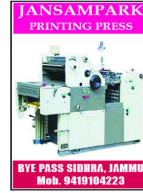




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Poonch Terror Attack Bombing Operation to track down terrorists within fifth day

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

Over 50 people, including 14 over ground workers, have been detained for questioning so far as a mass operation to track down terrorists involved in the deadly attack on an Army check in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered fifth day on Tuesday. Five Army personnel were injured and another was seriously injured after their vehicle caught fire following the terror attack in Poonch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## LG hands over appointment orders to newly inducted recruits of JKAS, JKPS & Accounts Service

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha handed over appointment orders to newly inducted recruits of J&K Administrative Service, J&K Police Service and J&K Accounts Service, at Convention Centre today.

The Lt Governor extended his best wishes to all the young recruits and appreciated the J&K Public Service Commission for the transparent & fast-track selection process.

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## Pakistan raises Kashmir issue at UN yet again, India snubs 'mischievous' remarks

**AGENCIES**  
UNITED NATIONS, APR 25

India tore into Pakistan after it raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at a Security Council meeting here, prompting India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj to assert that she would not waste the Council's time by responding to such 'mischievous' remarks.

Kamboj's stern response to Pakistan came in her remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on 'Maintenance of international peace and security: Effective multilateralism through the defence of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations' chaired by Russia, president of the Council for the month of April.

With Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov presiding over the debate, Pakistan's



permanent representative at the UN Munir Akram referred to Jammu and Kashmir in his statement.

"Lastly, this august forum has today heard some mischievous remarks by a permanent representative arising purely out of ignorance and lack of an understanding on the basic facts of decolonisation," Kamboj said on Monday. "I will not be wasting the time of this Council in responding to those remarks.

Our advice to that delegation is please refer to our numerous rights of reply that we have expressed in the past," she added.

Pakistan consistently rakes up the issue of Kashmir at various UN platforms, irrespective of the agenda and topic of discussion at the meetings.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Chief Secretary addresses industry grievances

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired an interactive session with entrepreneurs and investors at the Civil Secretariat here. The meeting was aimed at addressing the issues and concerns faced by the industrial sector in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, sev-



eral important issues were raised and discussed, including land use and allotment, infrastructure development,

power, departmental clearances, legal issues, and other related concerns. Chief Secretary assured the participants of full support from the UT government and issued appropriate directions to resolve several issues.

The session also highlighted the hand-holding measures and incentives being provided to the industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mehta assured that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway would shortly be set open for round the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## J&K Police's SIU files charge sheet against five accused in terror-related case

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SINGAR, APR 25

Special Investigation Unit Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday filed a charge sheet before an NIA court here against five accused, including two militants, in a terror-related case.

A police spokesperson said, U1, Srinagar, presented a charge sheet before the Court VIA (National Investigation Agency), Srinagar, in case

FIR No. 69/2022 of Chanapora police station against five accused, including three terror associates and two terrorists," a police spokesperson said.

On November 1, 2022, a case was registered at Srinagar's Chanapora police station following the receipt of a docket from the 'naka' party in-charge (Chanapora police station SHO) and an investigation taken up by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## J&K Bank bags award for outstanding contribution under PM Awas Yojana

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

J&K Bank today received an award from Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) for its outstanding contribution towards housing sector of the country under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) through various innovative initiatives. The Bank's General Manager (C&CB) Narjay



Gupta received the award at the hands of Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manoj Joshi in presence of Chairman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Banihal bypass along Jammu-Srinagar NH likely to complete by year end, says officials

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

The construction work on the Banihal bypass along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway is in full swing and likely to be completed by the end of this year, officials said on Tuesday.

The completion of the Rs 224 crore four-lane Banihal bypass project will come as a major relief to the commuters as well as the residents of the congested highway town where massive traffic snarls are an everyday issue.



"The work is in full swing and we are hopeful of completing the project within the set timeline (January 2024). Out of 53 foundations (for the viaduct), only a dozen are now left (at Kharpora)," the project manager of RABCC, Sujay Pal said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Wrong to say I am asking questions over Pulwama attack, Minister says

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today expressed confidence that India is more than capable of achieving its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and said that it is high time we shifted away from fossil fuels and made alternate sources our main energy providers. He was speaking at a workshop organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee here at the Convention Centre.

The interactive workshop 'Climate Change Mitigation and Green Financing for a Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral J&K' was attended by Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF (HoFF), J&K Forest Department and Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee; Dr. Shakil Ahmad

## J&K aspires to be amongst lead states/UTs in fight against climate change: Dr Mehta

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

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Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University, Kashmir; HODs of Forest Department, Dr. Ravindranath, renowned IPCC Author, and resource persons from MoEFCC, TERI, Earnest and Young Climate, World Resources Institute of India besides other eminent guests and environment experts.

Dr. Mehta appreciated the efforts of the Pollution Control Committee and Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department for organizing deliberations on

Net Zero Carbon by 2070. He informed that J&K has already made a model by developing a climate resilient and carbon neutral Panchayat of village Pallin District Samba which is first of its kind in the country.

According to Dr Mehta, Jammu & Kashmir has always been at the forefront of adopting flagship developmental schemes of the government. "The distinction of implementing the 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district amongst

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Govt to revive traditional Millet cultivation on 8,000 hectares of land

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a target to revive the cultivation of traditional millet crops on 8,000 hectares of land in the Union Territory.

The process will begin by providing seeds of seven varieties of millets to the farmers with 100 per cent subsidy in 10 districts of Jammu region.

The administration in February this year also approved a Rs 15-crore project to promote and enhance millets production and consumption in the Union Territory.

The project aims to revive traditional millet growing in around 8,000 hectares of land and double the productivity per hectare from 10 to 20 quintals, the officials said.

The project, to be implemented over a period of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Two booked under PSA for 'Anti-National' activities in Kishtwar

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

Two men allegedly involved in "anti-national" activities were booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Tuesday.

Mohd Raif of Poochhal and Ghulam Qadir of Dachhan were arrested and lodged in Kathua district jail to ensure they do not support terrorism anymore, Senior Superintendent of Police,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Dr Jitendra leaves for London; scheduled to meet british ministers, Indian diaspora

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, APR 25

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh today left for London on a 6-day official visit, as the head of a high-level official



is scheduled to hold a series of meetings with his counterpart Ministers in the Government of United Kingdom as well as with the Indian diaspora, StartUps and academicians.

Dr Jitendra Singh is scheduled to meet British Ministers, Indian diaspora, StartUps and academicians.

Dr Jitendra Singh is scheduled to meet British Ministers, Indian diaspora, StartUps and academicians.

## MeT predicts rains, snowfall in mountains in J&K from today

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

met forecast for generally cloudy weather with possibility of intermittent light rain from April 26, night temperature

recorded a rise on Tuesday. Quoting a meteorological department official, that there was possibility of rain and snow over upper reaches at some places from Wednesday.

"From April 26-28, weather is expected to be generally cloudy with possibility of intermittent light rain with thunder/lighting (light snowfall over higher reaches of Central and North, Northwestern parts of Kashmir) at many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# YRS to pay tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh on his Death Anniversary



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, APR 25:** On April 26th, 1961, Maharaja Hari Singh, the last ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, passed away and his legacy as the ruler who signed the Instrument of Accession with India in 1947 will always be remembered in the history of India and Jammu and Kashmir, said Rajan Singh Happy, President, Yuva Rajput Sabha during a press conference organized at press club Jammu. He said that apart from being a great human being, Maharaja was a patriot and always had compassion for his subjects.

Rajinder Singh, Chief Patron, YRS said that Maharaja Hari Singh was

born on September 23, 1895, in Jammu and was educated at Mayo College in Ajmer, India. He ascended the throne of Jammu and Kashmir in 1925. During his reign, he introduced several reforms, including the establishment of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank and the first university in the state. Describing Maharaja Hari Singh as a reformer, Rajinder Singh said that he did many welfare works during his tenure. Maharaja Hari Singh was the last and most popular Dogra ruler in Jammu and Kashmir. He played an important role in the merger of Jammu and Kashmir with India, for which Jammu and Kashmir will always be indebted to him.

Raghubir Singh, Chairman, YRS said that in 1947, India gained independence from British rule, and Maharaja Hari Singh was given the choice to accede to either India or Pakistan. In October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with India, which brought Jammu and Kashmir under Indian administration. Maharaja Hari Singh's contribution to the modernization of Jammu and Kashmir and his role in the state's accession to India will always be remembered. He said that after signing the instrument of accession with India, Hari Singh was forced to leave Jammu and Kashmir which made him spend his last years in

Bombay. Replying to the questions of media persons about the recent controversy within the Yuva Rajput Sabha state body and core committee, Rajan Singh Happy, President, YRS clarified and said that there was an unsuccessful attempt from some corners to break the unity of the Yuva Rajput Sabha to gain control on it but I proudly say that they badly failed in it. He said that Yuva Rajput Sabha was united, is united and will remain united.

YRS members told media persons that on the occasion of death anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh ji, Yuva Rajput Sabha has decided to organize a program tomorrow i.e., 26th of April, 2023 at Maharaja Hari Singh Park to pay tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh ji and shall remember his contribution to the history of India and Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, members of the core committee of Yuva Rajput Sabha said the process of selecting new President of YRS is going on and as soon as the said process is completed, the new President for the Sabha shall be announced immediately.

# 'Present UT dispensation and misrule pushed J&K into dark era, NC ray of hope'

People in J&K getting restless, waiting for elected govt: Babu Rampaul



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, APR 25:** Slamming present UT Rule for pushing J&K into dark era, former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Rampaul said that everybody is unhappy and restless under the present regime and eagerly waiting for conduct of Assembly elections to elect a popular government.

Rampaul was addressing a meeting organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator District Jammu (Urban) here. He said, "National Conference is the only party which believes in secularism and can fight for the rights of the downtrodden class of the society. Party has taken many historic decisions in the past

for the welfare of the marginalized sections of the society."

"From Sher-E-Kashmir to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah it has served the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir with utmost honesty and dedication", Babu Rampaul added.

He exhorted upon NC cadre to launch a full throttle campaign and reach out to the masses explaining what they got during NC rule and what they were getting now. "It is our duty to tell the people that peace and prosperity comes with social bonding not divisive politics. Ask the people to support our party wholeheartedly to revive the good old days of NC rule in J&K," he asked the cadre.

Babu Rampaul also gave

a message to people of J&K that NC leadership will work for creating more and more employment opportunities for youth and also take measures to control the inflation thus bringing succour to aggrieved masses. He also called upon the cadre to strengthen their booth level network for upcoming Assembly elections. Former Minister maintained that bureaucratic rule is no substitute for the popularly elected government. "Now, people of J&K want to get rid of bureaucratic rule and waiting for the popularly elected government," Babu Rampaul further said.

While sharing the achievements and good work done by National Conference during its governance, Coordinator

Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma disclosed that during NC Government during the chief ministership of Jenab Omar Abdullah provided Degree College in each tehsil of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir as even buildings and faculty were also made available to start functioning of colleges. But this government did nothing to improve the structural facilities in the colleges, he added.

He also mentioned that during the Jenab Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to a large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of development. He expressed that NC will bring back the golden era for people of J&K.

Prominent among those who spoke and present on the occasion were Sardar Surjeet Singh Sadsan, TR Manjhi, BD Dalotra, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Adv. Rajinder Chanayal, Adv. Aslam Choudhary, Arvind Singh (Jammu), Rahul Mahajan, Bahadur Lal, Baldev Raj, Manohar Lal, Sagar Lal, Mohan Lal Sandhu, and Mool Raj.

# Cleanliness Drive of Water Bodies was conducted by NSS Unit of GDC Women Kathua



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**KATHUA, APR 25:** Cleanliness Drive of Water Bodies conducted by NSS Unit of GDC Women Kathua was carried out on 25-04-2023 at adopted village Changanr under the banner of G20 presidency of India. The entire cleanliness drive was conducted under

the able guidance of Dr Savi Behl, esteemed Principal of the college who always support and encourage the NSS Unit. The event was organized by Dr. Arun Dev Singh Programme Officer NSS, Prof Raj Jamwal and Dr Rajni Khajuria Members NSS unit and the dynamic and hardworking NSS volunteers of the College.

Dr Arun Dev Singh told our correspondent that our volunteers participated in the cleanliness drive of water bodies and surrounding areas and their motive was to clean the water bodies as well as the surrounding areas and send message among the local people that cleanliness

is an important component of our life if surroundings are neat and clean then there are less chances of spreading diseases in the society and among the people.

The Principal of the college motivated the NSS volunteers for doing the Noble work in the interest of the villagers and added that such type of activities shall add imperatives in the society it would also help us to reduce diseases hazardous and other health related issues by doing so it would also make our society healthy and Prosperous.

The Sarpanch of the Village Sh Kuldeep Kumar extended his special thanks to Dr Savi Behl, worthy Principal of the college for conducting such a drive in the village which would aware the masses regarding cleanliness and its importance.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta while welcoming scores of youths hailing from villages Kalu Chak, Ratnu Chak and Jallo

# People from all walks of life embracing BJP with love, adulation: Kavinder



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, APR 25:** People from all walks of life have been embracing BJP with love and adulation due to its nationalistic character and party leadership's promise to keep nation first, party second and self at last.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta while welcoming scores of youths hailing from villages Kalu Chak, Ratnu Chak and Jallo

Chak under the influence of Gulshan Singh, Vice President Karni Sena, after he got impressed with the nationalistic characteristics of the Saffron party.

Senior BJP leaders Sham Choudhary, Priya Sethi and Rekha Mahajan were also present on the occasion. While welcoming Gulshan and his supporters in the party fold, Kavinder said that being a member of BJP is a big responsibility because once someone becomes party member, he or she has to

give first preference to the nation, second to the party and then comes self.

The former deputy Chief Minister said that by default the BJP members are supposed to help people in need irrespective of their political affiliations, caste, creed or any other distinction because BJP is a nationalist party and every citizen is equal in the eyes of the party members.

Kavinder Gupta asked the party workers to work with full energy to highlight the achievements of

the Bharatiya Janata Party Govt during its short tenure of about eight years. He also asked them to address their pressing issues by remaining present among the people 24x7. He also asked them to ensure that everyone including the last person in line avails the benefit of the schemes rolled out by the Centre for their welfare.

Gulshan, while addressing the gathering, said that he along with his supporters will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the party at grassroots level. He said that strong and decisive policies envisaged by PM Modi have inspired him and his supporter to join the party and work for the people of the country.

The party workers including Puspinder Charak, Ranjit Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Monu Salathia, Divya Jain, Pawan Singh, Rakesh Singh Charak, Joginder Singh, Neeraj Anand and Dalu Singh were also present.

# Seeking free registration on Amarnath Yatra, Shiv Sena submits Memo to Home Minister



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, APR 25:** Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu-Kashmir unit, as part of its ongoing campaign seeking free registration for Amarnath Yatra, today met the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Arun Mehta and handed over a

memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, reiterating its demand of free registration for pilgrims of Baba Amarnath.

Talking to media persons, Sahni said that if the aforesaid demand of the Party will not be considered immediately then the Party workers (Shiv Sainiks) will be forced to sit on Dharna

Amarnath Yatra. He also appealed to the Central Government to make the registration facility for Amarnath Yatra free of cost.

Shiv Sena also sought toll exemption for all the vehicles coming to Jammu and Kashmir by road to perform pilgrimage of Baba Amarnath and also to provide Langar and tent services to devotees.

Sahni said that there is a Hinduist government at the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory, and he has full hope that instructions will be issued to immediately remove the tradition of collecting Shri Amarnath Yatra registration fee from the pilgrims. Along with this, he also said that if this does not happen, then the Party will protest outside the Raj Bhavan of Jammu.

On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Senior Vice President Sanjeev Kohli were present.

