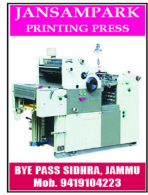




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Lt Gen Aujla takes over as Col of Rajputana Rifles

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 26

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's Chinार Corps Lt Gen ADS Aujla on Wednesday took over the mantle of Colonel of the Regiment (COR) of Rajputana Rifles from Lt Gen CP Cariappa.

Lt Gen ADS Aujla has taken over as the 19th Colonel of the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

'Militants who killed 5 soldiers in Poonch got logistics from locals'

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APR 26

Over 30 people have been arrested in the Rajouri-Poonch belt in connection with the militant attack that left 5 Rashtriya Rifles soldiers dead.

An army vehicle had come under fire in the Bhatadur village of Poonch district last week. The army vehicle had caught fire after

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor addresses National Conference on India@G20



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the National Conference on 'India@G20', today at the Convention Centre.

The Conference was organized by IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, in collaboration with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICC) to deliberate upon priorities, prospects and way forward for creating an inclusive & sustainable society.

"The aspirations of humanity can be fulfilled

only in the conditions of peace. And, I strongly believe, 'Ahimsa' deeply rooted in our great civilization, is making the world realize the futility of conflict and utility of dialogue," said the Lt Governor.

During India's G20 presidency, green, accelerated, inclusive & sustainable growth are top priorities and the world is looking at us with a hope to deal with the challenges of Covid, Climate Change and Conflict, observed the Lt Governor. "Hon'ble Prime Minister

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor reviews power situation during the upcoming summer months



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a meeting of Power Development Department to review power situation during the upcoming summer months, today at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the various aspects to meet the high electricity demand and a multi-pronged strategy to ensure adequate availability of power.

The Lt Governor directed the officers to strictly implement the decisions taken in the earlier meetings to meet any peak demand and proactive actions for robust power distribution & transmission system.

The Lt Governor also directed to launch a campaign against theft of electricity.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

PM Modi Says Covid Showed Borders Cannot Stop Threats To Health, Calls For Integrated Global Response

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for an integrated, inclusive and institutional global response to healthcare challenges, saying the Covid pandemic showed that borders cannot stop threats to health in a deeply-connected world.

In his virtual address to the "One Earth One Health - Advantage Healthcare India 2023", Modi said a collective response to healthcare issues is one



of the focus areas during India's ongoing G20 presidency.

"Our goal is to make healthcare accessible and affordable, not only for

our citizens but for the whole world," he said. Citing an ancient Sanskrit shloka, the Prime Minister said India

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

AC approves proposal for 4G saturation of all uncovered villages

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved transfer of land free of charge in favour of BSNL (Government of

India Enterprises), for saturation of 4G mobile services in all the uncovered villages across J&K.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K; and Mandeep Kumar Bandhri, Principal Secre-

tary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

This decision is in consonance with the policy decision of the Union Government for providing land free of charge for saturation of 4G mobile services. In J&K, there

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CS Launches 3 online initiatives of Revenue Department

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched 3 online services of the Revenue and Registration Departments.

The services include Downloading of Registered Document, Aadhaar based authentication and online portal of Evacuee Property.

The launch was attended by Financial Commissioner Revenue Shaleen Kabra, Commissioner Secretary IT Prerna Puri and Secretary Revenue Dr. Piyush Singla, IGR J&K Sheikh Arshad Ayub, Custodian General Rajesh Sharma and other officers of the Revenue Department.

The feature of online downloading will enable citizens to have access to



the copy of registered document immediately upon registration and thus, shall no longer have to visit the Sub Registrar Office on the next day to collect it. This shall save time and effort of the citizens as well as

substantially reduce the burden on the official staff.

This will further entail the change in PSA timelines from 2 days to a single day.

Aadhaar based authentication in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

'Very difficult' to engage with a neighbour who practises Cross-Border Terrorism: EAM Jaishankar on Pak

JNEWS SERVICE
PANAMA CITY, APR 26

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is "very difficult" for India to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against the country.

His blunt remarks came days after Pakistan confirmed that its Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit India for a key meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Goa early next month.

"We both are members of the SCO. So, we typically attend meetings. We are the chair of the (SCO) this year. So, the meeting is taking place in India.



The bottom line of this issue is that it is for us very difficult to engage with a neighbour who practises cross-border terrorism against us," Jaishankar said here at a joint press briefing on Monday with his counterpart from Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencomu.

"We have always said that they have to deliver

environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

Pakistan's foreign office announced on April 20 that Foreign Minister Bilawal would participate in the SCO meeting to be held in Goa on May 4-5.

"Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahrah Baloch said at a weekly media briefing in Islamabad.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the

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Dr Jitendra, UK Minister George Freeman Discuss 'Roadmap 2030'

JNEWS SERVICE
LONDON, APR 26

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today held a one on one meeting with the British Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, George Freeman.

The wide range of issues discussed by the two Ministers included UK India "Roadmap 2030" Dr Jitendra Singh

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Special NIA court issues non-bailable warrants against 23 Terrorists hiding in Pakistan

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

A special NIA court has issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists operating from across the border after exfiltrating from their home district of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

This was the second time that the special NIA Court, Jammu has issued non-bailable warrants against the terrorists hiding in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on the request of the police since March.

Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 terrorists.

"Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period

of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them to bring them to book," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said while a special NIA court issued non-bailable warrants against 13 of them on March 1, a fresh non-bailable warrant was issued against the rest of the 23 terrorists on Tuesday.

"We want to arrest all of them and are approaching Interpol so that a Red Corner notice is issued. The process has already been initiated and we are sure to arrange their presence in the court of law," the officer said.

He said the fresh non-bailable warrants have been issued in a case registered at police

Tele-MANAS helpline receives more than 10,000 calls since its launch in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 26

In a significant achievement towards providing quality mental healthcare for all, the UT level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, established at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, has received more than 10,000 calls since its inception in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first-of-its-kind mental health helpline, launched on November 4, 2022, is a three-tier system that has mental health counselors, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists available for patients' calls.

Doctors at IMHANS informed that since its launch, they have received 10,000 calls including



the number of calls have increased and the quality of calls also. People who took first consultation are calling for follow-ups also with psychologists and psychiatrists," he said.

Secretary added that Tele MANAS would also be linked to e-Schaj portal where doctor can prescribe the medicine. "We want people to use this facility and tele MANAS is the way forward. It is more important for remote and far-off places where there is a shortage of doctors and specialists," he added.

Mission Director, NHM J&K, Ayushi Sudan, said there is a lot of stigma attached to mental health issues adding that with Tele-MANAS, people are coming forward with these issues. "The individual calls reach to

Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a great reformer, visionary, a revolutionary, a patriotic ruler: Ravinder Raina

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 26

Jammu & Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party, leaders remembered and paid tributes to Late Maharaja Hari Singh ji on his death anniversary across the Union Territory of J&K.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, accompanied by other senior party leaders paid tributes to Maharaja at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina said that Maharaja Hari Singh ji was a great reformer, visionary, a revolutionary and a patriotic ruler who forcefully established the idea of free India in First Indian Round Table Conference held at London. He said that the whole of Jammu & Kashmir bows



to Maharaja for his reformative roles in the state. He said that the Maharaja was a true nationalist and patriot who played an important role in the independence struggle. Maharaja joined the whole of Jammu & Kashmir including the areas that are now under illegal occupation. He was also instrumental in framing Jura Parishad and all the prominent struggles of the common masses in J&K, he added.

Former MP Shamsher Singh Manhas also paid tributes to Maharaja and said that Maharaja Hari Singh ji was a great visionary, philanthropist and a dynamic personality. He said that Maharaja was the last Dogra ruler of the State who was much popular among common masses.

Sat Sharma, while paying tributes said that Maharaja was a secular leader of masses in the true sense, who had

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Unity of opposition imperative to depose the authoritarian, fascist BJP: Harsh Dev



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 26: Emphasizing the need for unity amongst the various political parties to ensure revival of democracy and rule of law in the country, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Education Minister and State President, J&K National Panthers Party (JKNPP) said that collective efforts were required to be made to provide an alternative to the present dictatorial regime of BJP. The BJP govt would continue to harass, humiliate and persecute its rivals and to deprive them of their basic democratic and constitutional rights until and unless the opposition leaders joined hands against its authoritarian and despotic rule, observed Mr. Singh. He said that disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from

parliament membership was the cruelest joke in the constitutional history of the country which would be remembered as one of the darkest chapters in democratic jurisprudence the world over. He said the congress leader was the victim of dirty politics of present rulers who needed to be opposed, exposed and finally deposed. He was addressing a workers' meeting in Udhampur today. "BJP is hell bent on demolishing the opposition. It wants to establish one party system. It's breaking opposition parties through money and muscle power. It was further resorting to coercion, threats, intimidation and persecution to bully the opposition leaders and eventually make them fall in line. The opposition

leaders are either dubbed as anti-nationals or intimidated and harassed through govt agencies including ED, NIA and CBI. BJP leaders accused of corrupt practices, land grabbing, dis-proportionate assets and other fishy deals are being given immunity while questioning even the sincere motives of opposition leaders. Those who have the temerity to speak are silenced through coercive apparatus of state. Dissent is bludgeoned through the iron fist of vigilantes and other state bodies. With hardly any scope for individual political parties to make themselves heard, it's the collective pursuit of people's agenda that needs to be the priority concern of all nationalist, pro-people parties, said Harsh. Mr. Singh said that grad-

ual slide of democracy into dictatorship was more clearly discernible in J&K as well. Not only was J&K robbed of its statehood status and deprived of legitimate elected govt but people were being subjected to the most unpopular rule of outside bureaucrats who hardly have any knowledge of J&K and its peculiar problems. The govt is resorting to strong arm methods to evict the poor, indigent masses from their small, marginal land holdings and uprooting their houses, shops and other permanent structures without any qualms of conscience. Unemployment is at its peak and govt jobs are being openly auctioned. The contractuels, daily wagers and other temporary workers are agitating for their rights with none to listen to their shrill cries for justice. Property tax is being imposed without the nod of J&K legislature.

The all-round decline in leadership is leading to alienation and calls for united fight by opposition parties against the mis-rule and atrocities of the present regime. It's high time therefore that all political parties except BJP having faith in the Indian Constitution and its Flag joined hands to restore justice with dignity to the people of the incarcerated land of J&K, said Mr. Singh.

Kisan Samapark Abhiyan concludes at Qila Darhal, Nowshera

JJ NEWS SERVICE

NOWSHERA, APR 26: In line with series of series of Three-days Kisan Samapark Abhiyan launched in Jammu Kashmir, under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was organised in various blocks of Rajouri districts at Panchayat Level. Whole programme across length and breadth of district is being implemented under able guidance Dr Sarfaraz Nadeem, District Nodal Officer HADP and S Sohan Singh Chief Agriculture Officer Rajouri alongwith other sectoral officers of allied departments. S Gurjeet Singh Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Nowshera alongwith RAJ Kumar, Subject Matter Specialist supervised the conduct of programme in different venues in Nowshera, Qila Darhal, Seri and Doongi blocks.

In Qila Darhal block the programme was held by



Agriculture Deptt at Community hall Androoth with active cooperation PRI members. Agriculture Deptt Resource Persons (Orientation) on the occasion for imparting trainings to farmers were Kamal Jit Singh, Circle Officer Zone Nowshera and Parbhakar Khajuria Panchayat Officer Laroka. PRI members, especially Sarpanch of Androoth, Mohd Azam extend full

cooperation for conduct of programme. In the three days programme around 120 farmers of various villages of Androoth were given basic orientation cum trainings for scientific and profitable farming. Based on various plans under new Flagship plan namely HADP, farmers including youth and women were urged upon to adopt self-employment generating ventures like

formation of Farm Producer Organisations/ Self Help Groups, mushroom growing, dairy, food /fruit processing and others. Similar programmes were held in other panchayats in Nowshera and adjoining blocks. In Bhajnowa Resource Persons (Orientation) included Dr Dalbir Singh Sudan, VAS and Jaspreet Singh ,Panchayat Officer Agriculture Deptt.

SHRIMAD BHAGWAT KATHA BEGINS WITH KALASH YATRA



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: A huge Kalash Yatra was taken out with great enthusiasm and religious fervour, to mark the beginning of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha at Lower Roop Nagar, here.

The atmosphere became devotional with the chanting of hymns and chants by the devotees who took part in the Kalash Yatra led by Mahant Ramdass Jaganni Ji accompanied by drums. Shrimad Bhagwat Katha started with the installation

of urns after worshipping. Hundreds of devotees drawn from different parts of Jammu and its outskirts participated in the inaugural programme. Mahant Ramdass Jaganni Ji gave religious discourses on Lord Krishna's life and spirituality. He, while highlighting the teachings of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta, said that it is the unique scripture in the world which shows the path how to get rid of the bandages of life and attain Mooksha. Mahant Ramdass

Ji also said Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta is a perfect guide to a human being and he who acts as per its teachings will never face any problem but will overcome the worldly bondages and attain perfection in life. Mahant Ramdass Ji, while making a reference to Bhagwat Geeta and the piece of advice given by Lord Krishna to his beloved Arjuna who wanted to leave the battlefield and renounce the world, gladly took to arms to fight against the injustice after Lord

Krishna showed him the path of righteousness. Speaking on the occasion, Former legislator and senior BJP leader Shiv Dev Singh, who was the chief guest on the occasion, gave information about Shrimad Bhagwat to the present devotees and said that by listening to it the sins of our many births are destroyed. He told the present devotees that if we want inner peace, then we have to increase our efforts to do our duty always with a pure mind. At the same time, we must take some time out to remember God, so that pure thoughts can emerge within us. He added, Shiv Dev added that a person has many means of comfort, but if the mind is not at peace, then he does not like anything and the one who has peace in his mind does not need any material things. If the mind is calm then no demerit can enter into us, he said. Prominent persons among others present on the occasion include Corporators Tripta Devi and Surinder Sharma, District President BJP Omi Khajuria, and BJP leader Suresh Khajuria.

BFDC remembers Maharaja Hari Singh on death anniversary



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) on Wednesday remembered Maharaja Hari Singh on his 55th death anniversary. Rajev Charak, President BFDC accompanied by other senior activists assembled at Maharaja Hari Singh statue, near police station, Bahu E Bahu, Bahu Fort Chowk and paid tributes, last Dogra rural by offering floral tributes to his statue. Paying tributes to Maharaja, BJP leader and Bahu Fort Development Committee President Rajev Charak threw light on the life journey of late Maharaja.

He said Maharaja had signed accession Union of India on October 26, 1947 and changed the fate of Jammu and Kashmir.

Charak said that after the merger, he was forced to exile from the state.

There was a sense of respect and love towards Dogras and they were all unconditionally and willingly ready to come with India, the only one who was not ready was Sheikh Abdullah, staunch Muslim and a leader confined to the Kashmir Valley only, he was from India. Rajev Charak said that Lord Mountbatten, Sheikh Abdullah and Pt. The conspiracies of Nehru's trio had a big hand. He said that Lord Mountbatten, with the help of Ramchandra Kak, then Prime Minister of the Maharaja's princely state, Ramchandra Kak, kept inciting him to put pressure on the Maharaja.

Rajev Charak said that Pt. Nehru was pressing that even if the merger was delayed or the Pakistani tribal army occupied the valley, the power of the princely state should be given to the Sheikh in any case, but the Maharaja was strongly against it.

Charak said that it is with great sadness that we have to say that the power-hungry wolves came down on the beasts, Pt. Nehru even said that if the entire valley is not invaded by Pakistan, after the Sheikh gets power, we will evacuate the valley with the help of the Indian army.

Charak said that finally two and a half months after the country's independence, the Maharaja signed the same merger agreement as the merger agreement for all the remaining princely states.

After being exiled from the state for eighteen years, the patriot Maharaja took his last breath in a hospital bed on April 26, only a few staff were standing by him, but no one else from his family was present there.

Local councillor Sham Lal Basan also paid tribute and said that Maharaja Hari Singh.

He said during his reign, he formed the Vidhan Sabha and made members from all religions and classes and empowered Gram Panchayats, which were then used to resolve communal conflicts in the villages.

Speaking on this occasion, Bahadur Lal, president Saryara Sabha also remembered the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh. At the end of the program, a cleanliness drive was taken at Maharaja Hari Singh Park.

On this occasion, local SHO Aarti Thakur, Baldev Raj Nagotra, Th.Naseeb Singh, Haradesh Khokhar, Vikram Singh Goria, Dr Devendra Singh, Ashok Vaid, Sumit Nagotra, Suresh Kumar and other were presented.

Tiny Scholar School Kathua Organize Certificate Distribution Function

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APR 26: Felicitating is inspiration to others and motivation to whom you are felicitating. It's tremendous to felicitate our brilliant students for their hard work and dedication. Tiny scholars' family feel immense pleasure to appreciate the deserving one who took participated in the SOF examination and brought appreciation. Gold Medals and certificates were given to the students. Tiny Scholar Tiny Scholar Director Manisha Gupta & said We consider children as our future. So, we should brighten up their future by bringing



forth the hidden talents of the children. Principal Reena Khajuriya said Our school truly believes that good education plays a crucial role in building a bright future for our children. Therefore, here we are committed to providing an atmosphere to our students where they all can imbibe good values and learn new things every day.

