session highly informative, engaging, and beneficial. Prof. Monika Sharma, Principal, Government College for Women, Udhampur, appreciated Dr. Kaur's expertise and her ability to simplify complex concepts related to dictionary use. In her closing remarks, Dr. Kamaldeep Kaur, Organising secretary of the webinar expressed her gratitude to Dr. Kaur and to all the participants for their active participation and reiterated the importance of effective dictionary use for improving language skills and fostering clear and effective communication.

Child marriage prevented by District Child Protection Unit in Kishtwar

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 24: A 16-year-old boy was saved from getting married on Monday here in the Drabshalla area. As per District Child Protection Officer Kishtwar, Ubair Ahmed, information regarding the marriage of a minor boy belonging to a deprived family in a Panchayat of Drabshalla was received and the same was stopped by acting swiftly.

He said Protection Officer- Non Institutional Care, Touseef Iqbal Butt was deputed and with the help of Sarpanch of the Panchayat, he persuaded the parents and stopped the marriage which was planned to solemnise today.

The officials explained to the parents of the boy about the harmful effects of child marriage, the suffering of education of child and health problems and the legalities regarding the offence.

The officials persuaded the parents to stop the marriage after explaining to them in detail about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which prohibits marriages of boys below 21 years of age and girl prohibits marriages of girls below 18 years of age, the officials said.

Later, the parents and the boy were counselled and produced before the Child Welfare Committee Kishtwar as registered as Child in need of Care and Protection, they added.

The minor was handed over to his father through the Child Welfare Committee Kishtwar and PO-NIC was directed to produce the parents of girl child before CWC Kishtwar for follow up.

Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Dalian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Siraj and Sanasar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Hansa, Satraiyan, Flora, Subagpur, Nandpur, Pindli, Kothi Jabowal, Part of Arnia, Allah, BSF, Nandpur, Chatha, SKUAST, Indira Nagar, Gadigarh, Dhrap, Indira Nagar, Sudan Heart Care and adjoining areas and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Lakad Mandi, Patoli, Janipur Colony, Pamposh colony, Ambredhar Nagar, High Court, Daily Excelsior, Statistical Office and adjoining areas and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 7 am to 9.30 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Mandali, Phinteer, Parnalla, Baggan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ghanni, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Marheen, Kotpunnu, Paharpur, Bobiya, Nanani, Barnoti, Budhi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 7 am to 10 am. Meanwhile, the Superintendent Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Degree College, Farnat, Plakh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 11 am to 2 pm.