# BJP "Minority Morcha" Jammu and Kashmir Convenes Meeting



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, APR 25:** In connection with organising different meetings of workers involving general masses and to form booth

committees, "BJP Minority Morcha" convened a meeting of district presidents, Mandal presidents and other office bearers in BJP Headquarter Trikuta Nagar here today.

The meeting was convened by UT President "BJP Minority Morcha" Ranjodh Singh Nalwa. It among others was attended by senior vice president of the party Balwinder Singh

and Santokh Singh General Secretary.

The meeting urged the party activists to work at booth level for strengthening the organization at grass root levels further and ensure its victory at hustings in upcoming Panchayat, ULB, Parliamentary and Assembly elections.

All the senior leaders urged the party men to get ready for elections as they can be announced at any time now.

They said BJP is emerging stronger and stronger with its commitment to national cause and party will not only form the next Government at the Centre in 2024, but will emerge as a strong contender for the formation of Government in J&K after the Assembly elections.

## Yudhvir, Kapahi, Dr Akshay start development works worth Rs 37 lakhs in Old Rehari

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 25: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President along with Parmodh Kapahi, District President and Dr Akshay Sharma, Corporator Ward No 8 today kick-started development works of lanes, laying of tiles and drains at Old Rehari area of Jammu city.

The aforesaid works will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 37 lakhs. Corporator Ward no 8 Suneet Raina and President Mandal Amphalla Raman Sharma were also present. Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi said that the Central Government has committed to provide world-class amenities to the people of Jammu and in the future, the City of Temples will be among the greenest and cleanest cities of the country. He said that for the last many years, the gates of development have opened for J&K which is evident from the fact that all the centrally sponsored schemes and programmes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, MUDRA, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Scholarship Schemes for Students, Welfare Schemes for Scheduled Castes,



Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are now implemented in J&K. "The BJP government at the Centre has granted adequate funds time for the overall development of Jammu so as this mission goes on, without any hindrance," he said and assured that the liberal funding from the Centre will continue in the future. Parmodh Kapahi, in his address, said that the Government at the Centre is working relentlessly to create state of art modern facilities infrastructure for the people. He asserted that while the government

is making every endeavour in transformation of Jammu City, it cannot be accomplished successfully without the proactive participation of the people. Kapahi asked the people of Old Rehari area to come forward to play a vital role in making the Ward No 8 a model Ward through their effective and result oriented participation and set an example for the people living in other Wards of the City of Temples. Corporator Dr Akshay said that several works are in the pipeline for the uplifting of this ward and welfare of its people. The

Councillor said that he is working day and night to make his ward a model ward so that other wards look up to it. Later, the senior BJP leaders met with people of the area and listened to the grievances of the people of the area and assured for their timely redressal. Among those who were present include Navin Sharma, Rohit Gupta, Puneet Chawla, Ajay Singh, Raman Dhiman, Ashok Salgotra, Anupam Gupta, Sohan Lal, Prithvi Duggal, Raguvir Kumar and Tahir Awas Nakvi.

## India is safe in the hands of Modi government: Bali Bhagat

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, APR 25: Bali Bhagat senior BJP leader and former minister asserted that India is in safe hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government at the Centre and is fast emerging country globally.

The former minister was speaking during the campaign rally at Jalandhar wherein senior party leaders and workers of Jalandhar West Constituency were present in large number, here at Tara Palace.

Bali Bhagat asked the party cadre to focus on polling booths situated in every nook and corner of all wards of Jalandhar Municipality. He said that ground level workers have the potential to change the scenario in elections and therefore they should take this as a challenge and disseminate information



among masses about BJP's achievements and what the party has accomplished for the people. He said that BJP Government has remained instrumental in ensuring good governance and corruption free administration. Asking the electorate to vote for BJP, Bali Bhagat said that party has hand-picked Iqbal Singh Atwal as party candidate looking into his clean record and

matchless experience. Bali Bhagat has also asked the party workers to remain instrumental on ground to stop the opposition parties from misleading the people as their presence and zeal will neutralize the propaganda of the parties being adverse to BJP. He said that the country's internal and external security is secure under PM Modi's rule. The former minister said

that the country has achieved new heights at the global level just because of resilient decisions taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and therefore people should be convinced to support BJP for surmounting new heights and steering the country to fast becoming part of group of developed nations. "By voting for BJP, the country will become stronger", he maintained.

## DFSS hold protest against Former LG Satyapal Malik's statement

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 25: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta launched a massive protest against the statement given by Ex Governor Satya Pal Malik.

Quoting Malik that when he had a word with the Prime Minister about the Pulwama attack the prime minister asked him to stay quiet. Mr Gupta stated that after this why didn't he resigned from the position of Governor as a sign of his resentment against the inaction. After being changed from J&K he was made the Governor of Goa and Meghalaya after wards.

After he was removed from his Governorship Mr Malik started leveling accusations on the government



as when he was on the chair he didn't wanted to lose the perks and benefits of it. In an appeal to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha ji that the person who took the bribe offer to Satya Pal Malik he is still in the top ranks of the government as he should be questioned

about his involvement with the insurance company and how did he came in contact with the insurance company. Why the Commissioner / officer is still on the chair in the government. At last Gupta raised an open question to Malik that

he should release the name of the officer involved. The party worker who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek, Prem, Kalu, Nanki, Bhajo, Rajkumari, Bantu, Sumita, Anita, Shashi, Tarseem and various others were present.

## NSS unit of GCOE organized SVEEP Awareness program in collaboration with Election Commission, Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 24: Nss Unit of Government College of Education, Jammu under the patronage of Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta and guidance of NSS Program Officer Dr. Shubhra Janwal organized an awareness program SVEEP as per the instructions of Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir through District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Jammu. Principal, Prof. Aekta Gupta in her keynote address focused that activities under SVEEP programme are undertaken to educate the electors regarding voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.

The awareness program was done by SVEEP team headed by Sh. Davinder Singh Manhas, Distt Nodal Officer, SVEEP and other DLMTs, Dr. Avneet, Dr. Ajay Singh Manhas, Mrs. Sugandh, Mr. Darshan Lal Mrs. Satpal Kour and Mr. Vishal Gondi. SVEEP (



Introduction to SVEEP, awareness about voting, importance of elections, motivating the new voters regarding various forms related to addition, correction, deletion, etc., information and technical aspects of EVM and VVPAT. A pledge was also taken by the faculty and students of GCOE during the event. Prof. Anju Bala, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish Kumar, Prof. Shapita Shameem, Prof. Sarita Dorgra, Prof. Seema Kumari, Prof. Neeraj Verma were also present.

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program), is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. Election commission of India offers online voter registration for Indian citizens who have attained the age of 18 on the qualifying date (1st of January of the year of revision of electoral roll). During the program, emphasis was put on

## Director, chairman will be gheraoed if action is not taken against private schools that loot parents: Amit Kapoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 25: President of All Jammu Parents Association Amit Kapoor has given an ultimatum to the Director of School Education Department and Chairman of JKFFC if they do not fulfill their demands within a week and take action against the private schools who are looting the parents. Will surround them.

Amit Kapoor said this while speaking during a press conference in Katra. He said that his struggle to get his demands accepted is going on continuously. Earlier, he had staged a three-day protest against the loot in private schools. In which many social, literary, non-governmental organizations and other political leaders participated. He slammed the leaders of various political parties including BJP for keeping silence on this issue of public interest. At the same time, he also slammed CEO Reasi and ZEDO for failing to rein in private schools. He said that if their demands were not met within a week, they would gherao the director of the education department and the chairman of JKFFC. He called upon the people and his supporters to be ready



for a big movement. Amit Kapoor said that he would leave no stone unturned to wake up the administration which was sleeping in the slumber of Kumbhakaran. He told the Lieutenant Governor that if he is serious about ending the mafia of private schools, then give him 5 minutes to meet and you will be given all the proofs. He said that he would visit different areas and conduct awareness campaigns to spread awareness about the loot of private schools. After this Bishnah area will also be visited. Chief among their demands is immediate refund of the fees charged by JKFFC in excess of the fixed fees and an order should be issued immediately for this. Like passenger vehicles, the fare of buses plying of private schools should also be fixed on the basis of kilo-

meter. The policy of Right to Education Act has come into force from the year 2020 but it has not yet been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. It should be clarified that how many schools have so far given free education to poor children under this policy. At the same time, no action has been taken even after giving concrete evidence to the teams constituted by the department. Task forces should be formed in place of these teams and those people who are well-versed in the matter should be included in it. Action should be taken against the private schools which are not using NCERT or Board books and the books of the children who have taken more books should be taken back. Action should be taken against the schools which

have imposed books arbitrarily. Uniforms should also be changed only after five years and books and uniforms should not be sold at special shops or at the school's own shops. No school should be allowed to have more than two uniforms and the uniform should be changed only after five years. Private schools charging more than the fees fixed by JKFFC, or charging more fees or setting books arbitrarily should be seized. The salary given to the teachers of private schools should also be made public so that the discrimination against these teachers can be ended. He alleged that private schools do not even deduct the PF of the teachers and most of the schools fire the teachers after one year so that their PF does not have to be deducted.

## AAP only party that delivers what it promises: Tony

JJ NEWS SERVICE



JALANDHAR, APR 25: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement, and Minority Affairs, and DDC Member Suchetgarh has asserted that APP has proved that it is the only Party in India which delivers whatever it promises whether prior to polls or while in governance and people fully realize that it is the common man's party in letter and spirit.

The senior AAP leader stated this during a meeting held in support of AAP candidate Sushel Kumar Rinku here today. The meeting was organised by AAP leaders Ankush Sharma and D.S Teji SSP (Retd).

Taranjit Singh Tony, while elaborating on the promises made by AAP and fulfilling these, said that unlike the rest of the parties including the BJP, Congress and Akali Dal who have done only Jumlabazi till date our party has practically provided free education, free water, free power and free health infrastructure to the people under its governance. When the country is passing through highest inflation, our Party has provided more than 26000 jobs to the people of Punjab State which earlier governments couldn't do, he said, adding that the AAP government in Punjab has paid highest compensation to the farmers. He lamented that all the parties except AAP only exploited the people to the hilt just for securing their vote bank

interest by making false promises and befooling the people. Tony vociferously asserted that as of today there is only one politician who is serving the people of this nation with truth and honesty in words as well as deeds and that is our senior-most party leader Arvind Kejriwal. He added that Kejriwal instead of making promises guarantees the people the delivery of good governance and services at their doorstep. He said that it is because of such policies of Kejriwal nobody repents or feels cheated after voting for AAP candidates. On the contrary by voting for candidates of other parties the voters have to ultimately cut a sorry figure and keep repenting till the next elections. The AAP leader appealed to the people to vote for AAP candidate Sushel Kumar Rinku in the elections to make the party stronger to serve the people of Punjab by addressing pressing issues of the people of Punjab.

LG hands over...

"JKPC is providing momentum to change with enviable benchmarks and had declared the result for 2021 JKPC exam within three hours after conclusion of the interview of the last candidate," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the transparent selection procedure is enabling the government to recruit the best and transform the work culture. He said the State services are playing a vital role in inclusive growth and delivery of services to meet the aspirations of the people.

The Lt Governor highlighted the challenge of sustained & rapid economic growth and the efforts required to ensure that the growth is equitable.

"You don't have to be a Yes Man but do what your conscience tells you and keep the interest of the public above everything. Remember, behind every file on your table, there are hopes & dreams of thousands of people. Think about the last person in queue while formulating policies," the Lt Governor said.

Impartial, honest, efficient, transparent & fearless service is basic architecture of a good administration. I am confident that the young officers will discharge their responsibility towards public welfare with utmost sensitivity, commitment and dedication, he added.

"In the fast-changing world, Officers will also have to re-orient themselves like any other profession and learn new skills to adapt to change & progress in the society, protect democratic values and fulfill the commitment towards the public in a better way," said the Lt Governor.

Today we are standing on the threshold of global leadership, so the expectations of the common man have also increased. In the next five years, the governance will be completely data driven. The administrative system will require effective institutional framework to address the demands of the future, he added.

Observing that no department or public servant can work in silos, the Lt Governor asked the public servants and government departments to work as an organic entity to promote participatory decision making, transparency, accountability, equity and inclusiveness in the governance system and to establish rule of law.

Better alignment of goals, resources and action, along with innovation capability & strategic skills, experience of seniors combined with new generation's resolve will pave the way for the future of Jammu Kashmir, he added.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor, shared the values and ethos with which the civil servants should serve the common man and protect the dignity of the weak and poor while delivering the justice and always standing for the right.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary advised the newly appointed officers to always remain steadfast towards their responsibilities and duties towards the Nation and service to people.

Senior IAS & IPS officers, Advocate General, Administrative Secretaries, officers from Civil Administration & Police, besides the young appointees and their family members were present.

Pakistan raises Kashmir...

Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 is its internal matter.

It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. (Agencies)

Chief Secretary...

year traffic thereby resolving several logistical issues faced by industries. He assured the industrialists from the Kashmir region that the government would take necessary steps to ensure that trucks carrying perishable items are able to move to their destinations smoothly without undue hindrances.

Chief Secretary addressed for conducting similar meetings every month to call for the grievances of the industries in the UT.

Besides industrialists, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Power Development, H Rajesh Prasad; Secretary Revenue, Dr Phyush Singhla; Managing Director, JPDCL, Shiv Anant Tiyal; MD KPDCCL, Ch Mohd Yasin; Managing Director, SIDCO/SICOP and Senior Officers from Jammu and Kashmir provinces, virtually and in person.

Combing operation...

on Thursday. The massive search and combing operation is going on in Bhata Dhurian-Tota Gali and neighbouring areas to hunt down the terrorists involved in the attack.

The special forces and NSG are also engaged in the operation in the dense forest areas, official sources said, adding drones, sniffer dogs and metal detectors are being used.

They said nearly 50 people, including 14 OGWs, have been detained in connection with the attack and some of them have been let off after questioning, they said.

The sources said two group of seven to eight terrorists, are believed to have engineered the attack.

According to the investigation, terrorists reportedly hid themselves in a culvert on this road stretch before attacking the vehicle.

Over 50 bullet marks have been found on the vehicle that shows intensity of the firing by terrorists, the sources 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 Iftar celebration on Thursday. The slain soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-terror operations.

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

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on 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 on Sunday took a candle light march in solidarity with the family of the jawans killed in the attack. (Agencies)

J&K Police's SIU...

then Subdivisional Police Officer (Sadar). The case was subsequently transferred to the SIU-I on the orders of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters, he said.

Two grenades were recovered from two suspects - Amir Mushtaq Dar, a resident of Sozeith Lawaypora, and HMT Srinagar resident Khalid Rashid Dar - intercepted by the "naka" party at a checkpoint at Harnambal, the spokesperson added.

Their personal mobile phones with inbuilt SIM cards were also seized. Accordingly, a case was registered and an investigation initiated, he said.

During the investigation, another co-accused - Sozeith resident Aqib Jamal Bhat - was apprehended and on the basis of his disclosure, an improvised explosive device (IED) he had allegedly hidden in a pit near the railway track at Rangreth was recovered.

The IED was destroyed on the spot by a bomb disposal squad, the police spokesperson added.

Investigations established that the three accused allegedly worked as terror associates for two terrorists Momin Gulzar Mir and Basit Ahmad Dar and, under a well-knit criminal conspiracy, were providing logistics support to them, he added.

The accused allegedly procured hand grenades and IEDs to carry out terror activities, the spokesperson added.

On the strength of the evidence - material or documentary and oral - the three arrested accused were found involved in the commission of offences punishable under provisions of the Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The accused terrorists Momin Gulzar Mir and Basit Ahmad Dar were found involved in the commission of offences under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as are absconding and proceedings under Section 299 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been proposed to be initiated against them, the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, the sanction for launching prosecution against the accused persons was obtained from the Home department and the charge sheet presented before the NIA court, he added.

J&K Bank Bags Award...