BJP Minority Morcha Jammu and Kashmir Convenes Meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: In connection with organising different meetings of workers involving general masses and to form booth Committees, "BJP Minority Morcha" convened a meeting of district Prabharies, 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 JKUT. "All the office bearers and Prabharies are required to organise meetings and mass contact programs for awareness in their respective mandals and areas with effect from 15th of May 2023 to 15th of June 2023 to highlight the achievements of



Central govt led by BJP and the direct benefits of different developmental schemes to the public during its 9 years tenure," Nalwa stated adding further that the gaps whatsoever between the common man and the BJP leadership need to be filled

to strengthen the party at grass roots levels and to instill faith in masses effectively. Meanwhile, as per directions of Nalwa, similar program was held at Srinagar in which District presidents, Mandal Pradhans, Constituency

Prabharies and other office bearers of the Morcha took part. The meeting was convened by the Sheikh Bashir Incharge(MM), and was attended by Amar Jeet Singh (Vice President MM), Imtiaz Butt General Secretary JKUT.

Mann Ki Baat, an apolitical discourse between the government and its people : Rekha

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan held a press conference here at Party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar Jammu in the presence of District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and Pushpinder Singh Charak including Mandal Presidents. In a statement issued by Rekha Mahajan said the main motto of the meeting is to elaborate on the upcoming PM Modi's Mann ki Baat 100 episode which is going to be broadcast on 30 April on all social media platforms. Rekha Mahajan said during the press conference that Powerful and decisive leadership of PM Narendra Modi, his emotional connect with audience, cited as reasons for popularity by the listeners. Mann Ki Baat, an apolitical discourse between the government and its people. Mann Ki Baat has become a source of encouragement for citizens to share their success stories and work towards nation-building she added.

In Mann Ki Baat episodes PM has continuously raised a multitude of issues and events. As a result entire nation has come to know and got charmed by the excellence of India's wonderful acts. PM emphasis on sense of unity and oneness in all Indians irrespective of their caste, creed or economical status. Evoking a sense of love, faith and pride in every Indian towards our tricolour. Call for "Har Ghar tiranga" propel a com-



passion around the country by evoking spirit of Jan bhagidari. It has proved to be a platform where every citizen is able to join this positive transformation.

Rekha highlighted that 'Mann Ki Baat 100' will be written on the coin during the historical program worldwide on 30 April. Rekha emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is universally acknowledged as an exceptionally gifted communicator who can establish instant rapport with the masses. His oratorical skills are only one explanation for this unique ability. The sincerity with which he speaks, the integrity which he is known for, and the trust-based relationship he has struck with the people over the past eight years all contribute to his success as a mass communicator, Rekha said.

Rekha asserted that the first episode of Mann Ki Baat was aired on October 3, 2014. It will complete 100 episodes on April 30, 2023. Mann Ki

Baat is unique in terms of its subject matter, design, interaction, and innovative way of communicating with the people and society as a whole. Through All India Radio - the largest radio network in the world with 262 stations and over 375 private and community stations - the PM reaches a vast spectrum of a socio-economically and culturally diverse populace, inspires and energizes them not just on social, cultural, and economic issues but also on challenging problems that the world is facing today, such as the climate crisis, waste management and the energy crisis she added. During the press conference, Rekha Mahajan directed all party cadres to celebrate the big event with pomp and show in all mandals, wards as well as in both levels in Jammu District South. She also asked cadres to sit and listen to the historic 100 episode in the midst of the general public and celebrate the event like a festival.

Dy Mayor, JMC Commissioner visits vegetable markets, take stock of their problems

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: Deputy Mayor of Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria along with Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) visited Vegetable Market, Indira Chowk and Trikuta Complex BC road and took stock of the problem of the market.

The Deputy Mayor of Jammu and the JMC Commissioner were given a warm welcome by the Market Association. They took a round of the market and interacted with the shopkeepers to understand their problems. The shopkeepers expressed their grievances regarding the lack of basic amenities, inadequate parking spaces, poor sanitation, and other issues.

The Main demand of the Vegetable market association that the new construction of the multipurpose complex molded be like Palika Bazaar Delhi.

Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria assured the shopkeepers that the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) will take all possible steps to ensure the smooth functioning of the market and to make sure that the shopkeepers get their due rights. He assured the associations of taking necessary steps and providing them with the required facilities. He also directed the authorities to come up with a plan for the betterment of the market and to resolve the issues faced by the shopkeepers. He also asked the shopkeepers to cooperate with the JMC in their efforts to improve the market. Trikuta shopping complex welfare association express his grievances regarding the dilapidated conditions of road leading



to Trikuta complex in front of the Deputy Mayor of Jammu. While interacting with the Trikuta shopping complex association, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria assured them that their grievances would be addressed and much improved basic services will be provided to them. He asked the officer of concerned department to immediately prepare estimates and take up the works for remaining development works in the area. He also appealed the general public not to use polythene carry bags as

according to him, polythene materials block the nullahs and drains.

The visit of the Deputy Mayor and the JMC Commissioner was appreciated by the shopkeepers of Vegetable Market, Indira Chowk and Trikuta Complex BC Road. They expressed their satisfaction with the efforts taken by the JMC to improve the functioning of the market. Prominent among those present were Pritam Sharma, Suraj Sharma, Tarun Gupta, Raj Kumar Rajinder Bhagat, Krishan Gupta, Ravi Sharma and others.

Panchayati Raj celebrates at MV International School

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: In order to celebrate National Panchayati Raj Day, MV International School organised a guest lecture to raise awareness among the students. Sh. Sidharth Dhiman, JKAS Assistant Commissioner Development Samba was the guest speaker. Students of class 8th were briefed about the importance of Panchayat Raj on this occasion. He stated that National Panchayati Raj Day (National Local Self-Government Day) is the national day of Panchayati Raj System in India, which is celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 24th April every year. Main objective was to interact with the students and tell



them about democratic participation, how to better articulate local needs and priorities and how to ensure an efficient use of local resources along with greater accountability and transparency. Further he apprised the students about various segments of government system; their

functions and responsibilities. During the question answer session he listened to the student's queries and judiciously answered them. He praised the students for listening carefully and asking appropriate questions. Director, Mr. Gourav Abrol also enlightened students with his words of

wisdom, he thanked the guest speaker and Chairman Sh. Hira Lal Abrol for sparing their time to motivate the students. He thanked the guest speaker for valuable inputs, that he had shared with the students and approached the staff and students for their inquisitiveness.

People's sufferings increased manifold in absence of popular Govt: Jan

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APR 26: People's sufferings have increased manifold in absence of popular or duly elected representatives of Government in Jammu and Kashmir and it is an irony that there are no takers of people's basic issues in the Administration.

This was observed by Ajaz Jan, Provincial President Youth National Conference Jammu and senior NC leader while addressing Core Committee meeting of JKNC at district Poonch. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of Haji Bhag Hussain Rathore, District President National Conference Poonch in which Core Committee of party workers of JKNC and JKYNCP Poonch Block took part.

The senior NC leader said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fed-up with lies, riddle policies and misuse of BJP. He said that by not allowing the Assembly elections to take place in J&K were the most blatant violation of the Constitution of India by incumbent Government at the Centre.

Jan asserted that in J&K, the people continue to suffer badly in absence of the popular government. The bureaucratic rule has failed to address the burning issues of the people and the Govt must ensure that elections are held in the state at the earliest, he added.

Earlier, the participants expressed displeasure against the government



contrary to the claims of development but unfortunately no development was seen on ground.

Ajaz Jan said the J&K government has failed on event front. He said that the people are being subjected to face discrimination on every front and they were deprived of basic amenities. "At present, no ration was available, substandard work being carried out especially blacktopping work of roads in the entire District. The blacktopping works has completed within just one month which seems to be totally sub standard and openly fraud with the public," he said.

Jan said that every section is troubled at this time whether he is a businessman, employee, contractor, youth or senior citizen. People in Panchayats are not getting funds under MGNREGA, payment of contractors pending since 2019, he said. He asserted that the government has

failed to provide salary/honorarium to Panchs and Sarpanchs.

The people residing in rural areas are facing steep motherly treatment of government. They are not getting regular power and water supply, he added.

Jan said that the government is afraid of holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as the present government knows very well that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will answer it the way they have been treated in the upcoming elections which is the main reason that the government is not ready to conduct elections. The senior NC leader exhorted upon the party workers to get ready for the upcoming Panchayat and ULC elections in Jammu and Kashmir and make all possible efforts in making people aware about the achievements of National Conference.

Team Aradhana-A Ray of hope organizes yearly picnic for slum kids

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, APR 26: Aradhana - a ray of hope (AAROH) is a non profit organisation working for the education and upliftment of the underprivileged section of the society emphasizing on children the most. Education is the only means to get them out of the state that currently sustain in. The organisation does year round activities for the children one being the annual picnics.

Around 55 students and 10 members were present in the picnic.

Excursions are a medium of great educational value especially for students. It's important to boost the confidence of students by exposing them to new envi-

ronments. It also helps them to gear up for the next events pertaining to studies.

A one day round annual picnic was organised for children where they sang and danced on the way as the bus speeded through various scenic views.

They relished breakfast at local restaurants. The first stop was at Sanasar, this picturesque spot is akin to Gulmarg of Kashmir. There, Jammu's first Tulip Garden enabled them to witness different kinds of colorful Tulips. Outdoor games including Football, Badminton and tug of war was played amid the lush green meadows surrounding the mesmerizing view of the Sanasar Lake. The next

stops were Nathotop and Patnitop which serves as perfect tourist destination. It is famous for its seasonal charm, spring blossoms, snow peaks view, adventure sporting activities,

Ramban: Illicit timber seized, one arrested for green felling

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 25: A team of Ramban Forest Division led by Range Officer Altaf Hussain Wani and Block Officer Rajgarh Charan Dass Manhas today arrested a man for illegal green felling in compartment 58/R Rajgarh Block.

Based on the preliminary inquiry, the accused was arrested under relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. In this regard, damage Case No. 01/2023-24 for violation of section 26 and 69 A of Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been registered by Range Officer Ramban and illicit timber has been seized and further investigation has started.

Administration's unnecessary interference in recruitment process, LG's intervention must: Gupta

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has alleged that the Union Territory Administration is unnecessarily interfering in the functioning of recruitment agencies as a result of which the future of the J&K youth has been plunged into darkness.

In a statement issued to media persons here today, the senior National Conference leader said that the Govt's claims regarding fairness and transparency are shrouded in the shadow of doubt as youth of this Union Territory have become the worst victims of the multiple recruitment scams under the incumbent administration of which FAA, fire emergency serv-



ices and SI exams and several other recruitment exams were cancelled and the LG Govt can't disown the responsibility of having utterly failed in ensuring fair, transparent and timely exams as well as the recruitment process as a result of which the youth can only see a bleak future in front of them.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that already unemployment is at peak in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and in view of

discrepancies on the part of LG administration the job aspirants have been compelled to come on roads for their genuine rights. Not only this even the daily wagers are the worst victims of the incompetence of the J&K Govt and they too have been compelled on roads for their genuine demand of regularization.

It is really an irony that these daily wagers who spent the whole life serving in Govt departments are still without any job security and benefit of Govt schemes because of their non-regularization. He questioned the Govt asking the Lt Governor that what will be the future of youth in Jammu and Kashmir if the things regarding recruitments and regularization keep on going in such a mess and chaotic situation. He demanded that the Govt must clear the

mist on the issue and clarify as to whether it is at all interested in addressing the said significant issues or not.

The senior NC leader while seeking LG's intervention on the issue said that the there is ample evidence of LG's orders being violated by the concerned bureaucrats in the Administration. Citing the example of the Govt order on recruitment under J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) he said that the orders issued in 2022 on the directions of the LG regarding not holding of oral tests are being violated and there is a huge outcry among all the job aspirants who feel that the Govt is hell bent upon ruining their future. He said that LG's immediate intervention is necessary before it is too late and the situation goes out of control.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor addresses...

Narendra Modi Ji gave a new vision to the world that climate change cannot be fought from conference tables alone but it has to be fought from the dinner tables in every home. This will pave the way for sustainable and inclusive development," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor stressed upon synergy between developmental activities and environment conservation to ensure global prosperity and better quality of life for all. He further observed that Ecological security will lead to economic security and strengthen our social development initiatives.

"India will play the most important & constructive role for climate future and shape the action plan for mitigation, adaptation and environmental management systems. India will guide the world towards achieving the goal of environmentally sustainable development," he said.

The Lt Governor said that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, India has given a new social model to the world for equitable development.

Atma-Nirbhar Bharat, Make In India and Digital India have provided a robust framework for rapid and sustainable growth, he added.

The Lt Governor also underscored the important role of premier institutions like IIM, IIT & AIIMS and the youth to provide future solutions to humanity.

He further emphasized on exchange of best practices and increased cooperation between the countries for Digitally Empowered Society and Knowledge-based Economy.

G20 represents 60% of the world population, accounts 85% of global GDP and 75% of global trade. It is an confident that India's G20 presidency will give new impetus to global relations and strengthen the spirit of "One Earth, One Family, One Future", he added.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary also shared his views and highlighted the efforts to fulfil India's G20 goals.

Dr. Milind Kamble Chairman, BoG, IIM Jammu; Dr. Sharad Saraf, Chairman, BoG, IIT Jammu; Prof YK Gupta, President AIIMS Jammu; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Prof Shaikhi Gupta, Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu; Prof Manoj Singh, Gur, Director, IIT Jammu, besides delegates from across the country, prominent citizens and students were present.

Lt Governor reviews...

He said cases of theft should be tackled on priority since it is an important aspect to ensure energy security to all.

The Lt Governor sought a detailed report on the ongoing power sector projects such as installation of pre-paid meters. He directed the officers to analyse all the issues such as manpower augmentation & rationalisation to provide better power services to the people of J&K.

He further instructed to complete the augmentation and upgradation work of Grid stations on a foot footing.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department on actions taken on the directions during the previous review meeting.

The Lt Governor also launched Real-Time Data acquisition system (RT-DAS). The system would provide real-time access to performance parameters pertaining to different feeders besides other benefits.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department along with other senior officials attended the meeting.

PM Modi Says Covid...

had believed in an inclusive vision of everyone being happy and free of diseases. Even thousands of years ago, when there were no global pandemics, India's vision for health was universal, he said.

"Today, when we say 'One Earth One Health', it is the same thought in action. Further, our vision is not restricted to just humans. It extends to our whole ecosystem. From plants to animals, from soil to rivers, when everything around us is healthy, we can be healthy," he added.

Noting that India started the journey of its G20 presidency with the theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future", he said it realises the importance of resilient global healthcare systems in fulfilling this vision.

He said India's goal is to make healthcare accessible and affordable, not only for its citizens but for the whole world. Reducing disparity is India's priority and serving the unserved is an article of faith for it, he said.

Health ministers of several countries besides delegates from West Asia, SAARC, ASEAN and the African region are participating in the conclave.

The meeting resonates with India's G20 presidency theme, he said, noting that hundreds of participants from many countries are attending it.

"It is great to have stakeholders from public and private sectors, from professional and academic domains. This is symbolic of the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means the world is one family," he added.

Modi said, "The once-in-a-century pandemic reminded the world of a number of truths. It showed us that in a deeply connected world, borders cannot stop threats to health. At a time of crisis, the world also saw how countries in the Global South had to face difficulties and even denial of resources." True progress, he said, is people-centric. No matter how many advances are made in medical science, access must be assured to the last person at the last mile, he said, noting that many nations during the Covid-19 realised the importance of a trusted partner in the healthcare domain.

Modi said India is proud to have been a partner to many nations in the noble mission of saving lives through vaccines and medicines. Made-In-India vaccines were developed by its vibrant science and technology sector and the country was home to the largest and fastest Covid-19 vaccination drive in the world. India also shipped 300 million doses of the vaccines to over 100 countries, underlining its capability and commitment. "We will continue to be a friend to every nation that seeks good health for its citizens," he said.

He said lack of illness is often equated with good health but India's view of health does not stop at lack of illness. Being free of diseases is just a stage on the

way to wellness and our goal is wellness and welfare for everyone. Our goal is physical, mental and social well-being, he said.

When it comes to holistic healthcare, India has many important strengths like talent, technology, track record and tradition. The world has seen the impact of Indian doctors as they are widely respected for their competence and commitment, he said, lauding the services of the country's nurses and other caregivers.

"There are many healthcare systems across the world that benefit from the talent of Indian professionals. India has tremendous diversity in culture, climate and social dynamics. Healthcare professionals trained in India are exposed to diverse experiences. This helps them develop skills that can meet the needs of different situations. This is why Indian healthcare talent has won the world's trust," he said.

"This can be seen in our efforts at home. India has the world's largest Government funded health insurance coverage scheme. The Ayushman Bharat initiative covers over 500 million people with free medical treatments. Over 40 million people have already availed services in a cashless and paperless manner. This has saved nearly 7 billion dollars for our citizens already," he said. (Agencies)

Its ayurveda system is similarly a complete discipline of wellness, taking care of the physical and mental aspects of health, he said. "The world is looking for solutions to stress and lifestyle diseases. India's traditional healthcare systems hold a lot of answers. Our traditional diet which consists of millets can also help with food security and nutrition," he added.

Apart from talent, technology, track record and tradition, India has a healthcare system that is affordable and accessible, Modi noted.

"This can be seen in our efforts at home. India has the world's largest Government funded health insurance coverage scheme. The Ayushman Bharat initiative covers over 500 million people with free medical treatments. Over 40 million people have already availed services in a cashless and paperless manner. This has saved nearly 7 billion dollars for our citizens already," he said. (Agencies)

AC approves proposal...

are 303 villages which will be covered under the scheme and will lead to saturation of 4G services in J&K and ensure seamless connectivity under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

The Administrative Council has also fixed a timeline of 15 days for Deputy Commissioners to complete the task for identification of land for all 303 villages which are uncovered.

Saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the J&K shall play a very important role and improve network facility for uncovered villages in all the districts across the UT of J&K.

CS Launches 3...

document registration shall enable online identification of intending parties from the server of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) and thereby eliminate the chances of fraud or impersonation and also rule out 'benami' transactions. In future, this will enable the department to dispense with the need of identifiers in registration and finally pave the way for e-registration.

Chief Secretary was informed that the Registration portal namely NGDRS has already been integrated with key services such as PAN verification, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) and DiGiLocker.

While commending the Revenue Department on the achievement of important milestones, Chief Secretary stressed on strengthening the online portals so that citizens do not have to face any speed or connectivity related issues while uploading or downloading their documents. He further directed the Revenue Department to conduct a workshop for field functionaries of the Department and come up with a comprehensive roadmap for demystification of revenue terminology, so that it becomes accessible and understandable for the common man.

He further directed the Department to expeditiously pursue the Scanning and Digitization of Legacy Registration data from the courts. He noted that online seeding of old registration data shall be a massive reform, which shall hugely benefit the citizens in assurance of titles and can minimize the burden on the official machinery.

Custodian General J&K gave a brief presentation on the launch of the Evacuee Property Portal jkustodian.jk.gov.in which contains a database of all the evacuee property of the UT spread over 14 Lakh kanals, services such as e-auction of property, Issuance of NOCs, Change of use of property, Renewal of rent, transfer of allotment, etc.

'Very difficult' to engage...

Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became permanent members of the Beijing-based SCO in 2017.

Bilawal's visit would be the highest-level trip to India by any Pakistani leader in recent years.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra, UK...

highlighted the close collaboration between the two countries strengthened through the ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' which was adopted by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Bali. 'Roadmap 2030' provides a framework for India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.

Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the Government of the United Kingdom for formation of a new Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and said

that it reflects the Government's desire to place technology and innovation at the core of the UK economy.

Both the leaders agreed that an India UK technology partnership is central to the vision and prosperity today and for the future generations of both the countries.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed satisfaction on the progress made since the last Science and Innovation Council Meeting held in New Delhi in July 2018. We could have met in 2020 but then the pandemic changed the whole dynamics, including changed priorities, he said.

The Minister said that even during the pandemic, both countries had a new and successful partnership on vaccines. The bilateral scientific cooperation has become truly multi-dimensional as India UK S & T partnership covers all aspects of Research and Innovation which is required for both nations to rise to new heights together, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that he strongly believes that India can lead the newly industrialising countries in developing and adopting affordable technologies and processes, and demonstrate a growth path and low-energy consumption pattern that would be far more sustainable than that of the industrial countries.

The Minister recalled that during the last India-UK virtual summit held in May 2021, both the Prime Ministers had adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' that provides the framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence. Prime Ministers from both countries emphasised their shared commitment to an enhanced partnership in science, education, research and innovation, he said.

Minister George Freeman said, he hoped that in today's meeting, both leaders would be able to identify new cooperation opportunities for the scientific communities of India and UK to achieve the task given by the Prime Ministers of both countries.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that in India, the present Government has laid emphasis on promoting the value chain of innovation, entrepreneurship and IIP generation. The Indian innovation system is more purpose driven rather than process driven with focus on affordability and accessibility. Make in India, Digital India, Clean India, Start-Up India and Smart Cities initiatives of the current government provides a very fertile platform for us to engage and collaborate with the UK, he added.

The Minister mentioned that the India-UK Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) Programme is a great step to foster, transfer and scale up demonstrated and sustainable climate smart innovations from India to select developing countries with the ultimate aim of accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr Jitendra Singh said that in the recent past, Govt of India, has under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, launched several flagship initiatives such as the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (ICPS); Quantum Computing and Communication; National Mission on Supercomputing, Electric Mobility, Green hydrogen etc. which provides new opportunities for collaboration.

Both the Ministers agreed on the fact that the global challenges we face today do not respect geopolitical boundaries and hence can be effectively addressed through scientific collaboration and not competition.

The Minister added that the Indian scientists are globally recognized for their research capabilities. But conversion of research into commercial technologies for wealth creation and lab to market transition is a challenge the country needs to face head on.

Dr Jitendra Singh said he hoped that the partnership for the joint research leading to development of commercially viable products, processes or services would provide greater returns, in terms of economic and social benefit to the common man and on money spent by the two governments on R&D.

Minister Freeman concluded by saying that he is looking forward to deliberations with the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during his visit to the UK on how both countries can focus on making S&T cooperation mutually beneficial with stronger economic impact for their citizens.

Special NIA court...

station Chatroot under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The SSP said Chief Investigation Officer, DSP Vishal Sharma approached the Special NIA Court for issuance of the warrants against the accused for their active involvement in terror activities and creating unrest in Chenab valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They (terrorists hiding in Pakistan) mobilised sleeper cells and pushed them into J&K in connivance with secessionist and separatist leaders for waging war against the Government of India with nefarious design of seceding Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India," he said.

He expressed hope that Pakistan will cooperate in the arrest and deportation of the terrorists.

"Pakistan is duty bound to extend their cooperation in accordance with international law. We are involving the Interpol to ensure the arrest of the absconders. If Pakistan fails to cooperate, it will get exposed," the officer said.

Powal said various revenue teams have also been formed to identify the properties of the terrorists for attachment as per the law. (Agencies)

Tele-MANAS helpline...

one or two hours and it is 24/7. A lot of mental health issues occur during night time. We have been able to cover a lot of people. It is accessible and free. We want to expand it in future at the district level as well," she said. Yushli Sudan said the NHM J&K is also planning to expand mental health coverage across the districts to cover mental health issues, however, the approach may be different from Tele-MANAS. "We will be having district mental health plans. Tele MANAS is beginning in our initiative. We are also planning to integrate the suicide helpline," she said.

As an extension to service delivery framework of the existing Tele MANAS Helpline we have developed Tele MANAS chat in one of its kind in the entire country. It will enable the users to chat directly about their basic mental health problems for solution and subsequently patients can be referred to tele manas cell.

Dr Qazi Haroon, State Program Manager Mental

'Mann Ki Baat is the foundation to India @ 100': Vice-President

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 26

The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhanekar today said that as the programme 'Mann Ki Baat' completes its 100th episode, it will be the foundation to 'India @ 100'. He said that India will be at the top of the world when it will celebrate its Centenary Celebrations in 2047.

Inaugurating the national conclave 'Mann Ki Baat @ 100' in New Delhi organised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Dhanekar said Mann Ki Baat reached every nook and corner of the country and is unparalleled in reach and popularity. He also credited the program for giving recognition and brand value to local art and artists, and for generating a market space for them.

The Vice-President observed that Mann Ki Baat gave a huge impetus to flagship initiatives of the government such as Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and turned them into mass movements. He added that the PM's addresses on the show were a 'beacon of positivity' to the nation during the COVID pandemic.

Noting that the 100th episode of the programme (scheduled to be aired on 30th April 2023) as a historic milestone, Shri Dhanekar lauded the program for serving as an effective platform to popularise and bring to the mainstream the culture and festivals of the North East and other states. 'Mann Ki Baat, as a matter of fact, is a reflection of our sense of our civilisational ethos', he observed.

Calling upon everyone to take pride in the achievements of the nation, the Vice-President stressed that one must 'always keep nation first'. He said that India's growth story is also underscored by 'Nari Shakti' exemplified in the election of a tribal woman as the President of India. He also noted various welfare initiatives such as the Direct Benefit Transfer, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and others as indicative of the paradigm change in the socio-economic situation in the country.

Health J&K, said Tele MANAS is being linked to District Mental health program across all the districts of JK UT. A comprehensive communication strategy/IEC formulated has actually helped us to reach so extensively to common people in such short period of time, he added. He said that in near future more and more people suffering with mental health will find refuge in Tele MANAS.

Pertinently, J&K stands at rank 2 in whole country as far as daily calls received by Tele MANAS Cells are concerned. The toll-free number of Tele MANAS Cell J&K is 14416/1-800-891-4416 and for Tele MANAS Chat Bot is 9797060601. The cell is open for the general public for providing mental health services and drug de-addiction service 24x7.

Maharaja Hari Singh...

established himself as a representative of all the regions and religions.

Former MLA Ashwani Sharma, said that Maharaja opened all public places including temples for everybody including the depressed classes, made primary education as compulsory, banned child marriage.

Lt Gen Aujla takes...

Regiment of Rajputana Rifles. Army said Lt Gen Aujla, Chinार Corps Commander assumed the appointment of 'Colonel of the Rajputana Rifles' and & its 19th Col Commandant from Lt Gen CP Cariappa.

"On assuming, Lt Gen Aujla conveyed greetings to all ranks, families, veer naris, veterans and remembered the sacrifices of the fallen heroes of the Regiment," Army said.

Lt Gen Aujla took over the command of the Srinagar based sensitive Chinार Corps in May last year.

'Militants who killed...

the attack in which 5 soldiers were charred to death and one was shifted to hospital in injured condition.

After the attack, a multi-agency operation was launched while National Investigation Agency also became part of the operation.

A police official on condition of anonymity told news agency Kashmir News Trust that at least 30 locals from the Rajouri-Poonch belt have been arrested and during questioning some of them revealed that militants were staying in the Rajouri-Poonch belt for over 3 months after they infiltrated to this area from across the border.

"Before the attack, the militants stayed in the house of a local Guljar who is in police custody," he said adding that some locals including a local handler were in touch exchanging voice notes on their cell phones.

Choppers and drones are being continuously pressed into service during this major search operation.

"During the investigation, it has become clear that locals provided logistics to militants and the attack was planned from Pakistan," police sources said adding that militants got instructions from a local handler.

Four out of five soldiers who were killed in the attack were natives of Punjab and one from Odisha. They were identified as Harkrishan Singh, Kulwant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sevank Singh and Debashish Baswal.

Former Jammu Kashmir Police Chief SP Vaid said that the Poonch attack has punctured the narrative of Pakistan that non-state actors are carrying out attacks independently. He said it is clear that somebody from Pakistan establishment are helping these militants.

Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dharti visited Rajouri and Poonch Sector and reviewed the operational preparedness, and took part in one of its kind in the entire country. The troops deployed in remote areas and exhorted them to be innovative and relentless in their pursuit. ❦



Union MoS conducts Public Outreach Programme at Kathua

VISITS GMC, HOLDS INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DDCCS, BDCCS, ULBS

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 26: Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways and Textiles, Darshana Vikram Jardosh, today conducted public outreach programme at Government Degree College for Women, Kathua.

The event was aimed to provide a platform to public to project their issues and concerns before the Union Minister for redressal.

During the event, Union Minister interacted with the public and listened to their grievances and issues. She assured them that the government is committed towards addressing their issues and concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, Darshana Vikram Jardosh said, "Such outreach programmes provide a platform to public to raise their grievances and demands before the government representatives besides enabling the authorities to work towards public welfare accordingly. She reaffirmed government's resolve towards welfare and development of its citizens with focus on underprivileged segments of the society."

Hailing the initiative of Public Outreach programs, Union Minister said that Modi government is according high priority to peripheral regions like Jammu and Kashmir. These visits enable the Union Ministers receive feedback on various development projects related to their respective Ministries, she added. She said that Union Ministers get to know about ground status of developmental issues pertaining to the



particular district they visit.

Referring to new initiatives being taken up by the Textile Ministry to promote production and value addition of textile products, Union MoS informed that several textile units are coming up in Jammu and Kashmir which will pave the way for making it an alluring industrial hub of the country.

Union Minister also threw light on the 5F vision of Prime Minister 'Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign' as this will help furthering the growth of textile sector.

Regarding latest intervention by the present dispensation led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Union MoS said that Railway has been witnessing total revamp with introduction of speedy trains coupled with modern stations giving befitting grandeur to largest railway network of the world. Besides, our engineers are being equipped with latest knowhow about state of the art technology.

Union MoS assured that half of

important trains will be considered for Kathua keeping in view the needs of the locals and the industrial sector.

During the programme, various departments had set up stalls showcasing their schemes and initiatives.

Union MoS inspected these stalls and interacted with the representative of each department and had discussion on their initiatives and programs.

On the occasion, Chairman District Development Council Kathua, Former Colonel Mahan Singh (Retd), threw light on development initiatives undertaken by the PRIs and ULBs resulting in total revamp in rural and urban landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, other PRI members apprised the Union MoS of their issues with emphasis on development aspirations of the locals.

After the public outreach programme, Union MoS visited the Government Medical College Kathua and inspected the health-care facilities being extended to

the patients there. She visited various wards and departments and reviewed the infrastructural facilities available for patient care.

She also interacted with the medical staff and appreciated their hard work and dedication towards providing quality healthcare to the people. She also took appraisal of the Health Infra and enquired about the requirement of the medical institution.

Later, Darshana Vikram Jardosh had an interactive session with a delegation of District Development Councils (DDCCs), Block Development Councils (BDCCs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other officials. She assessed the developmental needs of the region and elaborated government's efforts towards

meeting those needs.

During the session, Union MoS listened to the suggestions and feedback of the participants and assured them of the government's support in addressing their concerns.

She also briefed them about government's plans for the region and its commitment towards providing better infrastructure and all requisite services to the people.

Union MoS also held interaction with representatives of local Industries and had detailed deliberation on problems and other issues faced by the industries in the district.

She conducted a brief tour of Chenab Textile mills where she met with the stakeholders.

10th NCORD meeting held in Doda

Committee reviews measures taken to combat drug abuse

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 26: District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan today presided over 10th district level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting convened to review measures taken to combat drug abuse in the District.

Speaking at the meeting, the DM directed SDMs, Tehsildars, SDOs in to work in coordination to tighten the noose around perpetrators and drug traffickers, besides rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The DM also discussed the setting up of new Drug de-

addiction Centres and Rehabilitation centers in the district. He asked the concerned officers to distribute the drug testing kits in school and other areas which are vulnerable to drug addiction.

SP, Abdul Qayoom said that the wildy grown cannabis in the district especially in sensitive areas needs to be destroyed. He said the Police department has taken many effective measures to break the supply chain of drug peddlers to ensure complete check on drug supply.

He said that the drug peddlers are being strictly dealt with under the relevant provisions of law.

Listing measures taken for effective governance, the DC said that the district administration is committed to holistic development of the area and urged people to proactively support it in the war launched against the drug menace.

Many grievances were redressed on the spot. It was announced that a Banking Unit of J&K Bank will be made operational soon in the area to cater to the banking needs of the locals.

Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Abdul Qayoom, sought cooperation of people with the law enforcement agencies in eradicating the menace of drugs in the area. He warned the anti social elements of strict action if they don't shun the criminal and anti social mentality.

Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener of the webinar welcomed the Chief Guest, Resource person and all the participants.

He said that the Career Counselling & Placement Cell of the college is continuously involved in organizing such types of awareness programs to help students in deciding a better future. He said that after attending this webinar participants shall become more responsible savers and investors. Moreover, they shall be ready for the real-life situations and shall be able to take decisions more independently.

Revered resource person of the event, Dr. Sanjay Kr. Agarwal, Data Scientist and trainer, PFRTDA, highlighted various investment schemes. In the interactive session, he made the participants aware of various pension schemes of the Govt of India such as Atal Pension Yojana, National Pension System etc. He further said that the foundation of financial awareness should be laid down early in the student life for a secure future.

Earlier, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Assistant Professor in Chemistry and event coordinator empha-

DC Doda presides over Mega Grievances Redressal camp at Bhatoli Chilli Pingal of Sub Division Gandoh

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 26: To take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan today visited one of the remotest villages of Gandoh sub division and presided over a mega grievance redressal camp held at Eid gah Park Bhatoli.

The programme witnessed overwhelming response from PRIs and general public, who participated to highlight issues and grievances confronting their areas for early redressal.

The DC, after giving patient hearing to all the issues raised during the proceedings, addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on the spot, while issues requiring redress at higher level were also noted.

Since the roads are essential for development of any area, the DC issued directions to the PWD (R&B) department to immediately upgrade the existing road from Malik Pura to Bhatoli. Besides, he set a deadline of November 30, 2023 for completion of Manoo-Haddle road which



is being executed by PMGSY Division Thathri. The DC directed ACD and BDO to for-

mulate a holistic plan for Chillingal Block included in the Aspirational Block Development Programme to bridge the

GDC Kathua organised webinar on "Financial Literacy for You (FLY)"

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APRIL 26: Career Counselling and Placement Cell, Government Degree College Kathua, in Collaboration with Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRTDA), today organised a webinar on "Financial Literacy for You (FLY)".

A large number of students and faculty members participated in the event. Webinar was inaugurated by the College Principal Prof. Seema Mir, as the Chief Guest and in presence of revered resource person Dr. Sanjay Kr Agarwal; Data Scientist and Trainer PFRTDA, Prof. Anirudh Sharma; Head of the Department of Physics, Prof. Jassinder Singh; IQAC Coordinator, Prof. Rakesh Singh; Convener, Career Counselling Cell & Head, Department of Chemistry, Prof. Romilla Gulleria; Head, Department of Music, Dr. Pankaj Gupta; Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Prof. Neha Mahajan, Head Department of Biotechnology.

Prof. Seema Mir, the Chief Guest of the event, in her deliber-



ations stressed on the importance of such types of webinars for the knowledge enhancement of faculty as well as students. The Principal appreciated the efforts of Speakers, Conveners, members of organizing committee for

taking this initiative of organizing this interactive webinar for students and faculty of GDC Kathua. Moreover, she encouraged all the faculty members to organize more such events for shaping the career of students.