& Managing Director (HUDCO) Kuldip Narayan, Bank's Managing Director (Delhi) Rakesh Magotra, HUDCO's board of directors and other dignitaries during HUDCO's 53rd Foundation Day Celebrations held today in New Delhi.

The function was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep S. Puri.

Commenting upon the felicitation, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash said, "It is an honour for the entire J&K Bank Family to be felicitated at such a prestigious national platform for our contribution towards country's housing sector under Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY-U) that envisaged ease-of-living through a pucca house to all urban dwellers."

"Such an acknowledgement will further boost our efforts as we continue to serve the weaker and vulnerable sections of society through more such effective financial interventions", he added.

Earlier, in a communication to Bank, Chairman & MD (HUDCO) Kuldip Narayan expressed his deep appreciation for J&K Bank's outstanding contribution towards housing sector under PMAY-CLSS through its different innovative initiatives.

Banihal bypass along...

MG Contractors Pvt Ltd took over the project from RAMKY Infrastructure Pvt Ltd in 2019 but the work only started in 2021 after the court settled the issue of compensation of landowners in Kharpora section of Banihal bypass.

RAMKY had got the contract in 2010 but it failed to start the work and later NHAH black-listed the company in 2017 and tendered Banihal bypass fresh.

"Every project is a challenge for us. The work has gathered pace after all the issues were settled and our effort is to complete the project as soon as possible," Pal, whose company received the contract from MG contractors, said.

He said only senior staff having expertise in the construction work are from outside Jammu and Kashmir, while the majority of those engaged in the work are all locals.

Banihal is an important town on the highway connecting south Kashmir's Qazigund through the 8.5-km long Navayuga tunnel, which was completed in 2021, bypassing landslide-prone Jawahar tunnel and Shaitan Nalla and reducing the travel time between the two sides to just a few minutes which was over an hour earlier.

However, the delay in the start of the work, the problems of the people in Banihal town where the daily traffic jams have become a headache for the locals including students, office-goers and patients.

"Traffic jams in Banihal are a routine affair despite various measures taken to streamline it. The town is congested and the current highway is only meant for two-way traffic. The inflow of trucks causes a lot of problems," Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal Zaheer Abbas said.

Abbas, who is regularly monitoring the Banihal Bypass, said though the deadline set for the completion of the project is January 2024, the construction company has assured of completing the work by December this year which will provide big relief to the locals.

Vice President Beopar Mandal, Banihal Mukhtiyar Nabi thanked Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam for ensuring the start of the work on the project.

"Almost 15 years have passed but the Banihal bypass is still a delay in the delayed start of the work. We are thankful to the deputy commissioner Ramban who perused the case with the NHAH to ensure the start of the work on the project," he said.

Expressing satisfaction over the pace of work over the

past year, he said the bypass is imperative to decongest the Banihal market as people from all walks of life especially including children and patients are the worst sufferers. (Agencies)

J&K aspires to...

first in the entire country is a good example of how well J&K can adapt to the needs of the times with cooperation from its citizens. Similarly, schemes like "Har Gaon Hariyal", "One Beat Guard, One Village Program", "Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan" have been very effective in building in resilience and adaptation at village level.

J&K has been a leader in adopting transformative steps in the overhaul of sports, agriculture, and tourism sectors in recent years. The Chief Secretary stated that we are planting more trees every year than ever before and this year over one and half crore trees are going to be planted again all over J&K.

In terms of health infrastructure, Jammu & Kashmir ranks among the leading states of India. The Har Ghar Nal Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan will also be fully implemented by the end of this financial year, he continued. The scheme aims to mitigate water supply challenges for the coming 50 years at least, in view of climate change.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of communicating climate change adaptation measures to the masses in a way that creates a genuine connection with them. To achieve this goal, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to communicate with the public at all levels, including panchayats, in ways that creates public ownership.

The CS stressed that what is good for the economy is invariably good for the economy and society and underlined that infrastructure development of the states should not hamper our climate change mitigation steps.

Also, the Chief Secretary urged the environmental experts present to work out environmental plans for Jammu & Kashmir for timely intervention on behalf of the UT administration. The Chief Secretary expressed hope that J&K will continue taking a lead in India's fight against climate change even in the years ahead.

Dr Mohit Gera, PCFF (HoFF) and Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee spoke in detail on purpose of workshop, likely strategies and action plan for building in resilience in Union Territory in view of vulnerability of Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted role of Forest sector in mitigation of climate and how forests are supporting Agriculture, Horticulture and Tourism from perspective of climate change and adaptation.

Dr. S. Satpathy, Director (Retd.), Climate Change Division, MOEF&CC, Govt. of India made a detailed presentation on "Climate Actions at National and Sub-National level for J&K" while Mr. Amit Kumar, Associate Partner Ernest & Young India LLP made presentation on the topic "Green Financing for mitigation and adaptation". Jayakumar Chelton, NGO Thanal, Kerala shared his experience as a success story on the topic "Transition of villages to Net Zero - Meenagadi, Kerala Experience".

During the workshop, Chief Secretary also released four publications on Local Bio-diversity strategy and Action Plan for Smart Cities of Jammu and Srinagar; "Essential Information Management and Assessment of Wetlands Inside Forests (Kashmir Region)"; and Book on Ecotourism of J&K Forest department.

Wrong to say i am...

recent statement that he was "levelling allegations after parting ways with us".

"It is wrong to state that I raised this issue when I was out of power," he told reporters in Silar in Rajasthan, adding that he had raised it on the day of the attack.

Forty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in the terrorist attack on a convoy of security vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama in February 2019.

Malik, who was then governor of Jammu and Kashmir, has recently alleged intelligence failures and that the central government denied aircraft for the movement of security personnel.

"The allegation that the CBI's recent summons to Malik was linked to his criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, Shah had last week said such a charge is not true as he was called by the probe agency earlier too.

In an interview with India Today, Shah had said, "I can say with complete conviction that the BJP has done nothing that needs to be covered up. If someone is levelling allegations after parting ways with us, then it should be evaluated accordingly by the media and people."

On Monday, Malik said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is a "serious candidate" for the post of prime minister and that "if it is in his destiny, he will become one". Asked about the BJP's prospects in the Lok Sabha elections next year, he said, "I wish them well, but in politics and elections, no one knows what will happen. The current situation is difficult for them, they will have to do some things."

Malik claimed that Prime Minister Modi's silence on the Adam issue will harm him. The prime minister should also speak on the Pulwama issue, he added.

In the context of Rajasthan where assembly elections are due later this year, Malik said that if the BJP projects Vasundhara Raje as its Chief Ministerial candidate, its chances of victory will increase. (Agencies)

Govt to revive...

three years, aims to promote cultivation of millets, increase their value addition and generate entrepreneurship opportunities for farmers, additional chief secretary at Agriculture Production Department Atal Dulloo said.

As part of the project, the agriculture department has earmarked an area of 1,400 hectares for growing millets and farmers are being provided seeds with 100 per cent subsidy.

"The year 2023 is the international year of millets. In India, the department of agriculture department has earmarked 1,400 hectares for the production of millets. We have seven different varieties of millets. We are going to provide seeds to farmers on 100 per cent subsidy around 10 districts of Jammu division," Joint Director,

Agriculture (Input), A S Reen said.

He said these seeds are water-resilient and good for wetlands (Kareland). "We have selected the areas and will distribute the seeds to farmers soon. It is a high-value crop and its export demand is very high," he said.

Reen said that if a farmer wants to start a small processing plant, the government is providing Rs 4 lakh to Rs 5.25 lakh subsidy.

"We are also promoting Millet restaurants and providing Rs 2 lakh subsidy to them for introducing millet-based food," he said.

Millets are known as the "miracle grains" or "crops of the future" due to their resilience to climate change. They can grow in drought-prone areas and do not require large amount of water or external inputs, making them an ideal crop for small scale farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

The Centre is actively promoting the cultivation, processing and marketing of millets and in the past declared 2018 as the 'National Year of Millets'.

The United Nations General Assembly, following a request from the Indian government, has declared 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets' to raise awareness about the health benefits and sustainable production and consumption of millets.

Dulloo said the government is also focusing on creating awareness about millets among the farming community.

"Despite growing awareness and popularity of millets, their production and consumption is still limited and there are several challenges that need to be addressed. One of the significant challenges is the lack of awareness and knowledge about millets among farmers and consumers," Dulloo said. (Agencies)

Two booked under...

Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said that both men were involved in "anti-national" activities earlier too and were booked under PSA after a secret verification of their antecedents afresh.

"We want to convey a message in loud and clear terms that anyone found involved in anti-national activities, especially militancy, will not be spared. We will detain all such individuals and even attach their properties," he said.

Meanwhile, a special NIA court awarded rigorous life imprisonment to three overground workers of the Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit, ending a 19-year-old trial in a terror funding case.

Special Judge NIA, Jammu, Ashwani Sharma awarded the sentence to Majid Ali Sheikh, Shah Nawaz, and Majid Amin, who were caught by a joint party of army intelligence and police near Bari Brahmana in Samba district on December 28, 2004 when they were on their way to Doda from Delhi to handover Rs 9.38 lakh to Hizbul terrorist Masood Ahmed.

They were also slapped with a fine of Rs 10,000 each, officials said. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra leaves...

(FCDO), Lord Ahmad, Industry engagements including meeting with Rolls Royce group of Automobile manufacturers and a crucial meeting with UK's Science Innovation Council.

Dr Jitendra Singh will also visit academic institutions including Oxford, University of Surrey, Imperial College London and Cambridge University. He is scheduled to visit premier scientific centres including Satellite Applications Catapult, Rutherford Appleton Labs and Science Museum.

Other engagements of Dr Jitendra Singh over the 6 days include an interactive meet with the Indian diaspora in the United Kingdom and an exclusive interaction with the Indian students studying in the UK. There will also be showcasing of UK-India research projects and greeting of students with India links.

The media interactions by the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will include interactions with the British media covering science beat as well as general interaction with media persons and an exclusive interaction with journalists representing Indian media in London.

During the visit, the Minister will also be briefed by the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government of United Kingdom, Dame Angela McLean and FCDO Chief Scientist, Charlotte Watts.

On 28th April, the Minister will be hosted a dinner reception with top University leaders and academics of Royal Society Fellows, innovators, and intellectuals of the United Kingdom.

MeT predicts rains...

places with peak intensity on April 27," he said, adding, (moderate intensity Rainfall at few places)."

He said strong gusty wind towards late afternoon/evening with possibility of hailstorm can't be ruled out during the period.

"From 29-30th April, generally cloudy weather with light rain is expected at a few places for short period," he said, adding, "there is no forecast of major rain/snowfall till ending April."

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 8.3°C against 5.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 4.8°C against 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 1.6°C against 0.5°C on previous night and it was 2.4°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kokernag recorded a low of 6.2°C against 6.2°C on previous night and it was 0.4°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.6°C against 3.2°C on previous night and it was 1.3°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 3.2°C against 3.7°C on the previous night and it was 4.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.6°C against 17.6°C on the previous night. It was 0.4°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.8°C (below normal by 1.6°C), Baramulla 10.7°C (below normal by 1.3°C), Katra 16.1°C (2.0°C below normal) and Bhatnagar 7.9°C (0.5°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 1.2°C and 3.1°C respectively, the officials added.

## Special Literary event held by HSM-J



**JAMMU, APR 24:** 'Raswanti' a literary event of poetry and short story recitation, and informal meeting of the executive committee of Hindi Sahitya Mandal, Jammu (HSMJ) was organized at the residence of Smt. Rama Pandey, at Tawi Vihar, Sidhra, Jammu, on the request of versatile personality, literature lover, writer, actor and producer Smt. Rama Pandey. The poets and members

of the executive committee of HSMJ were given warm welcome with Aarti, Tilak and flowers, performing traditional customs with great respect by Smt. Rama Pandey. Everyone present in this meeting recited his/her creation. The well known poets of Jammu & Kashmir who recited their poetry in the meeting, included Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Shamindra Sharma, Sanjeev Bhasin, Pawan Khajuria, Rakesh Abrol, M S Kaamera, Shyam Juneja, Sudhir Mahajan, Uma

Sharma, Manto Dutta Sharma, Dr. Chanchal Dogra and Vijaya Thakur, and Ms. Rama Pandey herself. Prof. Kiran Bakshi recited her short story. It was a very nice combination of poetry and short story recitation with River Tawi's charm from a well-organized lawn behind the house, amid a view of Vaishno Devi's hill range and expansion of the greenery of the forest on the other side. It was a rich view of the open Natural beauty of the spot.

It may be mentioned here that Smt. Rama Pandey was in Jammu recently. She has played the role of lead actress in many popular plays. She has written, produced, and directed all her shows, documentaries, tele-films, and serials. Apart from Doordarshan and Aakashwani, she has been associated and worked with BBC Hindi, Voice of America, CBC Canada, and Radio Netherland TV Centre Holland. For her contribution to the field of theatre and TV, she has been honoured with many national and international awards. Rama Pandey has her four of her siblings, all well-known names in their fields viz. Actress and Singer Ila Arun, Advertising Stalwart Piyush Pandey, AD-man Prasoan Pandey, and Author Tripti Pandey. She is the Founder of Rama Theatre Naya Vidyay (RAT-NAV) and Montage Films. She started her career as a child artist in Jaipur, where she was born and brought up.

## Awareness cum Free health check-up camp held

**JAMMU, APR 25:** Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of women Jammu, in association with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super-Specialty Hospital and support of Indian Army organised free health check-up camp at Border Village Baroh, Block Samwan.



The Camp focused on making awareness regarding various ongoing govt schemes and services by Mission Shakti DHEW Jammu and health checkup by Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh & Dr Parul Anand of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super-specialty Hospital of the local population of the area. During the camp free medicines were provided. Others present during the Camp were Ms Shagun Manchanda, District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti, District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu, Ms Khushboo Kapte, Gender Specialist, District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu, Ms Mangoo Devi, Supporting staff of SMVDN Super speciality Hospital.

## Dharmarth Trust celebrates Shankara Jayanti with fervour, gaiety



**JAMMU, APR 25:** Dharmarth Trust celebrated the Shankara Jayanti - the birth anniversary of Adi Guru Shankaracharya, who was the pioneer of 'Advaita' philosophy, with religious fervour. Religious preachers of Vedas from several parts of the country converged at the Shankaracharya Temple here.

On the occasion, a galaxy of prominent persons performed Pooja in a traditional manner followed by the Rudra Abhishek. Shri Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj was also present on the occasion. "Adi Guru Shankaracharya was born in Kerala 2,000 years ago. The saint travelled thousands of kilometres from Kerala and came to Kashmir to meditate at the Shankaracharya hill, Swami, to spread the message of peace to humanity," a temple priest said, adding 'Abhishek' was also performed for world peace on the occasion and several priests from Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham were also present. He said the priests performed "Homa, Havan and Yagna" for peace in the country. Brig (Retd) RS Langeh, President of the Trust, said every year, people from across the country visit Srinagar on Shankara Jayanti to pray for peace and harmony, and to make India a strong nation. He said that the Trust has made elaborate arrangements to facilitate the devotees and ensured that no devotee faces any inconvenience. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary informed that the Trust has illuminated the temple premises and Parsad was also served among the devotees.

## Laghu Udyog Bharati All India Meeting concludes



**JAMMU, APR 25:** Meeting of All India Working and Executive Committee of Laghu Udyog Bharati which started on 24.04.2023 at hotel KC Residency at Jammu concluded on 25/04/2023 also. Today being the Foundation Day of Laghu Udyog Bharati, it was celebrated by remembering all the past Presidents and General Secretaries who conceived the idea of setting-up Laghu Udyog Bharati and made efforts in creating road map for its working and progress. Four numbers of past Presidents present in the meeting were also honoured. Discussions and deliberations were held on in the challenges faced in increasing production, maintaining quality with cost cutting for various product groups. Topic of Skill Development for creating skilled force for the industry was discussed with a proposal to associate with

National Skill Development Corporation / NAPS in this regard. An expert on Data Science and IT who has developed website of Laghu Udyog Bharati and managing other Social Media channels gave a future view of expansion of such services and development of Apps for Laghu Udyog Bharati. Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of J&K, Dulal Tilloo took a session on opportunities of investments in the field of Agriculture as Jammu and Kashmir produce Apple, Walnut, Saffron, Honey and Trout Fish which have high demand not only in India but outside Country also. Another session on the new Industrial Policy of Jammu and Kashmir was taken by Director General of Industries, Govt. of J & K, Anoo Malhotra. She explained the Industrial Policy in detail outlining the benefits being offered to the investors which no other state in India is offering. She also clarified the doubts of members

of Laghu Udyog Bharati. In the end All India General Secretary, Ghan Shyam Ojha thank all the members for sparing valuable time and attended All India Working and Executive Committee and actively participating in all the deliberations. All India President of Laghu Udyog Bharati summed up two days proceedings and encouraged all the office bearers to work tirelessly for development of Laghu Udyog Bharati and service to the society. All India Sangathan Mantri Prakash Chand ji also spoke about the trust and confidence being enjoyed by Laghu Udyog Bharati in the society and called upon all the members to work positively for the society and Nation. Parveen Pargal, President, Laghu Udyog Bharati J & K proposed vote of thanks and urged upon the investors from all the states of Country to come and invest and be a part of progress of Jammu and Kashmir. Members of Laghu Udyog Bharati were impressed with the benefits being offered by J & K Industrial Policy and agreed to spread its details to other investors in their respective States. For hosting such a successful meeting in Jammu & Kashmir Central leadership appreciated the efforts made by whole team of Laghu Udyog Bharati J&K which includes Parveen Pargal President LUB J&K, Rajinder Gupta Prabbari, Adv. Ishant Gupta and Mukul Mahajan, Vice President, Aagam Jain, Secretary, CA Pranav Gupta, Treasurer, Ajay Pargal and Amogh Gupta.

## Tally Solutions announces 3rd edition of 'MSME Honours'

**JAMMU, APR 25:** Tally Solutions, a pioneer in the software products industry, delivering business management solutions for small and medium businesses (SMBs) for three decades announced the 3rd edition of 'MSME Honours'. It is an annual initiative to identify businesses and entrepreneurs for their contribution in the economic advancement of the nation. The honours will recognize and celebrate the diversity and the positive impact of MSMEs through their best practices at the grass root level. This makes it an inclusive recognition to ensure that the real impact makers across the tiers of cities, segments and the unsung heroes driving the economy are celebrated. All businesses with a turnover of less than INR 250 crores and valid GSTIN can participate in this prestigious recognition. Interested entrepreneurs or people who know of such entrepreneurs can submit their entries via <https://tallysolutions.com/msme-honours> by 10th May 2023.

The second edition of MSME Honours received around 2,000 nominations from 1,487 towns and cities across the country and over 98 businesses were recognized and felicitated on the occasion of International MSME Day- June 27th, 2022. The winners were celebrated all year long through social media, press, podcasts, etc. This year, in addition to India, the initiative will also felicitate outstanding businesses from India, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Africa. MSME Honours will be celebrated across five categories to truly bring out the diversity of contributions and success stories. These include (1) Wonder Woman: Recognising women entrepreneurs who are chasing their dreams and have redefined businesses today, (2) Business Maestro: Recognising stalwarts who have withstood the test of time and continue to grow, (3) NewGen Icon: Recognising startups that have identified a market gap and have introduced innovative solutions, (4) Tech Transformer: Recognising businesses that are agile with modern technology adoption yielding better results and (5) Champion of Cause: Recognising businesses that have contributed towards a better purpose for global wellbeing. Commenting on the initiative, Ms. Jayanti Singh, Chief Marketing Officer of Tally Solutions, said, "Micro, small medium businesses which include a wide gamut of startups, traditional long standing businesses and others are need to be celebrated not just for their contributions to the world economy but for some amazing stories of innovation and growth. The 3rd edition of MSME Honours aims to recognize these very success stories of these entrepreneurs across the diversity of size, geography, types of businesses and tenure. Through this platform, we intend giving voice to the MSMEs across Indian towns and cities and the world and highlight their unique contributions. These will be shared all through the year on different platforms which can further enhance entrepreneurial growth and development in the country".

## Tarun Uppal releases devotional song album 'Choliya Pardi Ae'

**JAMMU, APR 25:** Tarun Uppal, Chairperson of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation, today released video devotional song 'Choliya Pardi Ae' in a function held at the press club. The devotional song is sung by Sunil Athwal. The Video album is comprised of devotional song of Maa Bawe Wali. The lyrics for the song and music was composed by Rajan Athwal. The Music was given by Chandan Jassu. This Album was directed by K K Malhotra. On the occasion, Manoj Rajesh Bittu was the Guest of Honour and the Special Guests were Brij Mohan, Nirbhay Salathia and Sahil Mahajan. The Chief Guest, Tarun Uppal, while releasing the album, praised the artists

for recognising the divinity of Maa Bawe Wali in such a melodious composition. He honoured the young artists for presenting their talent in the glory of Maa Bawe Wali. He congratulated the whole team for bringing out their talent to public and inspiring the youth to come forward. In order to be role models and catalysts of change, he said, youth should be taught and educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage. The Chairperson of NBF said that Jammu and Kashmir has immense talent but it needs to be explored and honed by providing platform to the local artists enabling them to display their hidden talent and skills. He said that there is dire need to encourage

local artists who can preserve and promote the rich folk-lore of this region which forms essential part of the cultural heritage that needs to be conveyed to the future generations. Uppal asserted that it is the young generation artists on whose shoulders lies the responsibility of preserving the rich heritage for the progeny. Therefore it becomes our duty to keep encouraging them so that they vigorously pursue the mission with utmost enthusiasm. Mahant Bittu said that these young minds have proved themselves in the singing, acting and entertainment field and have become job providers instead of job seekers. He wished them good luck and a grand success in future and hoped from them to excel more well in the field.

## 7 Days NSS special summer camp inaugurated at GGLDM College

**HIRANAGAR, APR 25:** NSS unit of Govt. GGLDM Degree College, Hiranagar begins a seven days special summer camp in the college premises. The camp was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Dr. Pragma Khanna. The program started with a welcome address by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Advisor, NSS unit followed by lightening of traditional lamp and Saraswati bandana.



This was followed by an NSS pledge by all the participants. The Principal of the College declared the camp open and also advised the volunteers to imbibe the feeling of social service in them so that they can play an important role in nation building. She said that the main theme of such camps is to make education more relevant to the present situation to meet the felt needs of the communities and supplement the education of college students by bringing them face to face with the community situation. NSS Program officer, Prof. Ajay Sharma in his presentation relayed out the detailed schedule of the special camp going to be organized at adopted village Pathwal. After the inauguration ceremony, a seminar on save water and save energy was organized in which five NSS volunteers presented their views on the topic. The proceedings of the event were carried out by NSS volunteers. Other NSS team members who graced the occasion were Dr. Kiran Thapa, Prof. Manoj Singh, Prof. Chinky Sangral, Dr. Usha Rani, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Mukesh Kumar and Mr. Vikram Singh.

## Indian Army organised Medical Camp at Bardoh

**AKHNOOR, APR 25:** Indian Army in association with Department of Women Welfare and Department of Agricultural Production organised a medical and awareness camp at Government Middle School, Bardoh with an aim to provide medical care to locals in the far-flung border areas of Pallaanwala of Akhnoor. The event was supported by Doctor Bhanu Pratap Singh from Shri Mata Vaishano Devi Narayana Super speciality Hospital, Jammu who provided

medical supplies & Para Medic Care to approx 200 people from villages of Bardoh, Kalakas & Chaprial benefited from this outreach by the Indian Army and Civil administration. Mrs. Khushboo Kapte, Gender Specialist and Shagun Manchanda, District Mission Coordinator of Mission SHAKTI, addressed the audience on importance of women and youth in Nation Building. She highlighted various welfare schemes for higher education and who employment opportunities through various skill development

initiatives of the central and state governments. Representative from Agriculture & Veterinary Department, Doctor Farid Ahmed, conducted an awareness lecture on Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. Mr. Sunesh, resident of Bardoh village informed that such a large-scale medical camp has been organized for the first time in his village which has limited medical resources & lauded the novel initiative of Indian Army to bring together multiple government agencies on a single platform.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Need to seriously rework disaster mgmt policy

Jammu and Kashmir is yet to take a lesson from major natural disasters across the globe despite the fact that it lies in Seismic zone IV and V. No assessment has ever been made to find out the vulnerability of old and dilapidated buildings standing tall in different towns and cities of Jammu and Kashmir. The frequent earthquakes, though of low intensity, have raised the concerns of the geologists in the Union Territory. Few months back, tremors shook the holy Katra town of Jammu and Kashmir, creating panic among the residents. Katra in Reasi district is the base camp of the world-famous cave shrine of Goddess Vaishno Devi nestled in Trikuta hills. The frequent quakes triggered palpable tension among geologists in Jammu region. These earthquakes have made geologists and experts to flag concerns about the possibility of a big jolt in Jammu and Kashmir, which lies in Seismic Zone IV and V, sooner or later. Tectonically-active Jammu and Kashmir has no management plan to handle disasters. The recent earthquake in Turkey has forced the building planners to take a tough call on constructing earthquake resistant buildings. In Turkey, residents of a luxury housing complexes thought their apartments were 'earthquake-proof' until the structure toppled like a domino in devastating earthquake, leaving hundreds feared dead. In Jammu region too, the geologists are of the opinion that it is a dangerous trend and absolutely not a good thing to have so many quakes—in a single day and the possibility of a bigger jolt can't be ruled out. They are worried because of the successive government's "laid-back approach on latent but imminent danger" because authorities at the helm of affairs never bothered to come out of their cocoons and did a holistic planning instead of getting into a firefighting mode during a disaster. The threat perception regarding big magnitude earthquakes is quite high in Jammu and Kashmir and there is a need for immediate attention to deal with the situation. The frequent quakes have again raised fears about the Reasi fault line getting active. It is not possible to predict earthquakes but the possibility of greater disaster in near future can't be ruled out. So far, efforts and preparedness made to deal with such disasters in Jammu and Kashmir, which is in Seismic Zone IV and V, are not satisfactory. There is a need for good scientific and holistic planning to deal with this danger. Geologists while referring to the research of CIRCES Fellow Roger Bilham, have opined that 'it had been predicted that if a 9.0 earthquake were to occur in Kashmir, he (Bilham) estimates the rupture would extend from the 2005 earthquake zone near Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, to the Kangra 1905 earthquake zone in Himachal Pradesh—a distance of about 480 kilometers—and from the Zaskar Range to south of the Pir Panjal range (Rajouri)—a distance of about 190 kilometers.' It would cause huge destruction in Jammu and Kashmir because there were some areas where their surface was yet to be broken by a temblor. In 2005, the 7.6 earthquake had resulted in deaths of thousands people in Kashmir, besides considerable loss of property. What is required is the clinical shift in the disaster management policy of Jammu and Kashmir so that the damage to life and property is minimized at the time of any mishap. The government should rope in experts and scientists so that the impact of earthquakes and other disasters is brought to a minimum level.

# IAF needs force multipliers to gain an edge

Aerial refuelling has become a cornerstone of military operations worldwide. Midair refuelling is worthwhile for a number of military operations that require long-range, high payload or time-sensitive capabilities. It is possible for the IAF to have improved survivability and responsiveness after undergoing midair refuelling, which, in turn, makes it possible for the aircraft to take off with a greater payload, such as more personnel, cargo or weapons.

GP CAPT DINESH KUMAR PANDEY  
(RETD)/DEVINDER SHARMA

IN the event of an armed conflict, India would be forced to fend for itself. In this context, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary had flagged the IAF's critical deficiencies, including the lack of fighter squadrons and force multipliers, in December last year.

In March 2003, the 78th Squadron of the IAF received six Uzbekistan-made Ilyushin IL-78MKI flight refuelling aircraft (FRA) with a Russian airframe based on the IL-76 and an Israeli fuel transfer system. The current FRA in use can refuel three jets at a time. A total of six to eight Su-30MKIs may be refuelled in a single mission. The IL-78 was purchased with a predicted 70 per cent serviceability rate. In practice, however, serviceability has been significantly lower than 50 per cent.

Spares and maintenance have been an issue, particularly with the refuelling pods, due to frequent breakdowns, inadequate repair facilities and poor maintenance support from the original equipment manufacturers. Within three years of inducting the IL-78, the IAF started a search for new procurement due to the IL-78's low reliability and serviceability and the necessity for more than six FRAs to meet its needs in a two-front conflict. The IAF took a giant leap forward in 2009 when it decided that all of its aircraft and helicopters designed for combat and combat support would henceforth have midair refuelling capability. Aerial refuelling, also known as air refuelling, in-flight refuelling, air-to-air refuelling (AAR) or tanking, is the transfer of aviation fuel from one military aircraft (the tanker) to another (the receiver) while both aircraft are in flight. While the flying boom refuelling technology allows for faster fuel transfer but necessitates a separate boom operator station, the probe-and-drogue refuelling technique is simpler to apply to existing aircraft.

Aerial refuelling is primarily used in military operations as an airborne station that can extend the flying time of fighter jets and surveillance aircraft, allowing them to stay on the job for longer. According to NATO's Allied Tactical Publication, AAR is air power's most vital force multiplier. It gives the recipient aircraft an essential feature that boosts its range, endurance, payload and flexibility. This capability is crucial, mainly when forward basing is restricted or impossible or when airspace operation restrictions apply.

The AAR crew training is a process of preparing pilots and aircrew to perform the complex and precise manoeuvre of transferring fuel from one aircraft to another midair. The AAR planners, tanker & receiver crews and controllers have certain roles and responsibilities to play in order to ensure the smooth running of operations. All stakeholders are required to be adequately skilled to carry out refuelling success-



fully. When working at an airport, aircraft refuellers are expected to have the skills necessary to operate and maintain the refuelling equipment. Aerial refuelling has, thus, become a cornerstone of military operations worldwide. The initial impetus for the development of strategic air tankers came from the requirement to keep strategic air bombers in the air all the time to defend against a nuclear threat. After that, tactical tankers arose in response to a demand for greater flexibility in aerial operations. The ability to invest in more tactical tankers as opposed to fewer strategic aircraft spreads the risk and increases the resilience of the network with more tankers in the air. Non-availability of FRA has adversely affected numerous Indian air operations. The FRAs are a necessity, particularly when fighters from the IAF are required to travel to other countries for international exercises. When five Rafale fighters flew non-stop to India from France on July 29, 2020, the aircraft were refuelled four times by a French Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT).

It's widely known that the IAF has a severe shortage of combat and combat support aircraft. Acquiring combat assets requires sufficient time to place the demand, produce them, and induct them into service. This period may extend up to a decade. Until we manage these resources by procuring or manufacturing them in India, the existing threat perception cannot be overlooked. Maintaining a state of military readiness is essential in the face of potential aggression on either the eastern or western front or from both. Procuring AAR is the way to fill the gaps or deficiencies in India's operational resources.

With the employment of in-flight refuelling, it is anticipated that the radius of action (RoA) of every IAF aircraft will increase by approximat-

ly 60 per cent. As a consequence, the RoA will likely not be a limiting factor in the IAF's ability to engage all targets within the area of operations. Compared to carrying additional fuel tanks or making multiple stopovers, refuelling midair can reduce fuel consumption on long-distance flights by 35 per cent to 40 per cent. That is equivalent to being able to refuel four aeroplanes in the air while using only the amount of gasoline that would be needed to refuel three aircraft. Hence, AAR is an operation that is efficient with regard to costs.