SECRETARY HEALTH E-REVIEWS JK E SAHAJ

NHM releases ranking of Public Health facilities for March 2023

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 26: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today reviewed progress on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) in J&K with the concerned authorities through virtual mode Director, NHM, J&K, Ayushi Sudhan, briefed the Secretary about the progress of JK e Sahaj since the inception of the project in the UT, which is under implementation in 578 public health facilities. Secretary gave spot directions for starting of Laboratory modules in all the tertiary care hospitals and District Hospitals within a month's time. He also directed for expansion of use of QR Code based registration service Scan and Share under ABDM in all the tertiary and District Hospitals that will allow the patients to skip the queue for directly collecting their OPD slip for consultation as their details are already present at the registration counter.

On the occasion, National Health Mission J&K also released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of March, 2023. In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Jammu, AH GMC Rajouri, Government Dental College, Jammu and Government Dental College, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included Children Hospital Bemina, Srinagar, SMHS GMC Srinagar, GMC Baramulla, GMC Kathua and Super Speciality, Jammu.

In the category of District Hospitals, first rank has been secured by DH Pulwama followed by Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; DH JLNM, Srinagar, DH Budgam, and DH Shopian. The bottom five in this category included DH Handwara, MCCH Anantnag, DH Reasi, DH Kulgam and DH Kishtwar. In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), CHC Pakherpora got the first rank followed by CHC Shanganu, CHC Rajpora, EH Vijaypur and CHC Ramnagar. The bottom five in this category included CHC Darbal; CHC Gandoth, CHC Thatri, CHC Khanshab and CHC Parole. In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and UPHCs, first rank has been clinched by PHC Achabal followed by PHC Mattan, PHC Kakapora, PHC Srigifwara and PHC Aishmuqam.

The bottom five in this category included UPHC Sangam, PHC Thakrakote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Massu and PHC Machil.

Perennially, JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat by the Lieutenant Governor, for different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New Type PHCs. JK e-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Government of India.

Govt SPMR College of Commerce organises Career Counseling, Interactive Session



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Manodarpan Career Counseling Cell and Skill Enhancement Committee of Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu, in collaboration with the National Career Service Centre for SC/ ST, Directorate General of Employment J&K, organized a Career Counseling and Interactive Session here on the College campus.

Shabaz Choudhary, Sub Regional Employment Officer (SERO) was the chief guest. Prof. Barabara Kaul presided over the session. Prof. Kaul stressed that the College must strive to create an environment where students can pursue their dreams and achieve their goals.

Shabaz Choudhary advised the students to enhance their knowledge base by dedicatingly pursuing different vocational courses of Computer Software and Hardware, typing, stenography etc offered through NIELIT for SC/ST candidates interested in developing their skills. These courses of 6 month duration to one year are provided free of cost to SC/ ST students, he added.

Prof. Savita Janwal, HOD Economics, Prof. Monika Malhotra, IQAC Convener and Prof. Manita Gupta HOD Commerce, PPSG GCW Gandhi Nagar were special invitees.

DC Kishtwar conducts site inspection to review preparation for Sinthan Festival

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 26: Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, today led a team of officials to Sinthan Maidan to review the preparations for the 2-day Sinthan Festival, which is scheduled on April 29-30. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inquired about the current status of the arrangements and discussed strategies with different stakeholders to ensure the success of the festival.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the Sinthan Festival aims to provide the best experience to visitors. He reiterated the need for a coordinated effort to ensure that all preparations are put in place well in time. The success of the festival would depend on the effective collaboration of all stakeholders involved, he said and urged all concerned officers to work with dedication and enthusiasm to make the event a grand success. He was apprised by GM NHIDCL that Sinthan pass will be opened by tomorrow i.e. 27th April, which will encourage flow of tourists from Kashmir side.

The team included SDM Chatroo, Dr. Mohsin Raza; Tehsildar Chatroo, Suman Ji; BDO, Tasleem Wani; GM NHIDCL G S Sangha; CEO Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat; BMO Chatroo, Dr. Saitma Ago and officials of Police and Army.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

WFI MUST UNDERGO COMPLETE OVERHAUL

The controversy surrounding the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has refused to die down with two senior wrestlers moving the Supreme Court, seeking justice. The development would trigger an unseemly face-off with the federation and it is likely to initiate another probe into their allegations levelled against the WFI chief. Delhi Police have already been issued a notice on the plea that no FIR has been registered on the complaint of sexual harassment filed by women wrestlers against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is also a MP of the ruling BJP at the Centre. The committee, led by Mary Kom, constituted by the sports ministry to investigate the complaints in January, submitted its report in the first week of April, but no final conclusion has been announced yet. The government had succumbed to the relentless protests by some of the country's top wrestlers including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya and appointed boxing great MC Mary Kom-lead five-member Oversight Committee to probe sexual harassment charges against the powerful WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. At that time, an ugly bout had been played out, not in the sporting arena but at Jantar Mantar in Delhi where female wrestlers had leveled serious allegations against the WFI president. It was a courageous attempt to clean up the management of wrestling which has been bringing glory to India with its rich haul of medals at global platforms. The current situation demands that the WFI president should be made to step down from his powerful position pending the inquiry into the charges. This is not for the first time when complaints have been made against coaches and others for sexually harassing the sportspersons. Unlike their protest three months ago, the players have this time sought support from political parties, farmers' and women's organisations as well as khaps. The BJP parliamentarian facing allegations of sexual harassment has pleaded innocence throughout, terming it a case of personal grudges. The veteran wrestlers too have taken up cudgels for their younger counterparts who are scared to take on the powerful personality who has been ruling the akhadas as WFI chief for three consecutive terms. The WFI chief is out of the fray for another stint, not out of any conscience pangs, but because three four-year terms at the helm make him ineligible to contest. He is still hopeful of a different role in the WFI, the day-to-day affairs of which will now be managed by an Indian Olympic Association ad-hoc committee. Authorities at the helm of affairs are duty bound to ensure that Brij Bhushan doesn't occupy the post till pending inquiry in the wake of sensitivities involved in the matter. The bold step taken by female wrestlers should be reciprocated in a positive manner because it is not every day that one sees so many complainants coming out. With top wrestlers moving the apex court, it is important that the truth comes out. It is also equally important that the federation should undergo a complete overhaul.

India-Russia ties deepen, but those with West bigger

THIS EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA NEEDS TO BE VIEWED THROUGH THE PRISM OF GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR. HIGHER OIL PRICES FORCED INDIA TO BUY DISCOUNTED OIL FROM RUSSIA DESPITE THE DISTANCE INVOLVED IN FREIGHT MOVEMENT. SIMILARLY, RUSSIA NEEDS TO TAP THE MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES IN INDIA TO FILL THE GAP IN THE PRODUCTION OF CORE INDUSTRIAL GOODS.

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

THE economic relationship between India and Russia has had its ups and downs over the years, but efforts have always been made to keep it on an even keel owing to longstanding strategic ties. In the past few decades, however, trade and investments have been subdued in sharp contrast to days of bonhomie with the erstwhile Soviet Union. Bilateral trade, for instance, was a paltry \$12 billion even as recently as 2021-22. This is largely due to greater engagement by both countries with developed economies such as the US and European Union. Even trade with China has been much higher at about \$180 billion annually for Russia and about \$136 billion for India.

The scenario underwent a sudden change after the Ukraine war erupted last February as global oil prices shot up to unsustainable levels for emerging economies like India. Russia, too, faced tough times with major crude oil customers cutting back on supplies to comply with sanctions imposed by the western alliance. So, India needed cheaper oil and Russia needed to find new buyers for its hydrocarbons.

The result was Russia offering oil at a discount to friendly countries like India and China. For India, it was a relief to get oil priced at \$12-16 cheaper than the average price of the Indian crude basket which ruled at about \$100 for most of last year. The net savings are reported to have been nearly \$4 billion in 2022-23. By the end of the last fiscal, Russia had become the biggest oil supplier to this country, a considerable leap after accounting for only 1 per cent of the purchases just a year ago.

But the higher oil inflows have not been an unmitigated blessing. The spurt in imports has upset the trade balance between the two countries. India is exporting only a fraction of the amount being imported from Russia, largely in the form of crude oil. The bilateral trade target of \$30 billion set for 2023 has already been exceeded and reached \$45 billion in 2022-23, according to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. But this has left a yawning trade deficit on the Indian side which is now causing concern.

The imbalance can be rapidly rectified if Russia goes ahead with plans to import goods of which its internal production fell due to the compulsions of war. In fact, there are reports that it is considering buying a range of 500 products, including cars, aircraft and trains. If so, it will not only give an impetus to domestic production but also contain the trade deficit between the two countries.

Yet, there are other irritants emerging from the higher bilateral trade flows. Another is the issue of rupee trade transactions. With western sanctions on Russia's banking transactions preventing the use of the critical SWIFT messaging system for funds transfer, it was initially felt



that the solution was to return to the old system of rupee payment. But there are problems on both sides. Since oil purchases have soared, Russian banks are reluctant to be left with large rupee deposits. Similarly, Indian oil companies are equally hesitant to carry out such sizable transactions in rubles and would be happier dealing in more easily tradable currencies. Despite these stumbling blocks, the recent comments of visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov indicate that there are moves to deepen the economic ties even further. He referred to the resumption of talks on a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Russia involving the Eurasian Economic Union (Eurasian Union). These were brought to a halt owing to the pandemic, but are now apparently set for revival.

As for the little-known EEU, it comprises Russia along with four other countries — Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. It was launched in 2014 with the aim of creating a free trade area and, ultimately, improving the living standards in the region. So far, it has remained in the form of a customs union and has not moved towards a single currency like the EU.

This expansion of the economic relationship between India and Russia needs to be viewed, however, through the prism of geopolitical developments over the past year. Higher oil prices forced India to buy discounted oil from Russia despite the distance involved in freight movement. Similarly, Russia needs to tap the manufacturing capabilities in India to fill the gap in the production of core industrial goods.

These are outcomes of the Ukraine war which could continue indefinitely, given that there seems to be little hope of a negotiated settlement

right now. Ultimately, however, the broader economic engagement for India will continue to be with western countries like the US and the EU which remain both its major export markets and biggest domestic investors. Ever since the liberalisation process began in 1991, business ties with developed economies in the West expanded exponentially. On a strategic level as well, India has moved closer to the US owing to the fractious relationship with China. The evolution of the Quad grouping with the US, Australia and Japan has made it evident that efforts are being made to reduce the dependence on China, especially for critical products like semiconductors.

The US, on its part, has taken a more nuanced approach than ever in the past to India's economic ties with Russia. The need to buy oil from that country is now being accepted as an economic necessity for India even though there was sharp criticism initially of this move. There is a grudging acceptance of the need for this country to adopt an independent foreign policy that keeps its eye on national interests at all costs.

At the same time, it is likely that the announcement of talks for an FTA with the EEU will create some frissons in the western world which has been trying hard to isolate Russia on the economic front.

The widening economic ties between India and Russia that have emerged as a byproduct of the Ukraine war are, thus, bound to build on the strengths of the longstanding friendship between the two countries.

At the same time, there are not likely to supplant the deep commercial engagement with western economies that have become integral to this country's development over the past few decades.

Saudi moves impacting West Asian geopolitics

NAVEEP SURI

THERE'S a remarkable new energy in Saudi Arabia's foreign policy that has brought the country back to the centre stage of regional politics and is rapidly re-arranging the geopolitical map of West Asia. A team led by Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud and National Security Adviser MUSAIB bin Mohammed Al Aiban is giving shape to a distinctly non-ideological approach to the foreign policy that is driven by 'Vision 2030' outlined by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and is now attracting the attention of top diplomats and analysts alike.

That's a far cry from the position barely five years ago when the brutal murder of Saudi journalist Adnan Khashoggi in Istanbul had put the country under the spotlight and MBS was accused by the West of impetuously dragging his country into the quagmire in Yemen.

The agreement signed by Saudi Arabia with arch enemy Iran in Beijing on March 10 to reopen embassies within two months was, perhaps, the most high-profile diplomatic move.

Two years of quiet, painstaking negotiations in Iraq and Oman and Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Riyadh in December 2022 paved the way for China becoming a successful



mediator in the agreement. It is worth remembering that this is the third time in less than four decades that diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran were ruptured and then restored. The antipathy between them goes beyond the ancient rift between the Shia and the Sunni strains of Islam, although Tehran's proclivity to incite the Shia community in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon does give rise to legitimate fears that Iran is trying to create a 'Shia crescent' that would destabilise the Sunni monarchies of the Gulf.

The Houthis in Yemen are predominantly drawn from the Zaydi Shia

community and Iran's financial, technical and military support has been crucial in turning their ragtag militia into a formidable fighting force that not only ousted the government of then President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi from capital Sanaa in 2015, but also enabled the Houthis to establish control over the northern half of the country. Equipped with Iranian drones and missiles, they have been able to strike oil facilities and targets in Saudi Arabia and drive home the real and present danger of asymmetric warfare.

For Riyadh, an acceptable outcome in Yemen is one of the key takeaways from the rapprochement with Iran

and it will now expect China to use its leverage on Tehran to bring about a modicum of resolution — at least to the Saudi-Houthi dimension of the conflict in Yemen. If it works, Riyadh would have the satisfaction of getting two monkeys off its back with one accord. With the ceasefire in Yemen being extended and prisoners being exchanged by the Saudis and Houthis, the initial signs inspire hope, but there are plenty of other factors that could put a spanner in the works.

Beyond Iran and Yemen, there are several other significant initiatives over the last couple of years that merit a mention. The Al-Ula Accord reached in Saudi Arabia in January 2021 on the sidelines of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit brought an end to a debilitating dispute between Qatar and an Arab quartet, comprising Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain; relations with Turkey, which were strained following Ankara's support to the Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt in 2012 and had reached their nadir in the wake of the Khashoggi murder in 2019, have seen a remarkable upturn. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Jeddah in April 2022 to embrace MBS and bury the hatchet with the hope that a normalisation would not only bring Saudi investments into the flagging Turkish economy but also allow Turkish contractors to participate in Saudi Arabia's lucrative construction boom.

Recognising the reality that Arab and western efforts to bring down the government of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria have failed miserably, Riyadh wants to offer an economic carrot that might prevent the regime from getting into a lighter embrace with Iran. Russia flagged its own influence by hosting talks between the Saudi and Syrian delegations in Moscow, leading to a visit by the Syrian Foreign Minister to Riyadh on April 12, followed by the Saudi Foreign Minister's visit to Damascus six days later. The first high-level contacts in a decade have led to speculation that diplomatic ties may be restored soon. Saudi Arabia is also reassessing its position towards Iraq and Lebanon and even towards Israel and we may hear more on this in the coming months.

These are deliberate moves, executed diligently over the last two years and probably driven by at least three distinct, inter-connected factors. First, MBS has clearly articulated in his 'Vision 2030' that he wants to make his country a global investment powerhouse that will leverage "our unique strategic location into a global hub connecting three continents — Asia, Europe and Africa. Our geographic position between key global waterways makes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia an epicentre of trade and the gateway to the world." But achieving this objective requires a relentless focus on the economy and a

conscious effort of the kind being seen today to resolve intra-regional conflicts that are a drain on the country's energy and financial resources.

Second, by bringing China and Russia into the region and by developing strategic partnerships with important players such as India, Riyadh is signalling its intent to reduce its dependence on the US. This does not mean that the US will stop being the preferred security partner for Saudi Arabia or indeed for other countries in the Gulf. But it does mean that like India and several other middle powers, MBS is also looking at a policy of multi-alignment that affords much greater strategic autonomy. Third, the emphasis of 'Vision 2030' on moderation in Islam puts out a clear message that the foreign policy would be driven by considerations of pragmatism, national interest and realism and not by fuzzy notions of fealty to an amorphous Islamic ummah. Each of these elements provides a strong rationale for a closer engagement between Riyadh and New Delhi. This is visible in the emerging defence and security cooperation, in Saudi Arabia's unwillingness to buy Pakistan's line on Jammu and Kashmir and in the potential for much-larger Saudi investments in India. The fact that this year's IPL billboards feature both Aramco and 'Visit Saudi Arabia' is, perhaps, a harbinger of a much more dynamic relationship.

Priyanka Chopra to attend Met Gala 2023 in 'special' look; fans want to know which celebs desi girl will chill with

Priyanka Chopra will be among the many celebrity guests attending the prestigious Met Gala in New York on Monday. On Tuesday, she reportedly shared confirmed news during the premiere of her upcoming web series Citadel in Los Angeles. Priyanka also gushed about her forthcoming Met Gala look, and said 'it will be on theme'. Another Indian actor, Alia Bhatt, is also set to attend the event this year, and expected to wear a Prabal Gurung outfit for her Met Gala debut.

Also referred to as 'fashion's biggest night out', the theme of Met Gala 2023 is 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty' to honour the late fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld. The event will take place on May 1, the first Monday in May. Celebs are expected to celebrate the work and life of Karl Lagerfeld at this

year's gala. While nothing more is known about Priyanka's Met Gala look as of now, the actor did say it will have a 'special element'.

Journalist Mare Malkin, who is associated with Variety, met Priyanka at Citadel's LA premiere, and tweeted on Wednesday, 'Confirmed! Priyanka Chopra just told me she will be at the Met Gala on Monday.'