It is necessary to have a multi-mission FRA that uses the most up-to-date technology to deliver safety. Thus, FRA must be fast, perform well, be operationally efficient, have low lifecycle costs and be readily available. Although the IAF twice put out tenders for a new aerial refuelling tanker, cost concerns ultimately shelved the project. In January 2018, the IAF launched its third effort to expand its aerial tanker fleet by issuing a request for information for six FRAs. India and France were also negotiating a government-to-government deal, whereby India would lease one A330 MRTT from the French Air Force for use in the country's air force training programmes. But the quest still continues.

There is an urgent requirement for aerial refuelling aircraft to enable deep penetration missions due to the rapidly evolving security dynamics and the threats posed by India's neighbours. Aerial refuelling enhances the outreach to the optimum limit of air operations. Therefore, it is one of the most demanding and high-stakes aerial operations. Moreover, it enables the ability to operate even further afield. In addition, AAR enables scarce combat aircraft to be moved rapidly from one theatre to another.

# Time to recapture the spirit of protest poetry

NEERA CHANDHOK

IN 1906, Dadabhai Naoroji, addressing a gathering of around 20,000 at the Congress president, introduced Swaraj (self-governance) to the political lexicon. People were exhorted to mobilise for gaining independence through nationalism. But nationalism has many faces; it can be progressive, but also deeply destructive; it unifies but also divides. This became apparent from the violence that followed the Partition of Bengal in 1905.

Shortly thereafter, India was caught in a cleft stick between competitive nationalisms. The cosmopolitan Rabindranath Tagore memorably reminded Indians, "To worship my country like a God is to bring a curse upon it."

This was a voice of sanity in the hysteria that divided India. This sanity was reinforced when in 1936, a group of progressive writers formed the All-India Progressive Writers' Association (PWA). The PWA was dominated by some of the most gifted poets. It drew upon oppositional trends in Urdu poetry to mount a double challenge to colonialism as well as to class discrimination and patriarchy within Hinduism

Can there be poetry after Auschwitz, asked critical theorist Adorno. Perhaps yes, for a poet will be wanting in his passion if he does not tell us in his own powerful way that there must be no more Auschwitzes, no more Partitions and no more violence. People will listen, for poets touch the soul.



and Islam. The PWA redefined the task of the literary genius and the poet. Munshi Premchand delivered the presidential address in Urdu, with a dash of Persian. He suggested that the role of literature was to chart a new ethics. The poet must enlighten and empower fellow human beings by bearing the message of humanism and respectability. Premchand drew inspiration

from Iqbal, and quoted Persian poetry profusely to argue that the era of poetry which pines for the beloved was over. "Now we are in need of art in which there is a message of action (amal ka paigham)," he said; like Iqbal, he remarked, "I am not satisfied by simply resting between the boughs, far from the pleasures of flight." The times demanded that adab or literature takes the risk of stepping into the new. This was social realism. The founder of the PWA, noted writer Sajjad Zaheer, reiterated that the fight was against ignorance in whatever form it manifests itself in society. Mulk Raj Anand was of the opinion that the goal of the PWA was to liberate Indian society from maligning imperialist archaeology on the one hand, and from its misuse by reactionary ele-

mentalists such as nationalist revivalists, priestdom and orthodoxy on the other.

The PWA manifesto read: "We believe that the new literature of India must deal with the basic problems of existence today — the problems of hunger and poverty, social backwardness and political subjection. All that drags us down to passivity, inaction and un-reason, we reject as reactionary. All that arouses in us the critical spirit, which examines institutions and customs in the light of reason, which helps us to act, to organise ourselves, to transform, we accept as progressive." India's foremost poet Sahir Ludhianvi validated this notion, "Fann jo naadaar tak nahin pahuncha/abhi meyaar tak nahin pahuncha (Poetry which has not reached the poor, has not fulfilled its mission)."

The charms of ghazal were brought under the critical gaze. Zaheer remarked that though ghazal was still attractive, fervour was created in a mushaira only when the poet attacked the oppressor, exposed hypocrisy, described the real condition of the masses, delivered a message

of unity, action and struggle and predicted a future of freedom and justice.

Renowned poets such as Majaz, Kaifi Azmi, Sahir, Faiz, Makhdoom Mohiuddin, Anrita Pritam and Ali Sardar Jafri began to write gham-e-dauran or the material world, instead of gham-e-jana.

Kaifi Azmi famously wrote, "Uth meri jaan. Mere saath hi chalna hai tujh." And Majrooh Sulaimani used the ghazal to transform the idea of beauty. Beauty was in the body of the toiler, the mehnat-kash insaan — "surkh inqilab aaya, daur-e-afsaana aaya/Muntazir thi yeh aankhen jis ki ek zamane se/Ab zameen gayegi, hai ke saaz pe nagme... Ab sanwar ke niklega, hush kaarkhane se (Now that Independence has come heralding a new dawn, beauty will come out of the factory)."

These poets who had dreamed dreams of a just India sans poverty and misery were fated to disappointment when Independence came. For, a number of poets opted for Pakistan. The nation took precedence over solidarity. Yet, there were exceptions. In Pakistan,

Ahmad Faraz wrote: "Ab kis ka jashn manaate ho/Us desh ka jo taqseem hua/Us desh ke gaet sunaate ho/Jo toot ke hi tasleem hua. (What are you celebrating — a country which was realised through Partition?)"

Today, we need to recapture the spirit of protest poetry. When we see pain around us, how can we be abstracted from our society, its wounds, its injustices, its violence? We will be unduly solipsistic living in a world which does not exist, lost in our private dreams and nightmares. We will not realise that there is no artificial distinction between 'me' and 'them', I am a part of 'them' and they are a part of 'us'. Without an 'us', I will be without substance.

Can there be poetry after Auschwitz, asked critical theorist Adorno. Perhaps yes, for a poet will be wanting in his passion if he does not tell us in his own powerful way that there must be no more Auschwitzes, no more Partitions and no more violence. People will listen, for poets are special; they touch the soul, and they turn our gaze outwards.

# Kaisi Yeh Yaariaan's Krissann Barretto gets engaged to Nathan Karamchandani

Actor-reality show alum Krissann Barretto is engaged to her longtime partner Nathan Karamchandani, an electrical engineer, took Barretto by surprise when he went down on his knees and proposed to the Kaisi Yeh Yaariaan actor. "I'm on top of the world right now," says Barretto, adding, "It's so exciting that no one knows just my loved ones. I can't wait for the world to know that I'm engaged to my soul-mate."

The two got engaged on April 22, which also marks their first dating anniversary. "After going back and forth with different ideas I finally decided to do it alone with just me and Krissann. We were recently in Amritsar, so I planned a beautiful breakfast in bed, fresh fruits, pastries,

juices, flowers, everything. I woke her up and just expressed my love for her, told her I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with her and asked her to marry me. She of course said yes," Karamchandani recalls.

The lovebirds met each other last year at a wedding. After "a year of travel and love," the two finally decided to seal the deal. Barretto admits that "marriage is definitely on the cards." "We're first deciding on the country, then we'll start reaching out to venues and see which one matches the vibe we're looking for," Karamchandani shares. The two intend to get married next year on April 22. Calling it a 'dream date' Karamchandani also adds, "Of course we have to take a lot into consideration when planning the date so we'll see, but yes a wedding is definitely on the cards next year."



# Gearing up for Murder Mubarak on OTT, Karisma Kapoor says she'll continue to be picky and choosy about projects she chooses



With her web show Brown getting into the spotlight internationally, many expect Karisma Kapoor to take up more acting projects. But the actor is not in any hurry, and wants to do things at her own pace. "Now, I am getting to do what I want which is creatively challenging like Brown. I will continue to be quite picky and choosy about what I want to do," says Kapoor, who recently wrapped up the Delhi schedule of her next web project, director Homi Adajania's Murder Mubarak, alongside actors Sara Ali Khan and Sanjay Kapoor. Thea actor was 17 when she made her acting debut with Prem Qaidi in 1991. Having worked non-stop for many years, the 48-year-old decided to take a break for from showbiz after the 2003 TV show, Karishma: The Miracles of Destiny. And today, she doesn't regret her decision one bit. "I enjoyed the break a lot. I started working at a very young age, and I enjoyed that time away.," says the actor, who returned to the acting world in 2012 with Dangerous Ishq, but has remained exceptionally selective for the past few years.

# High on nostalgia: Popular Hollywood franchises expand as series

The trend of revisiting popular franchises continues to get strong in the world of showbiz, with new spinoffs being announced. We take a look at some of such announcements, which has left fans excited.

**Revisiting Big Bang Theory**  
The Big Bang Theory universe is set to get a new addition. As per a report by Deadline, Chuck Lorre, who co-created The Big Bang Theory as well as its spin-off Young Sheldon, is in the early stages of developing another comedy series derived from that universe.

Plot details have not been revealed yet. It is believed to be an hour-long series featuring a mostly new cast with potential for known Big Bang Theory stars to appear in guest spots.

**Stranger Things universe expands**  
The "Stranger Things" universe is getting bigger. Even though the global hit



series is set to end next year, the sci-fi series universe will still be around, now in the form of an animated series. The untitled animated series will be set in the same universe by the creators, the Duffer

brothers, reports Variety. No new details about the upcoming series have been revealed as yet. "We've always dreamed of an animated Stranger Things in the vein of the Saturday morning cartoons

that we grew up loving, and to see this dream realized has been absolutely thrilling. We couldn't be more blown away by what Eric Robles and his team have come up with – the scripts and artwork are incredible, and we can't wait to share more with you! The adventure continues," said Matt and Ross Duffer in a statement.

**Back to the Harry Potter world**  
It's official now! A TV series based on the Harry Potter franchise is being developed with an entirely new cast. The new show will be based on JK Rowling's seven novels. It is advertised as a "faithful adaptation of the beloved Harry Potter book series. The series is expected to remain true to the original books and will feature a new cast, introducing a new generation of viewers to the magical world of Harry Potter. The series will run for ten consecutive years.

# Badshah apologises for his song 'Sanak', says will change the song after backlash over 'objectionable' lyrics



Rapper singer Badshah on Monday issued an apology for "hurting" sentiments of people with the release of his latest track "Sanak" and promised to change "some parts of the song". The rapper said he has already "actioned the replacement" with a new version on all digital platforms to "further avoid hurting anyone." A senior priest of Mahakaleswar Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district had slammed Badshah for using the name of Lord Shiva (Bholenath) along with alleged obscene words in the song and asked him to remove the objectionable bits and apologise. Badshah took to Instagram and wrote he would never "willingly or unknowingly" offend anyone but since his latest song has hurt sentiments, he would like to issue an apology. "It has been brought to my attention that one of my recent releases, Sanak, sadly seems to have hurt the sentiments of some people. I would never willingly or unknowingly cause offence to anyone's sentiments. I bring my artistic creations and musical compositions to you, my fans, with the utmost sincerity and passion.

# Shaan reacts to his Eid post, says he felt bad about negative comments: 'Don't have such polarised thoughts'

Singer Shaan recently took to his social media to share a concern after he wished his fans Eid Mubarak a couple of days ago. The artist said that he had taken a screenshot from one of his music videos which was made three years ago, called "Karam Kar Dein" for the occasion.

In the said image, Shaan is seen doing namaz while dressed as a section of more traditional Muslims do. Shaan said that the comments under it disturbed him enough to conduct an Instagram Live to address the situation. Speaking in a mix of Hindi and English, Shaan stated, "I have come to live after a few days. Today is Eid, Parshuram festival and Akshay Tritiya. I had shared an Instagram post to wish my fans on Eid which is a screenshot from a music video I did three years



ago, where I am reading namaaz. I have come to Mangalore for an event, and I have been seeing the comments on it, that why, despite being a Hindu, I posted that where I am dressed as Muslims would. I have gone to the Golden Temple as well and shared photos where you are required to cover your head. But there, I did not see such reactions." Further explaining that he wanted to speak more openly about

even harbour this much respect and tolerance for other faiths and religions than our own, we won't make any progress. I want people to think about these things. I am a Hindu and Brahmin, but I am also a person, and I am an Indian so I know how to respect everyone's culture."

Adding that a lot of his friends are Muslims, Shaan said he felt bad about his Eid post received: "Don't think such polarised thoughts, you will only hurt each other. We are a democracy."

We should be more inclusive and we should look towards creating a beautiful world, not just a beautiful country." Fans were impressed with Shaan's forward and secular way of thought as one wrote, "Shaan I'm a bigger fan today. Exactly the thoughts of progressive true Indians.

# ILEANA D'CRUZ reveals perks of her pregnancy, shares food pics as she binges on cake made by sister



Ileana D'Crux is pregnant with her first child. On Tuesday, the actor took to Instagram Stories to give a peek inside what she's been eating, while expecting. Ileana shared a picture of a black forest cake made by her sister. She went on to call it 'preggy perks (pregnancy perks)'. Along with the photo of the cake, the actor wrote, "Especially because your sister makes the best black forest cake ever." Ileana also shared a photo of her cake slice, and wrote, "Come to mama." Ileana D'Crux had announced on April 18 that she will be welcoming her first child. Soon after, family, friends and fans shared congratulatory messages on her Instagram post.

Ileana had posted two photos - the first of a baby's romper with 'And so the adventure begins' printed on it, and the second of the actor's 'Mama' pendant. In her caption, Ileana had written, "Coming soon. Can't wait to meet you my little darling."

Ileana's sister Farrah had commented, "So excited! Cannot wait." Mother Samira wrote, "Welcome at the world my new shetty baby." Celebs such as Malaika Arora and Ahiya Shetty dropped heart emojis in the comments section, and actor Shibani Dandekar wrote, "Congratulations my love, this is amazing news."

Ileana has not revealed the identity of her future baby's father. She was rumoured to be dating actor Katrina Kaif's brother Sebastian Laurent Michel, and was part of Katrina's birthday celebrations in Maldives last year. As per some recent reports, Ileana and Sebastian had ended the relationship.



# From Shaw-Me-des-a-d Camila Cabello to Leo-ardo DiCaprio a-d Iri-a Shayk: It's love all the way i- Coachella

It wasn't just music that was in the air at Coachella this year, but love too. The music festival turned out to be a spot where to start a buzz around a new relationship brewing or confirm new romance. Here's a roundup of the celebrity couples who hit the desert to enjoy a fun-filled weekend of festive tunes and mushy vibes.

**Kendall Jenner and Bad Bunny**

Supermodel Kendall Jenner and rapper Bad Bunny seemingly confirmed their rumoured romance at the

music festival. According to Page Six, they couldn't stay away from each other while attending the music festival in Indio, California, as they kept close while watching performances on Sunday. The singer, 29, was photographed chatting with the model, 27, with a plaid mask covering the lower half of his face. While they did not engage in any overt PDA, the reality star made an appearance on Bunny's Instagram Story some days prior. On Saturday, the 29-year-old musician shared videos of himself riding a golf cart through the

festival grounds with a woman by his side, whose voice and brown hair seemed quite similar to that of Jenner.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Irina Shayk The Russian-born model Irina is Shyking off amra story by her back to back spotting with actor Leonardo DiCaprio. She was spotted in photos looking cosy with DiCaprio at Coachella over the weekend. The Oscar-winning actor and Shayk attended Levi and Tequila Don Julio's Neon Carnival late Saturday and partied until early Sunday. They got together a second time to

watch Frank Ocean perform on Sunday night. Shayk was previously in a relationship with DiCaprio's friend Bradley Cooper.

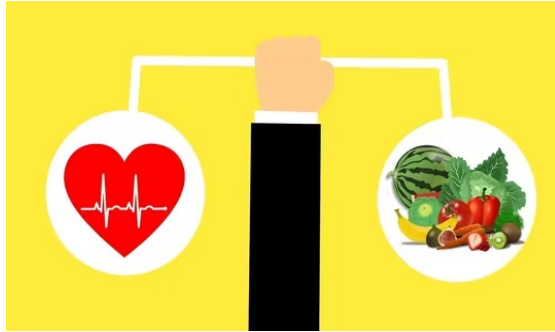
Dylan Minnette- Isabella Elei 13 Reasons Why actor Dylan Minnette sparked romance rumours with model Isabella Elei at the music festival after he was seen holding her hands. The couple were photographed getting cozy while attending the music festival together on April 16.

Minnette's outing with Elei, 21, marks his first potential public relationship following

his split from Lydia Night. They are yet to comment on the new love. Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello

It has been the highlight of the former couple kissing at the festival went viral, sending social media users in tizzy, fueling speculation that the pair got back together since they amicably parted ways in November 2021. In the video, the 24-year-old Mercy singer and 26-year-old Havana hit-maker were seen hugging each other before they leaned in for a passionate kiss.

# Heart health: Add these nutrients to your diet to keep your heart healthy



**H**eat is one of the most important organs in the human body, responsible for pumping blood and supplying oxygen and nutrients to all parts of the body hence, taking care of our heart's health is essential for leading a healthy and active life. One of the best ways to keep your heart healthy is by consuming a well-balanced diet rich in essential nutrients.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Vikas Chawla, Ayurveda Expert at Vedas Cure, revealed some of the key nutrients required to keep your heart healthy -

1. Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Omega-3 fatty acids are essential fats that must be obtained

- through the diet. Found in fatty fish such as salmon, mackerel, and sardines, as well as in flaxseeds and chia seeds, they reduce inflammation, lower blood pressure, and improve cholesterol levels, all of which contribute to better heart health.
2. Fibre: Fibre is a type of carbohydrate that helps regulate digestion, lower cholesterol levels, and maintain healthy blood sugar levels. Good sources of fibre include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes.
3. Potassium: Potassium is an essential mineral that helps regulate heart rhythm and blood pressure. It is found in bananas, avocados, spinach, and sweet potatoes.
4. Magnesium: Magnesium is another important

- mineral that helps regulate heart rhythm and blood pressure. Good sources of magnesium include nuts, seeds, whole grains, and leafy green vegetables.
5. Vitamin D: Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin that helps the body absorb calcium, which is essential for healthy bones. It also plays a role in heart health by reducing inflammation and improving cholesterol levels. Good sources of vitamin D include fatty fish, egg yolks, and fortified foods such as milk and cereal. He said, "In addition to consuming a diet rich in these essential nutrients, it is also important to limit the consumption of unhealthy fats, salt, and added sugars, all of which can contribute to poor heart health.

Regular physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight are also important for maintaining good heart health. By making small changes to our diet and

to your diet. Magnesium: Magnesium is essential for heart health as it helps regulate heart rhythms and maintain normal blood pressure. Green leafy vegetables,

## EXPERTS REVEAL SOME OF THE KEY NUTRIENTS REQUIRED TO KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY. ADD THEM TO YOUR DIET

lifestyle, we can take steps to protect our hearts and improve our overall health and well-being."

Insisting that the state of your heart is usually a direct reflection of the state of your food habits, Harsh, Founder of Happy Ratio, highlighted that if you are eating right, then your heart is probably pumping right. According to him, here are 5 key nutrients that can help keep your heart healthy -

1. Omega-3 fatty acids: Omega-3 fatty acids help reduce inflammation, improve cholesterol levels, and reduce the risk of heart disease. Fatty fish such as salmon, mackerel, and tuna, as well as nuts and seeds, are excellent sources of omega-3s. If you do not eat fish then supplementing with fish or krill oil everyday is good nutritional insurance.

2. Fibre: Fibre helps lower cholesterol levels, control blood sugar levels, and maintain a healthy weight. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes are all excellent sources of fibre. If you do not eat enough food with fibre then psyllium husk is an easily available supplement

3. Potassium: Potassium helps regulate fluid balance, maintain normal blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease. Bananas, oranges, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and avocados are all excellent sources of potassium. Potassium Citrate is a supplement that people take when they aren't eating enough of these food sources.

4. Vitamin D: Vitamin D is essential for maintaining healthy bones and teeth, but it also plays a role in heart health. Studies have shown that low levels of vitamin D are associated with an increased risk of heart disease. Fatty fish, egg yolks, and fortified foods are excellent sources of vitamin D. Adding a Vitamin D supplement to your diet is a very good idea even if you are getting enough sunlight.

5. In conclusion, consider your heart the engine of your body. If you feed it the right fuel, it will keep on pumping optimally for years to come.

## Tips for Managing Your Sugar Intake: From Reading Labels to Choosing Whole Foods



**S**ugar is a common ingredient found in many foods and drinks. While it may taste delicious, consuming too much sugar can lead to health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. To manage sugar intake, it's important to understand how much sugar you're consuming and to make healthy choices.

**Read food labels:** Food labels provide important information about the sugar content of foods. Check the total sugar content and the ingredients list to see where the sugar is coming from. Look for words like glucose, fructose, sucrose, and corn syrup, which all mean sugar.

**Avoid sugary drinks:** Sugary drinks like soda, sports drinks, and energy drinks are some of the biggest sources of added sugar in our diets. Instead, opt for water, unsweetened tea, or low-sugar drinks like coconut water or fresh juice.

**Choose whole foods:** Processed foods often contain high levels of added sugar. Choose whole foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins instead. These foods are naturally low in sugar and provide essential nutrients.

**Use sugar substitutes:** If you have a sweet tooth, consider using sugar substitutes like stevia or monk fruit. These natural sweeteners can be used in place of sugar and have zero calories.

**Plan ahead:** Snacking ahead can help you avoid reaching for sugary snacks when you're hungry. Pack healthy snacks like fruit, nuts, or veggies with hummus to have on hand when hunger strikes.

**Eat smaller portions:** Eating smaller portions can help you manage your sugar intake. If you're craving something sweet, have a small piece of dark chocolate or a small serving of fruit.

## Doctors Say You Should Add These Proteins To Yo

**L**osing weight and getting rid of excess belly fat can be a long and strenuous process before you can actually see results. But, a great way to start for long-term, sustainable weight loss is consuming a diet that keeps you full and satisfied, while also helping you shed some extra pounds. Specifically, including more protein in your diet can foster abdominal weight loss. When combined with exercise, a diet rich in protein helps keep you full and builds more lean muscle which can help you burn more calories throughout the day.

To learn more about the best proteins you should add to your plate to lose abdominal fat, we spoke with Lainey Younkin, a registered dietitian and founder of Lainey Younkin Nutrition, Heather Hanks, a nutritionist at Medical Solutions Barcelona, Jennifer Pallian, a registered dietitian, food scientist, and recipe developer, and Lisa Richards, a nutritionist and creator of The Candida Diet. They agree that the best proteins to eat to help reduce visceral fat are salmon and tofu. This is because they're both high in protein, but low in fat. Read on to learn more about the benefits of these proteins for weight loss! Lean proteins are especially good for anyone who wants to lose visceral fat. This is because lean proteins like salmon are low in fat and can significantly reduce the number of calories for faster weight loss. "Chicken and salmon are great high-protein options for dinner. One 3-ounce serving of chicken has 25 grams of protein with very little fat and no carbohydrates," Younkin says. "A 4-ounce portion of salmon has 23 grams of protein and also comes with heart-healthy omega-3 fats that help reduce inflammation."

## How To Stay Energised Without Caffeine? Important Tips Given By A Nutritionist

**D**o you need coffee to wake yourself up properly? Do you rely on caffeinated drinks to keep up your energy throughout the day? Do you feel sluggish if you miss your usual hot cuppa? Many of us depend on caffeine to help keep ourselves alert and focused. While caffeine is not inherently bad for health, your energy levels should not be solely dependent on your caffeine consumption. If you have a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle, you would find yourself consistently energised. So what should you do exactly? Celebrity nutritionist Lovneet Batra recently posted about ways to increase energy without caffeine. Here's what you need to know:

Is Caffeine Bad For You? Side Effects Of Excessive Caffeine Intake:



Caffeine is a natural stimulant. It affects the working of a number of organs, but it primarily affects the brain. It helps counter the effects of adenosine, a neurotransmitter that makes you feel tired. Hence, consuming coffee, tea, or other items with caffeine makes you feel more alert and less lethargic. When consumed in moderation, caffeine may actually benefit you: it may help enhance mood, metabolism as well as brain function. However, too much caffeine can lead to irritability, headache, restlessness, insomnia, digestive issues, nervousness, muscle tremors, etc. best Ways To Increase Energy Without

Caffeine, According To A Nutritionist:

The possible health risks posed by caffeine do not mean you have to give up your coffee or tea completely. Rather, it is important to rely on other practices to keep yourself energised. Here is what Lovneet Batra recommends:

1. Eat protein-rich foods for breakfast

Foods high in protein provide your body with a stable source of energy, especially since they take longer to digest. While consuming eggs and meat is a great way to increase protein intake, vegetarian options like dairy, lentils and nuts are also effective. Read more about this here. You can also opt for protein-rich dosas. Click here for a recipe list.

2. Stay properly hydrated

Apart from food, your body

requires water and fluids to function properly. Regular tea and coffee tend to have a dehydrating effect.

Opt for natural energy drinks like coconut water, herbal tea, homemade milkshakes, etc. that will also provide you with more nutrients and benefits. Click here to know more.

3. Keep your blood sugar stable

Blood sugar helps provides energy to the cells of your body. If you have low blood sugar, this may manifest in a lack of energy. High blood sugar may also lead to tiredness, as it affects the processing of glucose.

Avoid relying on sweetened foods or drinks that will only give you an instant energy boost. This will cause a spike in your blood sugar levels and may provide temporary relief.

# FAO MAKES CASE FOR MEAT, EGGS AND MILK AS 'ESSENTIAL SOURCE OF NUTRIENTS'

**T**his is particularly vital during key life stages such as pregnancy and lactation, childhood, adolescence and older age, says the study, entitled Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes.

Comprehensive analysis

It's the most comprehensive analysis yet of the benefits and risks of consuming animal source foods and is based on data and evidence from more than 500 scientific papers and some 250 policy documents, said FAO.



A plate of bacon and eggs with a glass of milk on the side, can provide a range of important so-called "macronutrients", such as protein, fats and carbs, and also micro-nutrients that are hard to find in plants, "in the required quality and quantity", said FAO.

High quality protein, a number of essential fatty acids - together with iron, calcium, zinc, selenium, Vitamin B12, choline and bioactive compounds like carnitine, creatine, taurine - are

provided by foods from farm and other livestock animals, and have important health and developmental functions. Chickens are a widely held economic and nutritional asset in rural Africa and are frequently managed by women.

Iron and vitamin A are among the most common micronutrient deficiencies around the world, particularly in children and pregnant women, FAO notes.

More than one in two preschool children (some 372 million) and 1.2 billion women of child-bearing age, according to a study published in the Lancet, suffer from the lack of at least one of three micronutrients: iron, vitamin A or zinc.

Three quarters of these children live in South and East Asia, the Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa.

Regional varieties

Not surprisingly, according to the

report, consumption of animal-based food from animals varies widely around the

**Some consumers may choose veganism, or a pescatarian diet, but meat, eggs and milk, offer crucial sources of much-needed nutrients which cannot easily be obtained from plant-based foods, a new report issued on Tuesday by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization says.**

world. A person in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for example, consumes on average only 160 grammes of milk a year, while your average Montenegro resident, consumes 338 kilograms.

Looking at eggs, a person in South Sudan consumes 2g on average a year compared to an average 25kg for a person in Hong Kong. The average person in Burundi consumes just 3kg of meat a year, compared to 136kg for someone living in Hong Kong, said FAO.

Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to caloric supply by region and subregion

Meat and drink for the SDGs

If consumed as part of an appropriate diet, animal source foods can help

with meeting the nutrition targets endorsed by the World Health Assembly and Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) related to reducing stunting, wasting among children under five, low birthweight, anaemia in women of reproductive age, and obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in adults, FAO adds. But at the same time, the livestock sector "must contribute to addressing a range of challenges," writes FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo and Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen in a foreword to the report.

Environmental hazards

"These include issues related to the environment" such as deforestation, CO2 emissions, unsustainable water and land use, pollution, and animal health related issues such as diseases and antimicrobial resistance; and live-

stock related issues like zoonotic and food-borne disease risks, said the FAO deputy chief.

Red meat alert

The report makes it clear that consumption of even low levels of processed red meat can increase the risk of mortality and chronic disease outcomes, including cardiovascular diseases and colorectal cancer.

However, consuming unprocessed red meat in moderate amounts "may have minimal risk", said FAO, "but is considered safe with regards to chronic disease outcomes."

Meanwhile the evidence of any links between milk, eggs and poultry consumption in healthy adults and diseases such as coronary heart disease, strokes and hypertension is inconclusive (for milk) or non-significant (for eggs and poultry), said FAO.





# Director Horticulture participates in Kisan Sampark Abhiyan at various Panchayat Halqas of Pulwama

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 25: The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G.R. MIR today toured District Pulwama and participated in Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in Panchayat Halqa Gangoo, Nikloora and Litter among others.



A large gathering of farmers participated in Kisan Sampark Abhiyan. The Director Horticulture emphasized the significance of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, stating that it is a crucial initiative in empowering farmers with the latest knowledge and skills. Through proper training and guidance, farmers can increase their crop yield and income,

which will ultimately contribute to the growth of the Horticulture Industry. He said this program aims to provide farmers with the resources they need to succeed in their profession, which in turn

will benefit both the farmers and the larger community. By focusing on education and skill-building in the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan can play a crucial role in promoting sustainable agriculture and

fostering economic growth in the horticulture sector.

Moreover, the Director Horticulture stated that the success of the program relies heavily on the involvement of farmers. To ensure maximum participation, the Chief Horticulture Officers in the concerned districts were instructed to publicize and implement the program effectively. Their primary responsibility is to encourage and motivate farmers to participate in the program on scheduled dates.

Later, the Director Horticulture also visited several Hi-Density Apple orchards that were established with the support of the department. He interacted with the orchardists and discussed their concerns and challenges. He assured them of the department's

full support and encouraged them to adopt modern and scientific techniques to enhance their yield and quality of produce.

The Director emphasized that the department is committed to supporting farmers in every way possible and providing them with the necessary resources and guidance to succeed. He also encouraged orchardists to share their experiences and knowledge with fellow farmers to promote best practices in the industry.

The visit was an important step in strengthening the department's relationship with farmers and promoting the growth of the horticulture industry.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer, Pulwama, Javeed Ahmad Bhat and other officers of the district.

# Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Stations Peerbagh, Airforce, STC BSF, Rangreth, Wanbal, Doodh Ganga and JAKLI shall remain affected due to Augmentation of 33 Kv Lines on April 27 and 30 from 10.00 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, in order to replacement of 11 Kv Panel the power supply to receiving stations Wanganpora and Safakadal shall remain affected on April 26 from 09 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations of Cement Plants Khyber, Saico and TCI Max shall remain affected on 26th, 29th April and 2nd May from 10 am to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving stations Balhama, Wuyan, TCI Old, Chinar Flour Mills shall remain affected on 26 and 30 April from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving station Kothildarwaza shall remain affected on 2nd May from 10.30 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to receiving station Rajbagh shall remain affected 28 April from 11 am to 5 pm.

# Aspirational Plan for 2023-24 finalized for Manzgam, DK Marg Blocks of Kulgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 25: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers to review and finalize Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) 2023-24.

While finalizing the plan for the year 2023-24, Education, Health, Power, Skill Development, Agriculture and allied sectors were prioritized.

During the meeting, it was informed that two blocks D.K.Marg and Manzgam of Kulgam district have been taken up under the Aspirational Block Development Programme based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects of Poverty, Health, Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block. The programme aims to improve development in terms of various socio-economic parameters like education, health and wellbeing besides overall living conditions of the people.

During the meeting, the Aspirational panchayat plan from all 11 blocks was also discussed under which one panchayat from each block has been selected for holistic development.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather, JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACD Mohammad Imran Khan, CMO, CEO, CHO, DSHO and other district/ sectoral officers.