Says her look 'will be on theme' because she loves a theme but it will also have a 'special element.' Reacting to his tweet, a fan asked, 'Do you know who she's going with, like who's at the table?' Another one tweeted, 'Yaas. She always serves the look and stays true to the theme.'

A fan also tweeted, 'Love her. Taking the world by storm. Desi girl.' Another one said, 'Can't wait for hot dress on hot girl.'



Vinali Bhatnagar: No Matter How Much We Deny It, People Have A Lot Of Expectations From Actors Debuting In Salman Khan's Projects



Vinali Bhatnagar is all set to start a new chapter of her life by embarking on a Bollywood journey after making her debut with Salman Khan's latest film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. While the film has received terrible reviews, the box-office collection speaks for itself, and people seem to be liking the movie for what it's worth.

Talking about her debut with Salman Khan's film and how there are certain factors that are likely to put additional pressure on her, Vinali Bhatnagar says, 'I'm extremely exhilarated and delighted that I got an opportunity to make my debut in acting with Salman Sir's film. Being a debutant, this film is nothing less than an accomplishment for me. While there is an overwhelming sense of joy and satisfaction, there was a lot of pressure and responsibility on my shoulders. Honestly, to shine as a debutant, in a movie that has a stellar cast out of which many have already gained accolades in acting, is surely a tough thing to tackle. Actors making their debut with this movie will be the centre of the focus, as people will be curious to know how they perform on celluloid.'

'I would be just as happy being an...', is Kim Kardashian picking a new career leaving reality TV behind?



Kim Kardashian is making headlines once again, but this time it's not for her reality TV appearances or her social media posts. The 42-year-old superstar has revealed that she's willing to give up stardom to focus on her law career. In a shocking revelation at the TIME100 Summit on Tuesday, Kim said that she would be 'just as happy being an attorney full-time.'

She said in the summit, 'There's a lot that's out there on TV but my friends know we really value our private time. I would be just as happy being an attorney full-time. The journey just really opened up my eyes so much. It gets overwhelming because there's so much to be done...'

The reality star has been studying law since 2019, in memory of her dad Robert, who worked as a high-profile attorney before passing away in 2003. She credits him for giving her a work ethic, but also acknowledged that she has learned a lot from her mother Kris Jenner, who is also her manager.

Kim's announcement comes as a surprise to many, as she has been a fixture in the world of reality TV for years. She has starred in several shows alongside her famous family, and her social media presence is nothing short of iconic. However, it seems that she's ready to turn her back on fame and focus on her passion for law.

The SKIMS founder is not just talking the talk - she's also walking the walk. She recently brought her sister Khloé to a prison for the first time, an experience that was eye-opening for both of them. Kim's journey has taught her a lot, but she acknowledges that there's still so much to be done. 'It gets overwhelming,' she said.

KRUSHNA ABHISHEK RETURNS TO THE KAPIL SHARMA SHOW, TEASES ARCHANA PURAN SINGH: 'SIDHU JI BHI AAGAE...'

Months after exiting The Kapil Sharma Show, comedian Krushna Abhishek has finally returned to the show. Taking to Instagram, Sony Entertainment Television posted several videos. In the clips, Krushna was dressed up as his character Sapna. In a clip shared on Wednesday, the show's host Kapil Sharma told Krushna, 'Sapna tu agayi, sach mein bada achha lag raha hai (Sapna you have returned, I am really very happy).' Running towards Kapil, Krushna Abhishek said, 'Thank you Kappu. Tereko maalum hai Kappu, yeh season



aane kaesah hai (Do you know Kappu, this is the season where people will come back). Kapil asked, 'Really?' Krushna con-

'Aah. Acha (Really)?' Last month, Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was earlier the permanent guest on Kapil's show, was released from jail.

Looking at Rajiv Thakur, who plays the role of Raju in the show, Krushna said, 'Dheere dheere saare purane log wapas aane wale hai (Slowly all the people who earlier worked on the show will return).' Previously, Chandan Prabhakar exited the show and Rajiv replaced him.

Rajiv replied, 'Zada khush mat ho, zada purane wale agaye na toh tu bhi jayegi (If people who were a part of the

show much earlier return then you will also have to leave).' As Kapil walked around with his hand on his mouth, Krushna appeared shocked.

Rajiv was seemingly hinting at Sunil Grover's exit. After Sunil walked out of the show, Krushna became a part of it.

Reacting to the post, a fan wrote, 'Pls bring Dr Gulati as well.' Another person said, 'Power of Sunil Grover.' 'I had stopped watching this show because Krushna wasn't there,' a comment read. The new episode will air this weekend at 9:30 pm on Sony Entertainment Television.

Alia Bhatt Shares Ranbir Kapoor Is A 'Hands-On Father' To Raha: Adorable To Watch The Two Of Them Together



Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor tied the knot in April last year, and welcomed their daughter Raha in November. Since then, the two have been juggling work and parenting duties, with one parent staying with the child.

Now, in a recent interview, Alia Bhatt has opened up about motherhood, and how she and Ranbir called Raha a cheetah. Speaking to Vogue India, Alia praised her husband and said, 'The Ranbir I know has always been very sensitive, loyal and supportive. But he has become even more sensitive since Raha was born. He absolutely dotes on her.'

She also joked that Ranbir looks like a giant, when carrying Raha in his arms. 'It's adorable to watch the two of them together because he's had to bulk up quite a bit for his character in 'Animal', so when he carries her, it's like this giant picking up a little puppy. Ranbir is such a hands-on father at home that it sometimes gets difficult for me to even hold her for a second.'

Karemma Khan On Winning Miss Teen Diva: Work Hard In Silence And Let Your Success Make All The Noise

Miss Teen Diva concluded its finale recently. Total 35 finalists competed for the ultimate four titles of - Miss Teen Grand India, Miss Teen World India, Miss Teen Universe India and Miss Teen International India. One of the four gorgeous ladies crowned that night was our Miss Teen World India 2023 - Karemma Khan.

Hailing from the city of dreams Mumbai, Karemma believes she's an amalgamation of influences from Oman and Dubai. Belonging to a conservative Muslim family, Karemma's journey to the crown was full of criticisms and backlash from her family. The biggest challenge she faced in her journey was her conservative background that tried to stop her from pursuing pageantry and acting as a career. However, she managed to break-through the chains that held her, and made it this far.

Talking to Prateek Sur, Karemma Khan talks about being one of the four winners of the Miss Teen Diva. When asked about how she prepared for this win and what this win means to her, she couldn't stop herself and burst out with emotions.



'This win is truly a dream come true for me. Not just my dream, but the dream of my mother and all the innocent girls I work for, through my Project Shakti. This crown is not just an opportunity, but a responsibility to me. My preparation and hard work for the pageant has been immense. I have always had my eyes on the crown. And picturing my winning moment, with the crown on my head is the factor that motivated me to keep going. From waking up at 4am every day, working out twice a day, going for pageant training, managing my college lectures - I've really done it all. I carried on this routine for 3-4 months

before the pageant. In all honesty, it has been very challenging. But, as they say, 'Work hard in silence and let your success make all the noise.'

Not many would know that apart from winning the title of Miss Teen World India, she also bagged the subtitles of 'Best In Personal Interview' and 'Best Advocacy Video'. At the pageant, during her final question and answer round, she was asked, 'What qualities in you make you worthy of representing India internationally?'

Her winning answer was, 'Thank you so much for the lovely question.'



Ravee- a Ta- do- says wome- rule TV i- dustry: 'Wome- are paid much higher tha- me-'

Women in the Hindi film industry, both in front of and behind the camera, have broken the 'glass ceiling' and have entered every male bastion, actor Raveena Tandon said on Wednesday during a panel of the 'Nations' Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100'. Tandon, the star of the 1990 and early 2000s Hindi cinema, said the film industry should learn from sister mediums TV and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, who are the leaders in paying women better and producing shows with female protagon-

ists, respectively, she said. Also read: Amir Khan praises PM Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat: 'That is how you lead by communication' 'We also talk about pay disparity but in the TV industry today, women are paid much higher than their male counterparts, which is a great thing because of the kind of work they do and I think in our TV industry, women rule. In OTT platforms too, the protagonists are mostly women, women issues are discussed. 'In the film industry, we are going there slowly but surely because it has been a male

dominated industry since the beginning but there is definitely a change. Our women have broken the glass ceiling, we have entered every male bastion...,' the 48-year-old actor said, addressing the 'Nari Shakti' session here.

Tandon said issues such as representation and pay disparity still plague the industry but with women in high places, change is on the way. '... In the world today, there is a change because all the top positions, be it director of photography, our choreographers, our directors, producers, platform

heads and channel heads are women.'

'So the opportunities that we should be getting, we are getting that. A woman being at the helm of producing something, she understands those issues, she understands the sensitivity, she has the sensibilities so we get more opportunities,' the Padma Shri recipient said. Tandon, known for films such as Mohra, Daman, Maatr and web series Aranyak, said in the 90s Hindi cinema actors would 'struggle' to break their perceived image. 'There is a lot of change

in the film industry that was not there in the 90s. You would get stereotyped for playing a certain character,' she said. The actor, who won the National Film Award for playing a woman subjected to marital rape in the 2001 film Daman, said her filmography is a reflection of the social causes she supports.

Tandon said issues such as domestic violence and marital rape were brushed under the carpet and she struggled a lot while bringing out a story like Daman, directed by Kalpana Lajmi.

WHY THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY HAS BEEN SO QUIET ON MIFEPRISTONE



The US Supreme Court is expected to make a decision soon on whether the Food and Drug Administration's approval of mifepristone more than 20 years ago should be revoked. It's an important case with broad implications beyond access to abortion.

Never before has a court challenged the authority of the FDA, a federal agency tasked with scientific and medical oversight, when it comes to making prescription drugs available to the public.

If mifepristone is taken off the market, it potentially opens the

door to challenges on other types of drugs, too. But drug companies and their leadership don't seem very worried. To date, their involvement in the issue has been relatively limited, a far cry from recent outspokenness of CEOs on social issues ranging from gay rights to gun control.

Danco, the maker of branded mifepristone known as Mifeprex, joined the Biden administration in seeking a Supreme Court intervention to restore the full FDA approval. And GenBioPro, which makes the generic version of the mifepristone, filed a lawsuit against the FDA asking for the

drug to continue being available. But the actions from the rest of the pharmaceutical industry haven't gone much beyond an amicus brief filed by PhRMA, the industry's main lobby, alongside individual pharmaceutical companies and executives—and even this only happened when the case reached the appeals court.

Why aren't pharmaceutical companies more outspoken about keeping mifepristone available?

"I don't think this is a threat to the pharmaceutical industry yet," says Nielsen Hobbs, lead analyst at Citeline, a consultancy

focused on the pharmaceutical industry. "If it was, I think you would have seen companies intervening at the district court level."

THREATS TO THE ABORTION MEDICATION'S AVAILABILITY IN THE US DON'T POSE MUCH RISK TO DRUG COMPANIES

A small and contained threat, political in nature? Mifepristone isn't the only drug to fall along the social fault lines motivating the suit. Gender affirming hormonal therapy and contraceptives sit in this space, too, though altogether represent just a tiny part of the \$1.5 trillion global pharmaceutical industry.

The specifically political nature of these controversies makes it likely that the expected potential losses to pharmaceutical companies will be contained. "I think [drug makers] recognize this is a strategy that will be employed along this narrow topic," says Hobbs.

Even if additional legal challenges were extended to vaccines, which indeed have been the subject of political controversy, any resulting restrictions likely would be limited to mandatory vaccinations, not general availability of the vaccines altogether.

In each of these areas, the social cost of new restrictions on

the drugs would be far higher than the cost to the drug industry itself. But rulings in favor of restrictions may dissuade companies from developing new

products in areas such as reproductive and preventive health, which would be a loss to both public health and potential (if small) future revenue streams of the drug industry.

What's at stake in the court battle over mifepristone? While the legal battle over mifepristone isn't the kind of event that threatens the drug industry with extinction, it does present long-term consequences.

"The loss of trust in the FDA is becoming an issue and it cannot be good for the industry's business model," says Hobbs. "It remains a theoretical threat that can be brought on against any product."

But there is no sustainable scenario in which the FDA's approvals are systematically challenged, meaning that so long as pharmaceutical companies keep developing new products and finding customers for them, there isn't too much at stake in the mifepristone fight—at least not for them.

Here's How You Can Improve Your Gut Bacteria, As Per A Nutritionist



Gut bacteria not only influence our digestive tract but also contribute to the healthy functioning of many other processes in the body. In fact, an unhealthy gut can also result in mental health problems. Hence, it is vital to take good care of your gut. To help us take better care of our gut and gut bacteria, nutritionist Lovneet Batra shares a few tips that can aid the management of healthy gut bacteria.

She writes, "Your gut is more connected to your health than you might previously have thought. It's home to trillions of bacteria that work hard to keep you fit and well. Making simple positive changes like increasing fiber-rich foods, lowering stress, and getting plenty of rest are how to get a healthy gut and overall health."

7 Tips to improve gut bacteria, as per the expert:

1. Eat a diverse range of foods
2. Eat lots of vegetables, legumes, beans, and fruit
3. Eat fermented foods
4. Pick probiotic rich foods
5. Limit your sugar & processed food intake
6. Refined sugar can upset the gut microbiota. A diet high in processed foods and added sugars can decrease the number of good bacteria in your gut and feed the bad ones.
7. Many fruits and vegetables are high in fibre. Fibre promotes the growth of beneficial gut bacteria, including specific types such as Bifidobacterium.

Fermented foods are those produced or transformed with the help of microorganisms, such as bacteria and yeast. Fermented foods act as a natural probiotic supplement, populating the gut with beneficial microbes when we consume them. Foods such as kanji, buttermilk, yogurt, kefir, kombucha, idli, and dhokla

Prebiotics are foods that promote the growth of beneficial bacteria in the gut. Prebiotics are found in foods such as apples, artichokes, bananas, barley, oats, chia and flax seeds, garlic and onions, roots vegetables, beans and legumes

Refined sugar can upset the gut microbiota. A diet high in processed foods and added sugars can decrease the number of good bacteria in your gut and feed the bad ones.

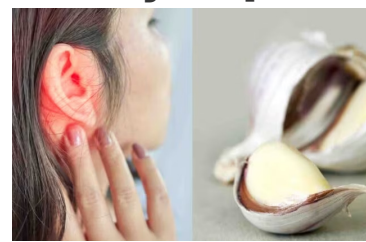
Home Mom Says Earache? My mom says garlic may help to ease the pain

Some might wrinkle their nose while thinking of garlic cloves or paste due to the strong odour, but there are many who believe in its health benefits. Yes, garlic not only gives a dish more flavour, but also offers several health benefits. Some eat it to lower blood pressure, while consume garlic to control cholesterol levels. But one day, I heard my mom suggesting our neighbour to try out garlic drops to get some relief from ear infections and earaches. Let's find out what an expert has to say about using garlic as a home remedy to treat an ear infection or pain.

Health Shots connected with Anika Ghoshal Bisht, Dietitian Incharge, Primus Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi, to find out the connection between garlic and ear pain or infection.

Garlic and ears

Health benefits of garlic include boosting the immune



system, lowering blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and the risk of heart disease. The expert says garlic has antimicrobial properties and may help to fight infections. It also has anti-inflammatory effects. In fact, some even eat garlic on an empty stomach for better health.

Bisht notes that garlic does have antibacterial and antifungal properties, but there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that it is effective in treating

ear infections. In fact, putting garlic cloves in the ear can be harmful and potentially lead to further damage or infection. But she says that traditionally, garlic has been used as a natural remedy for various health conditions, including ear infections.

Going by research, JAMA Pediatrics had published a study that involved 103 children with ear pain from middle ear infections. The researchers found that naturo-

pathic ear drops containing garlic (*Allium sativum*) and other herbal ingredients like *Calendula* flowers and *Hypericum perforatum* in olive oil was as effective in managing ear pain as ear drops available in stores. Tips to make garlic drops: Some people rely on castor oil and mustard oil as natural ways to clean ears. But it is important to consult a doctor for proper diagnosis and treatment of ear infections to avoid potential complications. Still, if you wish to try garlic drops for ear infection or ear pain, you can follow these steps:

- Crush a few cloves of garlic and mix it with warm olive oil.
- Let the mixture sit for half an hour, then strain it and put a few drops into the ear that's bothering you.
- Do this two to three times a day for relief from pain and inflammation.

Garlic as home remedy for babies

Garlic is generally considered

safe for adults when consumed in moderate amounts. You can also drink garlic tea in the morning and your body will thank you for it. But there is limited research on its safety and efficacy for babies. Also, applying garlic to a baby's skin or ears may cause irritation or allergic reactions. It is important to take advice from a medical expert before using any natural remedies on little ones, suggests Bisht.

Who should avoid using garlic in ears?

Garlic drops may work as a natural remedy to alleviate ear infections and earaches. However, people with sensitive skin or allergies to garlic should avoid using garlic drops in their ears. People with perforated eardrums or ear tubes should also not use garlic drops as they may cause irritation or damage to the ear. Just remember to consult with a doctor before using garlic as a home remedy for an ear infection.

Weight loss program to help stay healthy, prevent heart disease and diabetes

If you are overweight or obese then, you should take the help of a health or fitness expert to battle the bulge as doing so can help you to cut down the risk of heart disease and even diabetes. Try to eat well, exercise daily, stay stress-free and get a good night's sleep to stay healthy and hearty since it is no secret that a large number of people gain weight and become obese owing to sedentary lifestyles.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Urvi Maheshwari, Consulting Physician at Zynova Shalby Hospital, revealed, "Factors such as lack of physical activity, poor eating habits, certain health conditions and medications, and even genetics can make you pile up those excess kilos.

One who is overweight or obese can have a higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, gallbladder problems, and liver and kidney issues.

Thus, weight management can help lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose levels, raising one's odds of having a heart attack."

Insisting that it is better to consult an expert who will guide you regarding vital weight loss strategies, Dr Urvi Maheshwari suggested some weight loss tips that you should follow to keep your heart healthy and recommended the following weight loss program that can help one to stay healthy and hearty:

Healthy drinks to have on empty stomach during hot summer days

Summer season can be merciless as intense heat can damage your appetite and upset your digestive health. At the root of most summer illnesses is not having enough hydrating and cooling foods that soothes gut and supply you with essential vitamins and minerals to keep up the immunity. While one may crave for sugary and frozen treats during summer, it is advisable to have foods that cool you from within. Buttermilk, yoghurt, mint, chia seeds, fennel seeds are considered cooling foods that can provide wonderful benefits in summer season. So, if you are having ice creams, aerated drinks, and sugary treats to make your summer bearable, just resist the temptation as they are only adding to the empty calories. (Also read: Intermittent fasting can prevent tooth decay, improve dental health; know all benefits from experts)

"The heat wave is scorching. And if you do not manage your appetite and your desire to keep having cold beverages or foods moving through your throat, you run the risk of consuming too many empty calories entrenched in sugars especially," Nutritionist Anupama Menon told HT Digital.

There are certain drinks you can have on empty stomach in the morning or during the day to have a disease-free and healthy summer, as suggested by Menon.



EMPTY STOMACH DRINKS FOR SUMMER

1. **Lemon water and chia seeds**
Soak 1 tsp chia in ¼ glass water the previous night. Next morning, squeeze the juice of 1 lemon into the glass of chia and water, top with 150 ml water and consume. The chia seeds are considered cooling agents that nourish Kapha (earth and water elements). They are meant to keep the body hydrated, motions



smooth and the digestive tract healthy.

2. **Cucumber juice**
Cold pressed cucumber juice, chop in 4-5 mint leaves, add a pinch of chat masala or kala namak, grate 1 tsp of raw mango and consume. Cucumber is a coolant, easy on the stomach and has an exceptionally high water content that keeps the body hydrated.
3. **Water**
Water by itself is primary, during the sum-

mers even more so. Drinking two glasses of water first thing in the body rehydrates a parched body.

TO PREVENT GUT HEALTH ISSUES, DEHYDRATION AND HEAT STROKE, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE RIGHT DRINKS DURING SUMMER INSTEAD OF COLAS AND ICE CREAMS.

uids while it was asleep.

4. **YOGHURT**
½ cup yoghurt with a very small piece of ginger grated in, a pinch of raw haldi and pepper, mixed together and kept in the refrigerator. Consume this first thing in the morning. Yoghurt during summers provides the much-needed lactobacilli to maintain the apt ratio of microflora in the gut.

REFRESHING SUMMER DRINKS

Menon also suggests other drinks for summer season one can have during the day.

- Coconut water or watermelon/orange juice (squeezed fresh without water), 200ml soaked with 1 tsp chia seeds for ½ hour in the refrigerator and consume when your heart desires!
- Chopped cucumber and yoghurt make a great snack. Also try 100 ml cucumber juice mixed with a well done 100 ml buttermilk mixed together to make an uncommon drink fantastic for a hot summer's day.

- Drink at least 8-10 glasses of water (plus minus, based on your height and weight) every single day to avoid the perils of dehydration, especially if you are out in the sun for longer than usual sedentary hours.

- Tomato juice made fresh from tomatoes (eliminate the skin) can actually help the skin with tanning less. It also delivers Vit C, A and some important minerals.
- Buttermilk/Kefir are great to cool the body and keep it feeling hydrated. It could be seasoned with curry leaves and mint or even crushed ginger.
- Mangos as cut fruits are wonderful summer fruits that rapidly satisfy sweet cravings or the need of that sweet-loaded ice cream. Mango milkshakes/smoothies are great summer drinks that need no sugar and yet satisfy your sweet cravings effectively.
- You could also freeze cut mangoes for about 5-6 hours and pulse it in the blended smooth with 2 tps peanut butter to mock an icecream anyway. Mangos also have a lot of fibre that maintain the health of the gut during summers.



Advisor Bhatnagar reviews progress on implementation of JJM

REVIEWS STATUS OF WORKS ON MAJOR PROJECTS OF JSD

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired a meeting to review progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) besides assessing status of major projects of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) across Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra; Secretary in Jal Shakti Department, Deepika Sharma; Mission Director, JJM, Dr. G N Itoo; Chief Engineer, Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Engineer I&FC, Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Engineer RTIC, Technical Advisor JSD and other concerned officers of JSD both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar had detailed assessment of physical and financial achievements registered under CSS, CAPEX and NABARD schemes. He also reviewed the status of ongoing JJM works and the infrastructure proposed under the scheme, progress on ongoing works at major projects of Jal Shakti Department as well as summer preparedness of the department.

Addressing the officers, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized on the importance of timely completion of these projects, which



will not only benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also contribute significantly towards development of the region. He directed the concerned officials to expedite the implementation of this mission and ensure that the benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries.

Advisor also emphasized the need to prioritize completion of projects that are critical to the region's water security, including the augmentation of water supply schemes and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies.

Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers that the pace of ongoing works should be amplified so that the project is completed within the given timelines. He delved upon the executing

agency that no lackadaisical approach will be entertained while implementing this prestigious project, adding that this flagship programme caters to essential requirement of clean portable water to each and every household of the UT.

Advisor further asked the executing agency to maintain close coordination with other allied departments for smooth implementation of the mission. He also asked them to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and hold monthly review on progress of ongoing works across the UT. While highlighting the importance of Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQMS), Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers to

ensure that all the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) certified labs be made functional besides the labs, which are in process of NABL accreditation, are provided the equipments. He also asked them for deploying mobile testing labs in each district so that the timely tests are conducted and clean potable water is provided to the people.

While reviewing other major ongoing projects of Jal Shakti Department like Tawi Barrage, protection work/hand on River Devrak along AHMS Samba, Reconstruction of Balote Syphon on main Ranbir canal and other projects, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers for

completion of these prestigious projects before onset of monsoon. He exhorted upon the officers of executing agency that the diffuse of drainage into river Tawi should be checked in advance and proper plan for the discharge of drains into river should be made.

Advisor also asked them to prepare a proper plan for movement of water in the barrage in advance so that the water remains fresh for maintaining the ecosystem of Aquatic life.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made reflecting overall achievements in implementation of JJM across Jammu and Kashmir.

It was informed in the meeting that the average rate of FHTCs has been increased from 10-15 per day to 650-700 per day which is expected to pick up further up to 1000 FHTCs per day by the end of this month. It was also informed that after 100% Har Ghar Jal Certification and focus on water quality activities, Srinagar district figures at rank 2 at National Level.

It was also given out in the meeting that IEC activities have been intensified across all districts of the UT besides orientation and handholding sessions regarding implementation of JJM, for various stakeholders like Pani Samitis/PRLs, laboratory staff and ground level workers among others are being held regularly.

DC Shopian directs for effective implementation of developmental progs in Block Diwas



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 26: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaisya today presided over Weekly Block Diwas at Pahnou Shopian.

People from various areas of Pahnou raised developmental issues, demands and grievances pertaining to adequate drinking water availability, uninterrupted power supply, road connectivity, flood protection works and other rural development works and public welfare measures with the DDC.

After listening demands raised by people and PRLs, DDC directed concerned officers for resolving and meeting the demands on a priority basis.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the importance of the Weekly Outreach programme and said that the conduct of Block Diwas aims at reaching out to the people at their doorsteps, listening to their grievances and redressing them within the shortest possible time. He said, the outreach camps lead to a better connection between the administration and people and directed effective planning and implementation of developmental goals through vibrant participation of stakeholders.

He stressed upon the officers to prioritize the demands and redress them within the stipulated timelines. Some of the demands were resolved onspot.

DDC appealed to the people to come forward in giving a helping hand to District Administration in eradicating the menace of drugs from the society.

DDC also toured village and passed directions for demolition of illegal structures on encroached state land.

Among others, Joint Director Planning, Khurshid Ahmed Khatana, CEO, Mushtaq Ahmed, CHO, Mohammad Ramzan War, Tehsilidar Shopian, Mohammad, Fida BDO, Shopian, Qadeer Chatak and other officials were present also.

Tele-MANAS helpline receives more than 10,000 calls since its launch in J&K

CELL INSTRUMENTAL IN ADDRESSING STRESS, DRUG ADDICTION, ANXIETY RELATED ISSUES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 26: In a significant achievement towards providing quality mental healthcare for all, the UT level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele -MANAS) cell, established at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, has received more than 10,000 calls since its inception in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first-of-its-kind mental health helpline, launched on November 4, 2022, is a three-tier system that has mental health counselors, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists available for patients' calls.

Doctors at IMHANS informed that since its launch, they have received 10,000 calls including related to stress, drug addiction, suicidal tendencies and anxiety.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, while elaborating on the significance of Tele-MANAS cell in the UT, said that telemedicine is a broader concept and tele consultation is a

part of it. "People can call on toll-free number and seek advice on mental health issues. Since its launch, the number of calls have increased and the quality of calls also. People who took first consultation are calling for follow-ups also with psychologists and psychiatrists," he said.

Secretary added that Tele MANAS would also be linked to e-Sahaj portal where doctor can prescribe the medicine. "We want people to use this facility and tele MANAS is the way forward. It is more important for remote and far-off places where there is a shortage of doctors and specialists," he added.

Mission Director, NHM J&K, Ayush Sudan, said there is a lot of stigma attached to mental health issues adding that with Tele-MANAS, people are coming forward with these issues. "The individual calls reach to one or two hours and it is 24/7. A lot of mental health issues occur during night time. We have been able to cover a lot of people.

It is accessible and free. We want to expand it in future at the district level as well," she said.

Ayush Sudan said the NHM J&K is also planning to expand mental health coverage across the districts to cover mental health issues, however, the approach may be different from Tele-MANAS. "We will be having district mental health plans. Tele MANAS is beginning in our initiative. We are also planning to integrate the suicide helpline," she said.

As an extension to service delivery framework of the existing Tele MANAS Helpline we have developed Tele MANAS Chat bot, first of its kind in the entire country. It will enable the users to chat directly about their basic mental health problems for solution and subsequently patients can be referred to tele manas cell.

Dr. Qazi Haroon, State Program Manager Mental Health J&K, said Tele MANAS is being linked to District Mental health program across all the districts of JK UT. A comprehensive communication strategy/IEC formulated has actually helped us to reach so extensively to common people in such short period of time, he added.

Labour Commissioner visits Pulwama; directs for preparation of Labour Sarai cum office Complex DPR

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 26: Labour Commissioner, J&K, Ab Rashid War today visited proposed sites for construction of Labour Sarai at Washbugh, Drusoo and Pinglana in Pulwama. The concerned officials of R&B Department, Revenue Department and Municipal Committee were also present on the occasion. During the visit, the R&B was directed to prepare the DPR for construction of Labour Sarai-cum-office complex at Washbugh at the earliest.

"The basic purpose of construction of Labour Sarai is to provide accommodation to the poor labourers who come from far off areas to work at the district headquarter", said Labour Commissioner.

He added that the Government is committed to provide welfare to the labour class. A meeting in this regard was also held with Baser-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Dy. Commissioner, Pulwama in his office chamber and it was resolved that the Labour Sarai-cum-office complex shall be constructed at the acquired land of Labour Department at Washbugh. Further it was also decided that the site at Pinglana shall be utilized for construction of labour institute after fulfilling all the codal formalities.

The visiting Officer also reviewed the working of the Labour Department in Pulwama. Assistant Labour commissioner, Pulwama Ms. Hafsa Qayoom, briefed him about the functioning of the office. An amount of Rs. 2 lakh was also disbursed among the registered construction workers as Educational Assistance and Rs. 2.05 lakh among the dependents of deceased construction worker as Death-cum Funeral Assistance under Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Scheme.

VC KVIB convenes meeting with Board officers, bankers



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Vice Chairperson, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, today convened an exhaustive meeting with bankers and KVIB Jammu division at JLN Udoyog Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Board besides officers from the participating banks and district officers of KVIB Jammu division.

The meeting, had detailed discussion on achievements of KVIB Jammu division for the year 2022-23 under both the schemes including Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP). The meeting was informed that 1576 units under PMEGP and 408 units under JKREGP were established during 2022-23 involving a margin money (subsidy) of Rs. 3722.56 lakh and Rs. 1035.56 lakh creating employment for 12608 persons and 2448 persons respectively. Vice Chairperson applauded the role of participating banks in successful implementation of both the programmes of KVIB. She cautioned them to refrain from rejecting cases on flimsy grounds. She urged upon the bankers to give women and marginalized sections of society are given preferential treatment by processing their cases on priority.

Vice Chairperson also emphasized the importance of collective efforts by the implementing agency and banks to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes such as PMEGP and JKREGP reach the targeted population.

DC Reasi discuss action plan for promotion of water Conservation campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 26: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal today chaired a meeting to discuss the action plan for promotion of the "Catch the Rain Save the Water" initiative among the people regarding rain water conservation.

The meeting held threshold discussion regarding the implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and the challenges being faced by the executing agencies in the district.

The DC directed the stakeholders to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and adequate drinking water supply to all households of the district in all seasons. Stress was laid on execution of the schemes in a coordinated manner to ensure the success of the program.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri listens to public grievances at outreach camp in Panjah area of Kalakote block

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 26: As a part of the weekly Block Diwas, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today presided over a public outreach camp in the Panjah area of Kalakote block. The event was aimed at bringing the administration closer to the people and addressing their grievances.

During the camp, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns. He assured them that their problems would be addressed on priority basis and directed the concerned officials to take necessary action.

The camp witnessed a good turnout, with people from various parts of the block coming forward to voice their concerns. The demands raised by the locals included the macadamization of roads, upgradation of schools, meeting shortage of staff in Government institutions and augmentation of health infrastructure etc.



Specific issues and demands highlighted during the camp were up-gradation of GMS Panjah to HS level, meeting shortage of staff in sub-centre Panjah, Construction of Panchayat Ghar building for Panjah, inclusion of left out eligible beneficiaries under PMAY-G, provision of electric poles, renovation of road from main road to Panjah, com-

pletion of road from Brevi Tatapani, construction of a bridge between Bahera and Panjah, repair of defunct hand pumps etc. During the public outreach camp, the officers of different departments also took the opportunity to educate the locals about various government schemes and programs and urged them to take advantage of these initiatives.

In his address during the public outreach camp, the Deputy Commissioner sought active cooperation from the general public and called for coordination among departments and agencies desired development interventions.

He also urged the youth to avail the benefits of self-employment schemes launched by the government and exhorted them to become self-reliant.

Responding to issues and demands raised during the public outreach camp, the DC passed on the spot directions to the concerned departments for redressal of issues highlighted by the public on priority and in a time-bound manner.

Responding to the issue of construction of road from Kharaq to Panjah, the DC assured that the work on the road would start soon and also assured to provide an adequate number of electricity poles under the RDSS scheme of the PDD sector. Responding to the issue of water scarcity, the DC said that every household of the

district would be provided functional tapped water connections with the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The public outreach camp was a success, with the locals appreciating the efforts of the administration in reaching out to them and addressing their grievances. The public outreach camp at Panjah served as an effective platform for the public to voice their concerns and for the government officials to take necessary actions to address them.

The timely and quality disposal of issues faced by the general public is a top priority of the district administration, and officers have been directed to work with added zeal to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Among the others present at the public outreach camp were DDC Member Kalakote, Anita Thakur, DDC Kalakote, Babu Khan; ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP Sheraz Chowhan and other district and sectoral officers.

Lt Governor Sinha inaugurates newly constructed 576 residential accommodations for PM Package Employees at Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal & Shopian



J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 26: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated newly constructed 576 residential accommodations for PM Package Employees today at Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal & Shopian.

"Today's inauguration is a testimony to our commitment to create adequate facilities for a future of prosperity & dignity of Employees," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the Government is sensitive to the issues of the Kashmiri migrant families. We understand their pain and working with the right intent to complete the construction of residential accommo-

dations on priority. The administration has taken various initiatives to expedite the process of construction of housing units for PM Package employees and 2000 more flats will be completed by December 2023, he added. The Lt Governor highlighted the remarkable progress in various sectors including industries, empowerment of citizens and building competitive economy & inclusive society.

"Our young generation is our greatest asset and they should take the lead to build a stronger, prosperous and a more dynamic J&K," said the Lt Governor.

Some vested interest spoiled the generations, separated your own brothers from you. Come forward and say that what had happened was

wrong and now we won't let it happen to anyone, he added.

The Lt Governor also spoke on progressive reforms introduced to boost infrastructure, employment generation and ease of living in the UT. Today, the domestic and foreign companies are willing to invest in J&K. More than 1.25 lakh crore rupees worth highways and tunnel projects are going on in the UT. Increased flight operations in both Jammu & Srinagar airports, improved road and rail connectivity have brought J&K closer to the world, he added. The Lt Governor also shared the key initiatives taken to tap the growth potential of various priority sectors, extending hand-holding to budding entrepreneurs, creating large self-employment opportunities, and ensuring fast track & transparent recruitments.

Ms. Safina Baig, DDC Chairperson, Baramulla, in her address, said the Transit Accommodations will give a boost to the communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary highlighted the timely completion of the residential accommodations for PM Package Employees.