# Awareness program on 'Enroll as a Voter, cease to be a Bystander' held at GDC Handwara

JJ NEWS SERVICE

HANDWARA, APRIL 25: Under SVEEP, the Electoral Literacy Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Handwara in collaboration with Election Cell of ADC Office Handwara today organized an awareness program on the theme "Enroll as a Voter, cease to be a Bystander" in the college.

The program started with the introductory remarks by Dr. M Ibrahim Khaja, the Convener SVEEP/Electoral Literacy Club of the College.

In the resourceful PPT presentation, Naseer Ahmad, BLO, discussed throughout the procedure to register as a voter. He further emphasized the importance of electoral participation of youth for the successful consolidation of Indian democracy.

The students raised pertinent queries with regard to their electoral participation which were addressed to their better satisfaction.

The Principal of the college, Prof. Dilruba Rasool Hamdani, enjoined upon the students to come forward and exercise their democratic rights for personal development and development of society at large.

# SVEEP Voters Awareness held at Shopian

SPORTS ACTIVITIES, MAIN ATTRACTIONS OF THE AWARENESS CAMP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 25: Various activities under Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme were held at Heerpora, Shopian to create awareness regarding the electoral process and to convey voter awareness messages.

The team of election employees under the supervision of Deputy District Election Officer Shopian, Jahangir Ahmed held a programme at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Heerpora Shopian here.

On the occasion, the participants were briefed about the basic knowledge related to the electoral process. In order to make the programme more attractive and attentive, a Cricket Match and Badminton Match were also organised.

The participants included teachers, students, BLOs and other officers/ officials who wholeheartedly took part in the activities to encourage and create awareness among all the eligible and prospective voters about the voter registration and electoral participation. The programme also included the discussion regarding the Electoral Process, Constitution value of Vote, etc. with a view to incorporate the sense of electoral registration and participation in Voting. Subsequently, all the participating students were asked to take a pledge Election NT and Booth level Officers were also present during the programme and shared their experiences with the participants. The participants were also informed about the schedule issued by the Chief Election Officer J&K which commenced from 5th April and has been extended up to 6th of May 2023.

# DLSA conducts Awareness programme at Gurez



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 25: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora under the aegis of JK Legal Services Authority Tuesday organized an awareness programme regarding Dignity, Prevention of Insults and Proper disposal of National Flag on the occasions of important national, cultural and sports events. The programme was organized in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Centre Gurez and Education Department Bandipora. Chairman DLSA/Pr. District & Sessions Judge Bandipora, Amit Sharma and Secretary DLSA Bandipora, Nusrat Ali Hakak were present on the occasion. Officials said the objective of the program was to spread the awareness among masses regarding Dignity, Prevention of Insults and Proper disposal of national flag on the occasions of important national, cultural and sports events. Speaking on the occasion, Principal GGHS Dawar stressed on the importance of the national flag and proper disposal of the national flag, on the occasions of important National, cultural and sports events with the dignity of the flag. Addressing the gathering, speakers said that everyone ought to respect the National Flag during event and if anyone who is found allegedly disrespecting the national flag at an event the gathering, in public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Features of the Flag Code of India were also highlighted such as Removal of restriction on the display of the national flag by government bodies, educational institutes, and other applicable entities enlisted in the Indian flag code and Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

Among others, the programme witnessed the presence of Lecturers, teachers, Staff members, students and besides common people were also present.

# Dr Samoon reviews formulation of CAPEX budget 2023-24

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, held a meeting today to discuss and review formulation of CAPEX Budget 2023-24 here at Civil Secretariat.

He also reviewed progress on ongoing projects under the CAPEX Budget and CSS 2022-23.

The meeting was attended by Director SDD, Chief Engineers of R&B Kashmir/Jammu, Joint Directors of DSD Jammu/Srinagar, as well as the concerned Principals and Superintendents of Government Polytechnics and ITIs Jammu/Kashmir, both in person and through virtual mode.

He discussed all the relevant issues and enquired about the requirements from the concerned regarding formulation of CAPEX Budget 2023-24.

Dr Samoon asked the Director SDD to incorporate the requirements with respect to civil works and other works so that a comprehensive



CAPEX Budget is formulated. He also reviewed the physical and financial progress on the projects besides assessing the maintenance and repairs in both the regular and III sectors.

During the meeting, Dr Samoon expressed satisfaction over the progress made, so far. He emphasized the need to finish the projects within the stipulated time frame.

Principal Secretary exhorted upon the officers to identify skill gaps and develop required skills in coordination with concerned departments.

Dr Samoon directed the officers to

ensure that all the ongoing and new projects are completed successfully and within the time frame. He stressed that timely completion of the projects is of utmost importance to achieve the objective of the department.

Principal Secretary also instructed the officers to take strict measures to maintain quality control and ensure that the projects are executed as per the specified standards. He emphasized the importance of transparency in execution of projects and directed the officers to maintain accurate records of the progress made.

# Rath Yatra organised to celebrate World Malaria Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25: On the occasion of World Malaria Day on 25th April, 2023 a Rath Yatra was flagged off by the Deputy Director Health Services (HQ), Jammu, Dr. Rajeev Sharma.

The Rath Yatra was organized by the Office of the State Malariologist, J&K, Jammu. The Theme for this year's WMD is "TIME TO DELIVER ZERO MALARIA: INVEST, INNOVATE, IMPLEMENT".

The aim of the Rath Yatra is to impart awareness regarding prevention, control and elimination of Malaria from the Union Territory. During flagging off ceremony of

Malaria Rath Dr. Rajeev Sharma, Dy. Director Health Services, Jammu addresses the august gathering and highlighted the achievements made by the Union Territory in control of malaria, decreasing trends of malaria especially Plasmodium Falciparum cases.

Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Programme Officer, J&K also informed about the preparedness activities for the control of malaria and stressed that with coordinated efforts from all stake holders, shall pave the way towards elimination of malaria with newer tools and windows of opportunities.

The Rath Yatra (vehicle fitted with a loud speaker) started from

Directorate of Health Services, Near MLA hostel, Jammu and covered Jammu urban areas.

IEC material like leaflets was disseminated by the staff members among school students and general masses along the way.

On the occasion Dr. Sanjay Turki, Dy. Director Health Services (Scheme), Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dy. Director, Dentistry, DHS, Jammu, Dr. Harjeet Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, Dr. Poonam Mahajan, State Tuberculosis Officer, Jammu, Dr. Jyoti Jolly, Divisional Nutrition, Jammu Officer along with other Officers and Officials were present on the occasion.

# JKTIPO, Invest India (DPIIT) organised Organic Certification program for Honey Beekeepers under ODOP initiative in Ramban



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTIPO) under the guidance of Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Prashant Goyal and under the supervision of Managing Director, JKTIPO, Khalid Jahangir organized the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) awareness drive for organic certification of Honey, ODOP product of Ramban District in collaboration with Invest India (One District One Product) team, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry at Administrative Complex, Ramban.

The workshop aimed to provide certification and training to farmers already engaged in producing organic Honey, but lacking the necessary certification for their product's authenticity. This initiative is part of JKTIPO's efforts to promote ODOP products in Jammu and Kashmir and increase the export potential of Honey. At the onset, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Massarat Islam appreciated the efforts of JKTIPO for conducting such events and emphasized the need to increase Honey production to meet market demand, improve packaging to meet international standards, and promote Ramban as a "Desi Organic District" of J&K.

According to the Chief Agriculture Officer of Ramban, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, there is a high demand for Organic Honey of Ramban in India and abroad due to its unique characteristics. The organic certification of is expected to boost its demand and help increase the farmers' income. The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) involves the accreditation of Certification Bodies, setting standards for organic production, promoting organic farming and marketing, etc., under the Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India. The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been

recognised by the European Commission and Switzerland as equivalent to their country standards. The drive was attended by over 100 plus Honey producers/Bee keepers from Ramban district, and more farmers are expected to come under organic certification. Onspot registration

for Organic Certificate for Honey was done for 80+ Bee keepers. This workshop is the third NPO Awareness Drive organised by JKTIPO for the organic certification of Honey, with the first two held in Pulwama & Kishtwar for saffron growers.

# DLC approves 11 cases under Change of Land Use at Ganderbal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Srinagar today convened a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) constituted by the Board of Revenue regarding Change of Land Use (CLU) in the district.

At the outset, detailed discussion was held on site plans, building plans and comments submitted by various departments for the issuance of permissions to 13 applications of CLU for non agriculture purposes in the district. After detailed discussion on the reports/NOC obtained from the field agencies, the Committee approved 11 cases out of 13 cases under CLU after fulfilling the conditions laid down in NOCs issued by the field departments. The meeting was attended by ACR Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of PDD and R&B, DFO Sindh Forest Division, concerned Tehsildars and other officers of concerned departments.



## Rajouri: 10th NCORD Committee meeting reviews measures taken to Combat Drug Abuse



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 25: The 10th NCORD Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, to review the actions taken against drug abuse in the district and formulate a plan of action for the future.

The District Magistrate, in his opening remarks, stressed the need for greater collaboration among all stakeholders to combat the menace of drug abuse effectively. He urged officers to work in tandem to raise awareness among the public about the dangers of drug abuse.

During the meeting, the Committee also reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre and ATF Rajouri. He also reviewed the status of OPD at the Drug De-addiction centre Rajouri.

The members were advised to rope in religious leaders for mass awareness. Taking stock of action taken to keep watch on sale of psychotropic drugs, the DM directed to ensure 100 percent installation of CCTV cameras at pharmacies to monitor their sales.

The Information Department was instructed to launch Nukkad Natak

awareness programs across the district to educate the public about the dangers of drug abuse.

The Drug controller Department informed the chair that the Department has conducted three successful raids and it has recommended the cancellation of licences of certain defaulter pharmacies.

The SSP, Amrit Pal Singh urged officers to work in close coordination to end this menace. He emphasized the need for joint efforts by all stakeholders, including the police, civil society, religious leaders, and the government, to create a drug-free environment.

The committee resolved to work towards creating a society free from drug abuse and called for the active participation of all members of society in this noble endeavor.

The District and Police Administration has urged all citizens to join hands in the fight against drug abuse and to report any instances of drug peddling or abuse to the authorities. The committee also emphasized the need for greater awareness and education on the dangers of drug abuse and encourages everyone to work towards building a healthy and drug-free society.

## "Hello Kishtwar" (IVRS) receives overwhelming response

79 CALLERS APPROACH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN ONE HOUR SESSION ON FIRST DAY

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 25: District Administration Kishtwar, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, and in collaboration with SSP Khalil Ahmed Poswal, has successfully launched "Hello Kishtwar"-an Intercourse Response System (IVRS) to listen and address the queries and grievances of people residing in far-flung areas of the district over phone.

The maiden session of the IVRS under Hello Kishtwar was taken today on Tuesday which received an overwhelming response, with a total of 79 calls received on IVRS phone number 8470-800-900 by Senior & District Officers of District & Police Administration within a span of one hour from 11 pm to 12 noon.

Significantly, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar personally attended the calls on phone number 8470-800-900 and patiently



listened to the grievances of the people. After noting down the queries and grievances, he assured the callers for prompt redressal. Deputy Commissioner forwarded them to the concerned officers through the IVRS portal for time-bound redressal.

SPS Kishtwar also received 63 calls on the IVRS and promptly responded to the callers through proper address.

Meanwhile, ADC, ADCC, CEO, CMO, CHOs, CAO & AD Food Supplies also responded to the callers on IVRS.

To ensure transparency and accountability and easing the deliverance System, all the callers received a unique Grievance ID via SMS, which they can use to track the progress of their complaint on the district administration's website link provided at <https://kishtwar.nic.in/hello-kishtwar/>.

The "Hello Kishtwar" IVRS is a significant step towards providing quick and efficient redressal of public grievances of people of far flung areas who cannot afford attending the district offices off & on. It will help bridge the gap between the district administration and the people living in remote areas, enabling them to voice their concerns and receive timely solutions.

## PROGRESSIVE FARMERS OF JK

### ISDS empowers 'Manjeet Kumar' into a successful entrepreneur

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25: Manjeet Kumar, a progressive livestock farmer of Trindi village of Ramgarh block, Samba district, embarked on his odyssey as a successful entrepreneur with implementation of Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Little did he know that his visit to the Sheep Husbandry Department would change his fortune forever. Kumar says that he has all appreciation for the cooperation and support he got from the officials there who guided him towards becoming a successful entrepreneur. He was provided with 25 ewes and 2 rams under ISDS with which he began his vocation as a flourishing entrepreneur.

"I earned Rs 1 lakh in the first year of my business by selling ten male sheep (Ram) and afterwards my trade never looked back giving me increased incomes every year", Kumar asserted.

In a message for youth of J&K, "Kumar makes a fervent appeal to all the unemployed youth of J&K particularly of Samba district to take benefit of government schemes and establish their own business ventures."

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir government launched Integrated Sheep Development Scheme in 2020 with a sanctioned budget of Rs 10 crore with an aim to promote establishment of sheep and goat units in the Union Territory.

Kumar added that many people in his village are reaping huge profits through this ambitious scheme which has ultimately transformed their living standards. The villagers are coming forward with high spirit to procure sheep and goats under Integrated Sheep Development Scheme, which is also in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission of doubling farmers' income.

## 2 vehicles seized for illegal mining in Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 25: Crackdown on illegal mining continues in the district under the supervision of District Mineral Officer Doda, Sunil Manhas and under the directions of District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Mahajan.

A team of officials led by DMO Doda laid naka between Premnagar and Thathi and seized two heavy vehicles for transportation of minerals illegally.

It has been reported that the seized vehicles have been challaned under Mining Act.

DMO has warned the transporters to desist from illegal mining to avoid toughest action under the Mining Act.

He informed that action against illegal mining shall be intensified, and anyone involved in illegal mining shall be booked under relevant sections of the law.

## District level enrolment rally held at Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 25: District level rally on enrollment drive was organized by the cultural and enrollment wing of Chief Education Office Udhampur, here today.

As many as 200 students and 35 teachers of various schools of the district Udhampur participated.

On the occasion, Chief Education Officer presented welcome address to all dignitaries. Thereafter an impressive cultural programme was organized by the students of various Government schools on the theme of enrollment drive.

The rally was flagged off by Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shanker Sharma along with Joint Director Udhampur Reasi range, Dhirender Sharma, Chief Education Officer Udhampur, Geetu Bangotra, District Education Planning Officer, Girija Chally, Principal of Shaheed Inspector Kamal Singh Model Higher Secondary School (Boys), Pawan Kumar, Assistant Director Planning, Darshan Lal Sharma and in charge Cultural wing, Directorate of School Education Jammu, Surjeet Kumar. Rally passes via Gole Market, Ramnagar Chowk, Slatia Chowk, D.C. Office, Housing Colony and finally culminated at the venue.

## DM Reasi chairs District Level NCORD meeting

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 25: District Magistrate Reasi, Babila Rakwal today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD meeting under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss the measures to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The DM directed the concerned to circulate the dedicated helpline number 9070907017 among the public through social media, at Police Public meetings, Thana Divas, Writing on the Government Buildings, especially on Panchayat Ghats, Patwar Khansas, Schools and Colleges to enable the public to share any information with regard to the Drug abuse.

DM directed Principals of Degree colleges and Chief Education Officer Reasi to direct the staff to regularly monitor the behaviour of the students and ensure that no student who has left the institution room again without any reason.

During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on various issues related to incidence of drug addiction besides measures taken by law enforcement agencies to curb the menace.

DM discussed on various agenda points including IEC activities, special PIM in educational institutions, awareness among drivers, functioning of drug de-addiction centre etc.

DM stressed on hosting symposiums, seminars, and workshops in government institutions regarding drug addiction and its ill effects on society.

Babila Rakwal stressed upon the Officers of all the line Departments including Enforcement agencies to ensure better coordination in imposing greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking.

## District Election Department Ramban organises awareness-cum-enrolment drive

DEO appeals youth to register as voters

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 25: As part of the ongoing Special Summary Revision 2023, the District Election Department Ramban today organised an awareness-cum-enrolment drive here at Government Degree college, under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme. District Election Officer (DEO), Musarrat Islam was the chief guest on the occasion. Principal, Government Degree College, Ramban Prof. Archana Koul, Dy. District Election Officer, Lal Chand, faculty members and a large number of students were also present on the occasion. The objective of organizing the event was to educate the prospective voters about the importance of voting and their role in the electoral process, besides highlighting the importance of voter participation in a democracy and educating the eligible voters about their registration in the electoral roll. Speaking on the occasion, the DEO said that such awareness programmes are being organized across the district with an aim to sensitize the eligible voters about the importance of their right to franchise. He exhorted the youth to get themselves enrolled as voters during the ongoing Special Summary Revision and actively take part in electoral process and contribute to the developmental process of the country.

He appealed to the students to act as ambassadors to disseminate awareness among others about the ongoing Special Summary Revision in their respective villages and areas so that no eligible youth is left unregistered as voters. The SVEEP activities in Ramban district are gaining momentum with every passing day and are successful in creating awareness about the importance of voters' participation and educating prospective voters about the ongoing Special Summary Revision 2023, the DEO added.

## G20 University Connect Conference to be held at Jammu on April 26, 2023

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25: India-The G20 University Connect Conference, is being organized by three Institutes of National Importance (INI's) and the top most institutes of Jammu - IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, and AIIMS Jammu in collaboration with the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), on April 26, 2023 at Convention Centre, Jammu.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir has consented to be the Chief Guest and shall inaugurate the Conference. Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, UT of Jammu & Kashmir will be the Guest of Honour.

The conference aims to bring together experts, policymakers, and academicians from around the country to discuss and deliberate on key issues in alignment with the essence of India's G20 Presidency, with more emphasis on making Jammu as a Global Educational hub in view of the presence of three Institutes of National Importance (INI) i.e. IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, and Central University, Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, Institute of Mass Communication, Industrial Biotech

Park besides, many other local Medical colleges and Universities, across the UT of Jammu. Besides, having the best institutions, Jammu is linked favourably and effectively with the rest of India with excellent Road, Railway, and Air connectivity. This provides a lifetime opportunity to Students, Scholars, and Researchers not only within the country but also from South East Asia and 56 African countries to get the highest standard of education, at the most affordable prices, and in the best and the safest eco and biologically friendly, green environment.

The Conference will be starred with 35 eminent Speakers who are distinguished academicians, medical professionals, and politicians/policy makers. The Conference will be attended by approximately 450 delegates from across the country. It will stress upon and deliberate on the need for enhanced national and international collaborations in tackling global challenges such as climate change, economic recovery, and healthcare with special emphasis on the role of Universities in fostering international cooperation and facilitating knowledge exchange.

The Conference features panel discussions on five key topics - enhancing collaboration, enhancing digital transformation, global trade and business recovery, and next-generation healthcare. The panels will be moderated by distinguished academicians and experts in their respective fields.

The first panel shall discuss ways to enhance collaboration between Nations in addressing global challenges. The panelists will brainstorm the need for greater cooperation in areas such as climate change, energy transition, youth centric efforts, global startup ecosystem, Gender equity and sustainable development agenda and model.

The second panel shall focus on the role of digital transformation in driving digital economic growth, the challenges faced and social development. The panelists will discuss the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things.

The third panel shall delve into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade and business recovery. They shall emphasize on the need for coordinated efforts to restore international trade and investment flows and support the recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises and keeping a good growing trajectory of global economies.

Adviser also reviewed progress on World Bank aided projects like construction of 200 bedded Additional Block at Lal Ded Hospital and 120 bedded Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar. He directed the concerned executing agency for timely tendering of equipments required at these hospitals as well as procurement of material.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Adviser Bhatnagar said that the government is committed to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We are working towards strengthening the health infrastructure ensuring availability of essential medicines and medical equipments in all parts of the region", added the Adviser.

Adviser also directed the Chief Engineer R&B Jammu to complete the works on SDH Marwah, Kishtwar timely as the area remains cut-off during winters.

While reviewing the projects executed by JKCC like Rehmat-e-Alam Hospital Anantnag, GMCs at Anantnag and Baramulla and others, Adviser Bhatnagar directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate

## Adviser Bhatnagar reviews progress on major health projects

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25: Adviser to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired a meeting to review progress on works being executed on major ongoing health projects in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, CEO, ERA, Dr. Syed Abid Rashed Shah; MD JKPC, Director Health Services Kashmir, Principals of all Government Medical Colleges, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu/Kashmir, Director Finance H&ME and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Adviser Bhatnagar took stock of progress made in respect of various health projects funded under PMPD, CSS besides World Bank funded projects being executed by R&B, JKPC and JSERA. He reviewed status of various ongoing works including construction of new hospitals, upgradation of existing health infrastructure and pro-



urement of medical equipment besides supplies for newly established GMCs.

While reviewing the projects being executed by R&B Jammu like GMCs at Kathua, Doda and Rajouri, Adviser directed the concerned executing agency to complete these works timely. He also asked them to prepare DPR for other allied works which were not part of original scope of work so that the works can be started immediately on them.

He stressed the need for effective monitoring and supervision

to ensure timely completion of the projects for delivery of quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, Adviser Bhatnagar also reviewed progress on ongoing works on State Cancer Institute, Jammu, Bone and Joint Hospital Jammu, construction of 100 bedded Mother and Child Care Hospital at Lamberti, Rajouri, SDH, Kishtwar, SDH Bilawar, SDH Sunderbani and others being executed by the R&B Jammu. He directed the executed agency to complete the works on

State Cancer Institute timely and asked the Principal GMC Jammu to make it operational owing to its significance.

Adviser also directed the Chief Engineer R&B Jammu to complete the works on SDH Marwah, Kishtwar timely as the area remains cut-off during winters.

While reviewing the projects executed by JKCC like Rehmat-e-Alam Hospital Anantnag, GMCs at Anantnag and Baramulla and others, Adviser Bhatnagar directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate



# AC accords Administrative Approval for upgradation of Malla Khul to benefit 26 villages of District Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha accorded Administrative Approval for Construction/Improvement of Malla Khul in Beerwah area of District Budgam amounting to Rs. 24.84 Cr.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar



Mehta, Chief Secretary, Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the project meeting. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 24.84 crore, to be funded under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) programme with funding pattern of 90:10 and is expected to irrigate cultivable command area of 1725 hectares during Kharif season and 665 hectares during Rabi season benefiting 26 villages of district Budgam. The decision will enable the Department to repair this canal which is in dilapidated condition and thus requires a full scale construction to prevent leakages and overflow.

The scheme which will run on gravity, with 2.52 Cumecs of discharge with benefit cost ratio of 4.98:1. The construction of the scheme is expected to generate 110458 mandays of skilled and 441831 mandays of unskilled labours in the area. The decision will fulfil the long pending demand to solve the irrigation problem of the area and will lead to conversion of farm agriculture from rain fed to irrigated farming.

# World Malaria Day 2023 observed across Samba



JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 25: World Malaria Day 2023 was today observed across the District Samba under the theme "Time to deliver zero malaria; invest, innovate, implement" to create awareness about malaria; and to intensify preventive measures and preparedness for the control of disease in the district Samba before transmission season starts.

In this regard awareness programmes were organized by the health department all over the district under the overall supervision of Chief Medical Officer, Samba, Dr. Vidhi Bhatnagar.

Awareness events were held at various sites, including Lord Krishna Higher Secondary School Samba and Government Boys Higher Secondary School Samba.

During the Information Education and Communication programmes, awareness lectures and other events were organized. The awareness lectures were delivered to pupils and staff of the school by the health staff and information regarding the signs, symptoms, spread and treatment about malaria was given to the participants. District Health Officer, Dr. Anju Bala appealed the public not to leave water in coolers, tyres, empty bottles, bottle caps, pides etc to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. Bites, Pamphlets regarding malaria were also distributed among the children.

Similar programme was also organised by Medical Superintendent District Hospital Samba at District Hospital Samba and Block Medical Officer Ramgarh at CHC Ramgarh. Poster pasting was also done by the malaria teams in different locations of the district.

# Rehana Batul reviews functioning of Labour & Employment Department

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25: Secretary, Labour and Employment, Rehana Batul, today chaired a meeting to review functioning of Labour and Employment Department besides taking stock of schemes and issues of Directorate of Employment, Buildings and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (B&OCWVB) and Employees State Insurance Society (ESIS). The meeting was attended by Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Munir-ul-Islam, Director Employment, Nissar Ahmed Wani, Labour Commissioner, Abdul R War, Special Secretaries, Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, Roshan Lal, Additional Secretary and other senior officers of the department.

Secretary had detailed discussion on various schemes being implemented by the department besides other relevant departmental issues.

She instructed the officers to implement the schemes of the department in letter and spirit and reach out to the labourers and their families with all welfare measures. She exhorted upon them to create awareness among the



youth about various employment ventures being launched in the UT.

Secretary asked the concerned officers to finalize the recruitment rules of the department expeditiously so as to further streamline functioning of this government entity. Secretary, B&OCWVB, informed the meeting that the Board has disbursed about Rs. 121 crore as education assistance ranging from Rs 2000 to Rs 50,000 per student to the children of registered workers which comes from Cess on construction activities in the UT.

Labour Commissioner shared the latest status of construction of Labour Sarais in districts of the UT. He also informed that there are 8 dispensaries functioning in the UT under Employees State Insurance Society (ESIS) where 1,36,190 insured persons are eligible for getting free health care. He further said that Medical Reimbursement Claim to the tune of Rs. 4.34 crore has also been disbursed among 39321 persons in 2022-23.

# DDC urges Officers to ensure success of campaign in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 25: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program in the district.

The meeting was informed that the program was successfully conducted on the 2nd day in 19 Panchayats of the district with overwhelming participation of the farmers. It was further informed that the programme is being conducted at 259 locations. The District Development Commissioner lauded the successful implementation of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan and urged all officers to work with dedication to make it a successful campaign in the district. The Block Development Officers (BDOs) were directed to revisit the locations in their jurisdiction and report if the need to change locations arises. The stakeholders were also directed to provide all the necessary logistics for Kissan Sampark Abhiyan.

The District Development Commissioner also issued directions for the establishment of a district-level cell for coordinating the campaign. The cell will ensure effective implementation of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan and facilitate the smooth functioning of the campaign.

He said the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan is an essential initiative under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program, aimed to provide a platform for farmers to interact with experts, exchange ideas and knowledge, and learn about new agricultural practices and schemes.

# Secretary Health assesses healthcare arrangements for G20 meetings

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupendra Kumar, today visited Kashmir Nursing Home here at Gupkar to take first hand appraisal of healthcare facilities being made in the Kashmir Nursing Home for the upcoming G20 summit to be held in Kashmir in May.

Secretary was accompanied by Principal Government Medical College, Srinagar, Dr. Tanveer Masood and Director, Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather.

Secretary visited all sections of the



Nursing Home and reviewed ongoing works being executed regarding health care facilities for the G20 summit. He directed the Principal GMC and Medical Superintendent Kashmir Nursing Home to expedite the pending works and make the hospital fully ready in all respects within a fortnight. He also directed the Medical Superintendent to increase the OPD footfalls of the hospital so that the people are benefited at large. Pertinent to mention, Secretary Health and Medical Education has been regularly taking stock of healthcare arrangements for G20 meetings to ensure all requisite facilities available for the visiting dignitaries. The medical staff is being trained and updated regarding healthcare equipment and facilities which will be available during the G20 summit.

Superintendent Kashmir Nursing Home to expedite the pending works and make the hospital fully ready in all respects within a fortnight. He also directed the Medical Superintendent to increase the OPD footfalls of the hospital so that the people are benefited at large. Pertinent to mention, Secretary Health and Medical Education has been regularly taking stock of healthcare arrangements for G20 meetings to ensure all requisite facilities available for the visiting dignitaries. The medical staff is being trained and updated regarding healthcare equipment and facilities which will be available during the G20 summit.

# Black Topping work on BGBSU Road commences under close supervision of DDC Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 25: The much-awaited Black Topping work on Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGBSU) Road has finally commenced today, under the close scrutiny of District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal. After conducting an on-site review the other day, the DDC Rajouri discovered that the contractor was delaying the Black Topping process, which prompted strict directives to ensure timely completion.

With prior permission and in the presence of PWD authorities, the contractor has now started the Black Topping work on the road, following DDC Rajouri's strict directions. The public of the area has expressed their appreciation for the efforts of DDC Rajouri in ensuring the timely completion of this Rs 26 crore project.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the highest quality standards, DDC Rajouri has warned against any laxity in this regard. The timely completion of the project is of utmost importance and strict directives have been passed to ensure that it is achieved.

"We are committed to provide better roads and infrastructure to the public of Rajouri and we remain dedicated to ensuring that the BGBSU Road Black Topping work is completed on time and with the highest quality standards" the DC said.

# DC Srinagar reviews Action Plans for Reclaiming & Greening of denuded Hill slopes, IEC activities and Roadside plantation under NCAP

RS 2.50 CR PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FOUNTAINS ALONG SAKIDAFAR-AALI MASJID ROAD AXIS TO BE TAKEN UP UNDER NCAP TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY INDEX

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25:- A Meeting of District Level Implementation Committee on National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the Action Plans for reclaiming & Greening of Hills, IEC activities and Roadside plantation under NCAP. Besides, Regional Director, Pollution Control Board, Kashmir, Rafi Ahmad Bhat and Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, the meeting was attended by Secretary SDA, Chief



Agriculture Officer, DFO Urban, FCS&CA RTO, Traffic Police. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed Action plans proposed by the Sub Committees constituted for Reclaiming & Greening of denuded Hill slopes, IEC activities and Roadside plantation under NCAP in Srinagar District. On the occasion, a three-hour discussion was held on the Action Plans proposed by the concerned Departments. Srinagar aimed to reduce PM10 levels by 2025 to improve Air Quality Index in the District. While reviewing the Action Plan for Reclaiming & Greening of Hills, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that 3 spots have been identified by the Committee which shall be developed through plantation and green cover with visible impact particularly in stone quarry/mining affected areas and barren patches of the mountains. The DC was also apprised that DPR of Rs 2.50 crore for construction of water fountains along Sakidafar-Aali Masjid Road Axis under NCAP to reduce the air pollution in the area.

Similarly, with regard to roadside plantation under NCAP, the DC asked the Executive Engineer Landscape Division to prepare a comprehensive DPR for undertaking plantation/green cover in on Central verges along important junctions of the City including Pandrathen-Athwajan Axis and Panthachok-Lasjan Axis. During the meeting, a detailed discussion was also held with regard to the IEC related activity plan under NCAP was also discussed to attain a better Air Quality Index in the years ahead.

# DDC Reasi reviews disposal of FRA claims

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI APRIL 25: District Development Commissioner Reasi Bhaba Rakwal today reviewed the progress on the disposal of claims received from Tribal Communities under Forest Rights Act claims.

At the outset of the meeting, DFO Reasi Jyotsna sensitized the stakeholders regarding the Forest Rights Act and directed Field functionaries of the Forest Department to spread awareness among the masses.

Assistant Commissioner Development Reasi Anirudh Rai issued directions to the Field functionaries of the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj to conduct meetings of Forest Right Committees at Panchayat level and coordinate with the line departments to conduct joint verification of the claims and hold Gramsabhas to settle the claims under Forest Right Act.

In the concluding remarks, DDC Reasi issued instructions to all the stakeholders to complete the process to dispose of the claims under the said Act in a time bound manner. The meeting was attended by BDOs, Range Officers and FRC Chairmen/members.