Kavinder felicitates new CCI team, wishes them success in every endeavour



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 26: Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has extended profound felicitations to the newly elected team of Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Jammu. Kavinder went to meet the new team and wished them success in addressing the issues of the Commerce and Industries fraternity during their tenure. Congratulating Arun Gupta, President, Chamber Of Commerce and Industry and his team, Kavinder said that the new team is expected not only to work for the fraternity of Industries and Commerce but it will also work in the better interest of the public at large and fight for the other general issues of Jammu and its people as it has been doing in the past.

The senior BJP leader said that CCI is a significant stakeholder of the UT and its people's welfare and always acts like a forefront civil society. He said that not only the business class but the common people of Jammu have great expectations viz-a-viz safeguarding their interests by taking up their issues with the concerned authorities in the corridors of power and getting these addressed. He expressed confidence in the new team saying that it will leave no stone unturned in transforming the business scenario of the Union Territory especially in Jammu.

DDC Rajouri lays foundation stone of Water Supply Scheme Brevi under Jal Jeevan Mission

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 26: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Khandel, today laid the foundation stone of the Water Supply Scheme Brevi under Jal Jeevan Mission. The project, estimated to cost Rs 5.78 crore, will include a bore well for village Panjah and Bursian, 5000-gallon capacity Rapid Sand filtration plant for Brevi on Solki Nallah, and laying of water supply pipes. With the commencement of this project, the water shortage issue in the area is expected to be mitigated to a considerable extent. The total FHTCs to be provided is 187. The project is a significant milestone in the government's efforts to provide clean drinking water to every household, as envisioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The mission aims to provide tap water supply to all rural households by 2024, ensuring drinking water security and improving the health and well-being of people in rural areas.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony, District Development Commissioner Rajouri, said, "The Water Supply Scheme Brevi is a vital step towards fulfilling the government's vision of providing clean drinking water to all households. With this project, we hope to alleviate the water shortage issue faced by the residents of the area to a significant extent."

The project is expected to benefit a large number of residents in the area, who have been facing water scarcity for a long time. The completion of this project will provide a reliable and sustainable source of clean drinking water to the residents, improving their quality of life.

The DDC also highlighted that a significant number of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission are currently underway in the sub-division of Kalakote. He expressed his optimism that once these schemes are completed, the water shortage issue in the area will be completely resolved.

"The laying of the foundation stone for the Water Supply Scheme Brevi is just one step towards providing clean drinking water to the residents of the area. We are committed to ensure that every household in the area has access to safe and clean drinking water," he added.

The local DDC Member, Surekha Thakur, BDC Chairperson, Babu Khan, concerned Sarpanchs and panches, besides ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal; EXN Jal Shakti, Vipin Langeh, AEC concerned and a large number of public of the area was present on the occasion.

DDC Anantnag presided over Kisan Sampark Abhiyaan

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, APRIL 26: District Development Commissioner Anantnag Dr Basharat Qayoom along with his team of district officers today visited the Block Shangus and preside over the weekly held Block Diwas at panchayat halqa Brariangan of shangus block. DDC Chairman Talib Hussain while presenting the developmental scenario of the area said that a lot has been done with respect to overall development of the block and more is a requirement for a developing society. He raised some demands and issues of the area viz permanent water supply for Brariangan and adjacent areas. Digging of more borewells, augmentation of WWS (kharwan, Halan road construction, etc. The PRI members and local asstg representatives also spoke on the occasion and raised some local demand like Additional patwari for halqa Brariangan, issuance of ration card to new households, rationalisation of teaching staff in schools of shangus block, regular visit of agriculture, horticulture, Animal Husbandry experts for early identification of any disease besides technical guidance to farmers, scheduled power supply, JK Bank branch, clearance of FRA cases etc. concerned sectoral heads presented detailed responses to the demands raised. Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag Ajiaz Hussain Dar apprised the DDC about the Kisan sampark Abhiyaan and said that this is a farmer orientation and skill development programme aimed at providing training to farmers about 29 projects and awareness about 16 centrally sponsored schemes at 394 Venues in 16 blocks besides displaying audio, video visuals of the project. Through Holistic agriculture department programme participants will have the opportuni-

ty to learn about innovative farming techniques and technologies, he added.

A progressive farmer of mushroom cultivation of the area share his success story and experience and support by the agriculture department and he appealed the people to come forward and avail the benefits of schemes to become self-reliable.

DDC while speaking on the occasion said that the Kisan sampark Abhiyaan is farmer centric programme and will continue for three months with 29 agri and allied components in all blocks of district and farmers will be provided every possible technical, financial support from soil testing till Post harvesting. He stressed upon the officers to be a forefront for redressal of people's problem. DC assured the beneficiaries of FRA that cases will be cleared and directed the concerned committee to clear the cases at panchayat level and at block level immediately. He urged farmers for mass participation to avail the benefits of HADP and exhorted upon the officers of agriculture and allied sectors to train and educate farmers about the programme. Talking to media DC said that weekly held Block Diwas yields good results and mass participation witnessed is the trust people have on the Administration and it's outreach program. Latter DC inspected the ongoing works of Jal Shakti at krad, dethu, issues, Wangam etc and directed the concerned Jalshakti for early completion of these WSS besides quality checks and directed the contractor concerned for enhancing manpower. DC was accompanied by SE Hydraulic, CAO, CHO CAHO, CSHO, Joint director planning, Xen R&B viablo, Xen Jalshakti Bijbehara, BDO, Tehsildar, BMO, A.E.s of concerned divisions besides the officials of line departments and large number of people.

DC Pulwama presides Maha Gram Sabha of "Kissan Sampark Abhiyaan" at Litter, Pulwama

J I NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 26: With an objective of sensitizing farmers about new interventions approved under the Holistic Agriculture Development programme and benefits under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary, today presided over a Maha Gram Sabha programme under "Kissan Sampark Abhiyaan" here at Panchayat Halqa Litter Lassipora as extensive orientation programme for the farmers.

Addressing the programme under "Kissan Sampark Abhiyan", Deputy Commissioner stated that under "Kissan Sampark Abhiyan", capacity building cum orientation programmes will be held in all Panchayats to sensitize the farmers and PRI representatives about the recent Government plan to implement 29 projects costing more than Rs 500 crore from this year.

The plan is aimed to increase Agricultural production at holistic development and promotion of

Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector.

He further stated that "Kissan Sampark Abhiyan" is a prestigious programme of the Agriculture Production Department aimed at the overall welfare of farmers to educate farmers on various issues, including business management, entrepreneurship and Government schemes. He said the campaign will help farmers to increase their spending in the sector, ultimately leading to an improvement in their productivity and production.

He further stated that with the help of PRIs, the focus on farmers orientation and skilling agricultural programmes will ensure that the meticulous plan reaches the fields and prepare our farmers to meet new challenges and explore new possibilities, besides making farming accessible and more profitable.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on farmers and PRI representatives to actively participate in the programme to ensure the suc-

cess of the ambitious program.

The Deputy Commissioner also sensitized youth to register themselves for different programmes of livelihood generation.

The Deputy Commissioner also urged the interested unemployed youth to take a keen interest in self-employment and become entrepreneurs to generate livelihood for themselves and others as well, adding that the Government is committed to their hand-holding under the ambitious Mission Youth Programme. The function was attended by members of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Block Development Officer Litter, Tehsildar Shaohora Litter, Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama and large number of Farmers were present in the Mahagram Sabha of the "Kissan Sampark Abhiyan".

Candle March organised in Lam to pay tributes to martyrs of Poonch attack



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 26: The local population of Lam today organized a Candle March in order to pay tribute to the bravehearts who gave ultimate sacrifice in Poonch terror attack. The locals strongly condemned the attack and displayed their solidarity with the Indian Army. They urged everyone to provide their full fledged support to the armed forces as they are working tirelessly towards development of the locals and protecting us at every front. We are safe only because of them.

In pertinent to mention here that five soldiers of Indian Army attained martyrdom when as the moving vehicle was attacked by militants.

Dr Iqbal Malik joins as BMO Nowshera



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 26: Dr Iqbal Malik joined as BMO Nowshera in an event organised at BMO Office Nowshera where he formally took the charge. Several health officers and staff members welcomed him to his new office Dr Iqbal has a great reputation in the field of healthcare services and health administration. He has vast experience in the field. He has earlier served as BMO Darhal and BMO Kanndi Dr Iqbal Malik is known for his efficiency and able administration of healthcare services. He has been successful in providing quality healthcare services in far flung and remote areas also.

Dr Iqbal has received various awards for outstanding service in the field of Health. During his posting in Block Kandi Dr Iqbal Malik has tried his best to provide quality healthcare services at the doorsteps of the people. Several field camps in outreach areas have been organised for the welfare of public Health checkup camps, awareness camps SEHAT camps, Vaccination camps etc are a routine in Block Kandi Besides every Saturday is celebrated there as School Health Day. The door to door COVID campaign initiated first by Dr Iqbal Malik became the key factor for 100% coverage of COVID vaccination. This successful model was later adopted in other States of India. It was also appreciated by the higher authorities including Union Health Minister and Bombay High Court Mega camps were also organised in every village and panchayat so that public including senior citizens, pregnant women children and diyyangs get their services in their own village saving their time and money.

DC Srinagar holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Check-Sangri in Khonmoh area

Inaugurates Health cum Nutrition Centre at Sangri Khonmoh under Aspirational Block Development Programme

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 26: Continuing efforts of the Administration to reach out to the common masses living in the rural and far-flung areas of the District to address their grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of Check Sangri area in Khonmoh Block of the District and held a Grievance Redressal Camp under Weekly Block Diwas programme.

Besides, DDC member, Manzoor Ahmad, the Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions and large gathering of people of the area who projected their grievances and issues before the Deputy Commissioner including macadamization of Check Sangri road, infrastructure upgradation of High School Sangri and Middle School



Sekinar, development of playground, augmentation of water supply, deployment of Teaching Staff for Boys Middle School, upgradation of Health facilities, enhancement in the quota of IAY cases, expansion of mobile network connectivity and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the PRI members and other individuals, the DC sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present

during the Grievance Redressal Camp. He assured the people of Check Sangri and other areas of Khonmoh Block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked into on priority.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned Officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration is holding such grievance redressal

Camps to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and on-ground assessment to ensure their time bound redressal. He said such programmes also provide feedback to the Administration to developmental plans as per proposals of the local populations for the public good and reach to the doorstep of the people instead of them visiting the DC office or other Government Offices.

With regard to the demand of augmentation of drinking water supply in the area, the DC asked the PHE authorities to take measures for early redressal of the issue. On the occasion, the DC was informed that a DPR of Rs 5 crore is being formulated by the Jal Shakti Department and the same shall be submitted shortly.

Regarding deployment of Teaching Staff for Boys Middle School, the DC gave on spot directions for deployment of Teachers in the School.

While highlighting the benefits of different Government welfare schemes launched for livelihood generation for youth the DC asked the local unemployed youth to come forward and take benefit from such schemes to earn livelihood for them and their family.

On the occasion, the DC said an amount of Rs 85 lakh has been spent in the Khonmoh Panchayat Block during last fiscal on different development works. During the tour, the DC also inspected the Government Boys High School Sangri and took stock of its functioning. The DC also asked the concerned to take measures for infrastructure upgradation of the School.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the Health and Nutrition Centre at Sangri Khonmoh constructed at a cost of Rs 18 lakh under Aspirational Block Development Programme.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RASHID, NOOR SET FOR BIGGER FEATS

NEW DELHI: Hikmat Hassan, an Afghanistan cricket official until the recent Taliban takeover, says his country is the 'spin capital' of world cricket, endorsing the views of Rais Ahmadzai, a former Afghan under-19 coach, who boasts of the country's spin bowling stock. "You can say we have the best spinners in the world," Ahmadzai claims.

Such words could go down as inflated claims but on Tuesday night, Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad Lakanwal did no harm to the lofty boasts of the Afghan Cricket Board members. Between them, the two spinners broke the back of the batting of Mumbai Indians, littered with some of the best white ball-batters in the world.

Of the two, Noor emerged with one more wicket than his illustrious compatriot, scalping three batters for an aggregate of six wickets from three games. No mean feat for an 18-year-old playing his maiden IPL season. "I can't pick the googlies of Noor," remarked Abhinav Manohar, the Man-of-the-Match on the night for Gujarat Titans in a succinct description of the spin bowling prodigy.

Long before Noor arrived on the Indian soil, bought by the Titans at his base price INR 30 lakh in 2022, he was already a star



back home in Afghanistan where he is hailed as a teen sensation, the next big thing in country's cricket, second only to Rashid Khan.

"Noor Ahmed will be the future star of world cricket," Ahmadzai says in a documentary, shared by the Afghan cricket official, who collaborated on the project about Noor's rise to prominence. "He is of course one of the natural talents of Afghanistan cricket. His hard work and dedication and love for the game will make him a big player in future," the official tells Cricbuzz. "Rashid is giving him more confidence by playing with him."

Rashid himself is all praise for his young colleague, who has only

played one ODI and one T20I for Afghanistan. "It's great to have him in the side and sharing the bowling partnership with him since last year. That kid, he just wants to learn and he's working so hard. Last year the way he was working, bowling lots in the nets, keeping asking the questions."

"Even when I was in the gym, he was coming to the gym and saying, 'let's bowl here in the gym.' At 1 AM, 2 AM he was bowling with me in the gym. He wanted to get better and perform. He got the opportunity now and he's been delivering. I am so happy for him that he's delivering. It's great news for GT and also for Afghanistan," the Afghan star said of Noor after the game in Ahmedabad on Tuesday

night. "I am so happy for him that he's delivering. It's great news for GT and also for Afghanistan" "I am so happy for him that he's delivering. It's great news for GT and also for Afghanistan" ©BCCI

the south-eastern part of war-torn Afghanistan, that is gnawed at by the words of and strife. In the military of the aforementioned Afghan official, it is "a very backward place in terms of services such as education, health, infrastructure, etc."

The only thing that is better in Lakan than Kabul is the weather in Noor's village that does not see the snow that the capital city experiences. Noor grew up bowling in the bumpy, stony and sandy fields of Lakan, which also has a cricket academy. If he eventually comes to bowl spin, it is because of the famous Afghan cricket stars. "These guys are inspired by Nabi (Mohammad), Mubeeb (Ur Rahman) and Mujib (and also Rashid," says Hassan.

Inspiration is one and delivering is a crunch game a whole other matter. In Ahmedabad on Tuesday night, Noor claimed the wickets of Australians Cameron Green and Tim David in one over, a repercussion of the feat achieved by Rashid, who had scalped Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma three overs earlier.

Noor though may have won the bragging rights for the night by having Surya Kumar Yadav, the No 1 T20I batsman in the world, caught and bowled. He finished with figures of three for 37.

If not fit to play, Williamson could be a New Zealand team mentor at the ODI World Cup

WELLINGTON: Kane Williamson could still travel to India for the ODI World Cup later this year, with the team management open to roping in the injured batter as a mentor for the tournament. At the same time, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead has refused to rule Williamson out of the World Cup as a player just yet.

After suffering a ruptured Anterior Cruciate Ligament in his right knee in the opening game of IPL 2023, Williamson returned home from India on crutches and subsequently underwent surgery, which was deemed a success. Williamson's knee is still in a brace as he undergoes rehab. "Look, it's still far too early to know," Stead said ahead of the five-match ODI series in Pakistan. "He's had the operation and, to date, what we know, that's been successful. So he is in the very, very early stages of his rehab programme."

"It's obviously pretty non-weight-bearing at this stage, and he's in a brace. So, it's really just meeting milestones as we go. Our line around Kane, at the moment, is still it's unlikely that he will be available, but we certainly don't want to rule out a person of his class and calibre, and the things he brings to this team, too early in



case there is that chance still. "Yeah, absolutely [would take him to India as a mentor]."

The ODI World Cup is likely to start on October 5 and end on November 19, with 12 Indian cities shortlisted as venues for the tournament, but the official itinerary is yet to be released. Usually, the ICC announces World Cup schedules at least a year in advance, but this time it has also been waiting for the BCCI to get the necessary clearances from the Indian government. The wait for the schedule has somewhat disrupted New Zealand's long-term planning.

"[Schedule] is not out yet, so there's not much we can do about that," Stead said. "So it does keep our options reasonably open with-

out knowing the venues and who we are playing at different venues. "So, it does make it pretty difficult to finalise plans right now. But that again just gives players opportunities that are within the squad now, to come out here [in Pakistan] and play for New Zealand."

Mark Chapman is in the World Cup frame. In the absence of Williamson and a number of first-choice New Zealand players, Mark Chapman emerged from the fringes and hit an unbeaten 104 off 57 balls, helping his team gun down 194 to square the T20I series 2-2 in Rawalpindi. Chapman was then added to New Zealand's ODI squad and is also in the frame for the ODI World Cup, according to Stead. Chapman has played just five ODIs for New Zealand since he made his debut for them in the format in 2018. However, he is a fine player of spin, which in a lot of ways is to do with him playing more in Asian and subcontinental conditions during his formative years with Hong Kong.

"[The T20I] series result itself was fantastic for the team, if you consider the number of players that are at the IPL," Stead said. "And we were playing a full-strength Pakistan team - a team that made the T20 [World Cup]

final. So, to get a two-all result against them and play the way we did, especially in the last T20 game, was fantastic. "The Mark Chapman-James Neesham partnership was really, really significant. "Obviously, it wasn't the best of starts with the bat, but the composure the two of them showed in that situation was brilliant. It was not just one knock about Mark Chapman why he was added to the ODI squad, but there is a lot of competition for places and it's not so much about the competition, but it's how we keep building towards the World Cup. And Mark Chapman is one guy who is in our thoughts around that."

Is there a way back for Martin Guppitt? Martin Guppitt has given up his NZCC contract and is now a free agent, but Mike Hesson, the former New Zealand coach who is currently with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, believes Guppitt could be another candidate to slot into Williamson's place in the ODI team because of his experience. Guppitt was in action in PSL 2023, where he was the top scorer for Quetta Gladiators with 310 runs in nine innings at an average of 38.75 and strike rate of just over 150.

Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to be aligned with clubs and appear in marketing material, with the quids traditionally sitting out the BBL to manage workloads. CA hopes the changes open the door to more big-name talent playing, while allowing clubs to not have roster spots and significant cap space taken up by unavailable players with Tests in January this summer. "It's always our ambition for as many of those players to be part of the BBL as possible," Big Bash boss Alistair Dobson said. "We hope that the mechanisms will enable clubs to sign players even if they are either unlikely or not available. Because having them around the BBL and ready if available, is a really important part of the competition for us."

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Karunaratne, Madushka tons ease Sri Lanka into control Mendis' 96-ball 83* helped the hosts put on 276 runs in 59 overs on a rain-curtailed day

GALLE: Sri Lanka gathered 276 brisk runs for the loss of just the wicket of Dimuth Karunaratne, as they eased into control of the second Test, on a rain-curtailed day.

Nishan Madushka's maiden Test century was a highlight, as he added 108 to his overnight score. Karunaratne also hit his second hundred in as many innings, before being dismissed for 115 shortly before the scheduled lunch. Ireland had another torrid day in the field, with their spinners - with the exception of Andy McBride - unable to keep a lid on the scoring, let alone put together seriously menacing spinners.

The surface isn't taking a lot of turn yet, and as such, it does not allow bowlers a lot of margin for error. By stumps, Sri Lanka had scored at 4.63 runs an over, with Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis having been especially busy at the crease. Bad light forced players off the field shortly

the drives humming - he hit Campher for two fours in one over, one shot going past mid-on, the other just wide of mid-off. Both batters completed their half-centuries in the first 40 minutes of play.

McBride was really the only spinner to put appreciable pressure on the batters - he kept his lines tight, and got the odd one to spin, to test the edge. But the batters took the other spinners apart. Debutant left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys' eight overs went for 56 (three of these overs had been bowled on day two). Legspinner Ben White wasn't quite as expensive but did not particularly impose himself either, going at 5.35 in his 17 overs.

Late in the first session, Karunaratne completed a 16th Test century, off the 116th ball he faced. He had been so efficient at picking up singles and twos to the outfield that the mile-stone almost snuck up.

"Congress Used Religion To Come To Power": Rajnath Singh In Karnataka

Belagavi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today came down heavily on the Congress alleging that it used 'mazhab' (meaning religion in Urdu) to come to power. Rajnath Singh also slammed the party for having introduced four per cent reservation, in its earlier term, on religious lines in Karnataka, saying it had been done only to appease Muslims.

"If there is any political party in the history of India which took the support of 'dharma', or rather, 'mazhab' to come to power, then it is Congress," Mr Singh said, addressing a public meeting at Kagwad in Belagavi district.

Karnataka votes on May 10, with the results slated to be declared on May 13. The Congress does the 'politics of Hindu, Muslim and Christians', he said. "Politics of this sort should never ever be done. Only to appease Muslims, the four per cent reservation was given on religious lines, he alleged.

"We will welcome if an economically weaker Muslim or a Christian gets reservation benefits but the Constitution of India does not permit religion-based reservation," the Defence Minister said. Just days before the Model Code of

Conduct came into force, the BJP government in Karnataka scrapped four per cent reservation for Muslims under 2B category of the Other Backward Castes.

After making 2B redundant, the Karnataka government split the four per cent reservation, giving two per cent each to the two dominant communities of the state, Vokkaligas in 2C and Lingayats in 2D category.

Muslims were then placed in the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category. Various Muslim bodies have approached the Supreme Court, which has directed the Karnataka government not to implement its decision until it hears the matter on May 9. Mr Singh said there was "nothing hidden" about the character of the BJP as the entire world knows about it. "The BJP never believes in discrimination on the lines of caste, creed and religion. The BJP believes in 'Insaaf aur Insaaniyat' (justice and humanity)," he claimed.

He added that the BJP followed the principles of 12th Century AD social reformer of Karnataka Basaveshwara. "The BJP is playing its role in India by following the principles of Basaveshwara," the minister said.

JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E) NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH e-NIT No. 08 ELC of 2023-24 Dated: 24-04-2023

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu. The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Municipal Corporation, Jammu is inviting online tenders on PERCENTAGE basis from registered class of Electrical contractors/Firm as per the prescribed format for the works shown here under.

S.No.	Description of Works /Items	Approx. Qty in Nos	Adv. Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of advertised cost (In Rupees)	Cost of Tender documents (In Rupees)	Class of contractor
1.	Repair/Maintenance of drinking Water Cooler for the year 2023-24 in different wards of JMC. (Ending March 2024).	AS per BOQ	5.00	10000/-	600/-	A B C D

Position of AAA ----- accorded

Major Head ----- Under G.I.A 2023-24

- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The bid shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website http://jk.tenders.gov.in up to 29/04/2023 till 15:00 hours.
- The bid received will be opened on 01/05/2023 up to 14.00 hrs same day or any other day convenient to the tender opening committee.

- Documents required to be uploaded online for Technical Bid.
 - Scanned copy of earnest money deposit @2% on advertised cost of work in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Chief Accounts Officer JMC.
 - Cost of bidding document in shape of e-Challan/Single Window Challan of JMC pledged to Chief Accounts Officer JMC/tender fees receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html.
 - Contractor registration card renewed up to 31.12.2023.
 - Scanned copy GST Card.
 - Scanned copy of Pan Card.
 - Scanned copy of duly filled Annexure "A" and Annexure "B".

Note: Non Submission of any of the above documents online shall render the bidder as nonresponsive and his financial bid shall not be open

No: FRESH e-NIT No. 08ELC of 2023-24
Dt:- JMC/XEN/E/Div/50-54 Dt: 24/04/2023
DIP/J-396-P/23

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ELECT.)
JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

CA allows BBL clubs to sign players outside their salary cap

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia will allow Big Bash clubs to sign nationally contracted players outside of their salary cap in a bid to avoid the Steven Smith fiasco of the past two seasons.

Under rules unveiled by CA on Wednesday, players will be able to sign with individual clubs on a marquee supplementary list if they are not expected to be available to play.

Should the player's circumstances change, they will then be able to be brought into the BBL club's full-time roster to feature in matches. The rules come as part of a raft of contracting changes for the men's and women's BBL, including the introduction of an overseas player draft in the WBBL in the same model as the men's tournament.

The highest-paid overseas men's player will command AU\$420,000 in the draft, while the female counterparts will collect AU\$110,000 in a major boost to the pulling power of the competitions.

Clubs will also have to pay their top-six men's earners a minimum of AU\$200,000 each, and top-five female players AU\$50,000 each. But the biggest change will come with nationally-contracted men's stars.

Franchisees will be able to contract as many as they like inside the AU\$3 million salary cap for their regular 18-man roster, as well as two additional players outside of the cap. Those players would be on a standardised AU\$50,000 deal.

If they end up playing, only then will their AU\$50,000 deal and AU\$30,000 match fees count to the

cap. If the player's availability comes through unforeseen circumstances, CA will also allow clubs to bring money out of the following season's cap to fit them in.

That would likely only be activated for any player who has been dropped from Australian duties, or if international fixtures were to change. The new rule would cover both of the Smith scenarios in the past two years, where Covid-19 caused the cancellation of a series in early 2022 and home ODIs earlier this year. Smith was unable to play for the Sixers in 2021-22 as he was not signed with them, while he and David Warner were handed marketing contracts last summer to play for the Sixers and Sydney Thunder, respectively.

The new system would also allow the likes of Mitchell Starc,

Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to be aligned with clubs and appear in marketing material, with the quids traditionally sitting out the BBL to manage workloads.

CA hopes the changes open the door to more big-name talent playing, while allowing clubs to not have roster spots and significant cap space taken up by unavailable players with Tests in January this summer.

"It's always our ambition for as many of those players to be part of the BBL as possible," Big Bash boss Alistair Dobson said. "We hope that the mechanisms will enable clubs to sign players even if they are either unlikely or not available. Because having them around the BBL and ready if available, is a really important part of the competition for us."



Chief Justice inaugurates Mandatory Mediation Training Programme for Advocates

EMPHASIZES LAWYERS' DUAL ROLE IN MEDIATION PROCESS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N Kotsisar Singh, today inaugurated 40 hours (05 Days) Mandatory Mediation Training Programme for Advocates of various districts of Jammu province in presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairman, Mediation and Conciliation Committee at J&K Judicial Academy Jammu.

Delivering inaugural address, Chief Justice highlighted the significance of mediation not only in justice delivery system but also in day to day life of an individual. He stated that with growing economy, disputes are inevitable and judiciary is unable to cope up with the mounting arrears because of various reasons, so the alternate modes of resolving disputes assume all the more importance to reduce the arrears and save the social fabric of our nation.

Chief Justice said that the Mediation brings peace and harmony among the disputing parties in particular and society in general.

He underlined the importance of lawyers stating that they play a dual role in Mediation Process as on one hand they have to persuade their clients for mediation and on the other they have to perform the role of mediator for facilitating amicable settlement of disputes.



Chief Justice sought synergized efforts by the judicial officers and lawyers towards institutionalization of the mechanism of mediation for larger benefit and satisfaction of the litigant public. He said mediation is a programme which we cannot undertake without the participation of Bar.

He appreciated the efforts of Mediation and Conciliation Committee comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan as Chairman and Justice Sindhu Sharma as well as Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary as members, in holding such educative courses.

Chief Justice said that this training course will definitely do wonders towards adding to skills of the mediators, besides enhancing their excellence and expertise in the field.

He urged upon the participating Advocates to learn the innovative methods and techniques of mediation from the eminent experts and make optimum use of the same because in future they have to perform the role of trainers. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chairman, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in his address gave an overview of the concept of mediation. He said that the mediation had been an integral part of Indian Culture and traditionally going to courts was considered against one's reputation. He further said that mediation has a potential to be the most effective instrument towards ensuring expeditious disposal of cases. During his welcome address, M K Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, and Director J&K Judicial Academy, while giving a brief account of the programme, stated that Mediation is an ADR mechanism in resolving disputes with the help of a third neutral person who

assists the parties at dispute to reach a negotiated resolution.

He further stated that in a country like India, where the course of development is skewed affecting each and every citizen the demand for justice is increasing at a greater pace. Given the fact that major chunk of our population still remains marginalized, deprived and destitute, mediation is an effective tool to provide cost effective justice to the parties, he added.

Amit Kumar Gupta, Coordinator, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, conducted the proceedings of the programme and also proposed the vote of thanks.

Among those who attended the inaugural session included R. K. Watal, Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases), Jammu, Sanjay Parihar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, Yash Paul Bournay, Registrar Vigilance and other officers of the Registry.

The training programme is being organized by the Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court J&K and Ladakh, under the aegis of Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India in collaboration with J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.

Dr. Aditi Choudhary and V K Bansal, both Judicial Officers and Senior Trainers from Delhi, were the Resource Persons for the training, whereas, 25 Advocates from various districts of Jammu province are participating. The training programme will conclude on April 30, 2023.

Director Horticulture interacts with farmers at panchayat Lower Badyal Brahmana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: To make farming community of Jammu Province aware about the newly launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak today chaired the Kissan Sampark Abhyasn Camp at panchayat Lower Badyal Brahmana of R5 Pura Block.

The programme was attended by Sarpanch of the panchayat, Kanta Sharma; Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Ashwani Sharma; DL Subject Matter Specialist, Sandeep Gupta; Visiting Officer, Arun Kumar; HDO, Dharendra Sharma; Sectoral officers of Agriculture and Allied sectors, and PRI members, besides a large number of farmers, especially women.

The Director interacted with the farmers and briefed them about the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. He discussed in detail the schemes covered under HADP as well as other central and UT sponsored schemes and the incentives / assistance being provided for the welfare of the farming community under these schemes. During the programme, the chair sensitized the gathering about the main components of the programme viz: DAKSH- Learning Management System related to skill development, SAITHI- Dashboard to apply online for different Govt. schemes, etc.

Further, videos related to HADP were also shown to the gathering to acquaint them with the benefits of the programme. The Director Horticulture urged farmers to come forward for availing incentives under the programme and also sought intervention of the farming community as well as PRI members for the workable reforms for the upliftment of the economic status of the nation and UT in particular.

Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu welcomed the Director Horticulture Jammu and apprised him about Horticultural developmental schemes being implemented in district Jammu.

GCOE organises awareness-cum-orientation program on Organ Donation

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: NSS unit of Government College of Education, Jammu, in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, organised an awareness programme on the State Organ and Tissue Transplant organization. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. Aekta Gupta, Principal, GCOE.

In the first session, Dr. Rajinder Kour delivered a lecture on RCIM approach to the students of semester 4. Students, Teachers and non teaching staff of the college participated in the program.

The awareness program offered a platform to all students and faculty of the college to get aware about taking several steps to increase awareness on organ donation in the society.

These include dissemination of information by SOTTO latest technology being used by organ donation and transplant professionals everyday to save lives through transplantation.

Prof. Aekta Gupta said that transplantation saves lives of patients affected by terminal organ failures and improves quality of their life. One organ donor can save up to eight lives and help more through organ donation.

Consultant (IEC/Media) of SOTTO J&K, Anshu Sharma informed about the recent situations of organ transplantations and NOTTO, the headquarter, which covers the various regional centres of organ transplantation.

She also spoke about the green corridors which ensure safer and quicker transfer of organs from one hospital to another by different modes of transport.

Dr. Shubhra Jamal, NSS PO, thanked the skilled team of SOTTO with a heart melting message that an organ donor can save eight lives so our one generous act can bring many smiles.

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

Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Fatehpur, Atti, Bhatian, Behrot, Saji, Rajdhani, Shadra, Sharif, Thanamandi Town, Azamtabad, Lah, Khablan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 27 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindli, Hansa, Satriyan, Fira, BOP, Charana, Chatha, Gadigarh, Dharap, Indra Nagar, Sudan Heart Care, and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 27 from 7 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Floura, M/C Domnara, Mallikant Jourian, Troli, Muthi, Mara, Bakora, Rakh Muthi, PHE, BSE, Border Migrant, Sohla, MORS, Batera, Dabbin, Chorpur, Manyal, Dharmkhu, TirthTalab, GRE, Gumpul, Saa No. 1, Garthal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 27 from 8 am to 1 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, Saroh, Deoli, Kotli, Kheri, Rehah, Pandoriyan, Ramgarh, Rangoor, Nanga, Dadyal, SM Pura, Abtal, Vijaypur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April

Dir. Information, DIPR employees condole sad demise of Kewal Kumar's father

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Director Information Akshay Labroo has condoned the sad demise of father of Kewal Kumar, Senior Assistant, who passed away last night. In his condolence message, Akshay Labroo expressed his deepest condolences with the bereaved official and his family and prayed for peace to the departed soul. Meanwhile, the employees of DIPR also condoned the sad demise of father of Kewal Kumar. The officers and officials of the department offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

For the same all the new appointees thanks Mahant ji and others for believing in them. They assured, they will work for the betterment of society and will be true to their job for which they have been appointed. On the event Mahant Rajash Bittu ji showered his best wishes to them

Pritam Singh Saini highlights contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh in socio-political & religious reforms

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Members of the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS)-J&K paid floral tributes to His Highness Maharaja Hari Singh ji on His 62nd death Anniversary today on Wednesday to commemorate his contributions to the J&K State and Nation under the leadership of Rajan Singh Happy, President YRS.

Core committee of YRS & State Body of YRS were accompanied by many dignitaries of the society prominent among those were Shamsheer Singh, Ex- MP Rajya Sabha, M K Ajaatshatru Singh (Grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh ji, Raman Bhalla, Ex-Cabinet Minister, P S Chib Ex-Cabinet Minister, Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce, Advocate M K Bhardwaj, Ex-President, Bar Association Jammu, Sandhya Gupta and Zorawar Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajan Singh Happy said that His Highness Maharaja Hari Singh ji was the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence. He was a visionary leader who worked tirelessly for the development of his state and its people who made primary education compulsory in the state, introduced laws prohibiting child marriage and opened worship



places to lower castes. His contributions to the state & nation are immense, and his legacy continues to inspire generations.

The Yuva Rajput Sabha, a youth organization that works for the promotion and preservation of Dogra culture, organized the event. The members of the organization gathered at the Maharaja's statue at Hari Singh Park at Banks of Holy River Tawi in the heart of the city and paid their respects by offering flowers.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajinder Singh, Chief Patron of the Yuva Rajput Sabha, said, "We are proud to pay our respects to the great leader who played an instrumental role in shaping the destiny

of our nation, Maharaja Hari Singh ji was not only a visionary leader but also a great human being who worked tirelessly for the welfare of his people."

Raghubir Singh, Chairman YRS, said that "Through this event, we want to pay tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's legacy and inspire the youth to follow his footsteps. We must never forget his contributions to the society and ensure that his memory lives on forever."

The event was a fitting tribute to His Highness Maharaja Hari Singh ji, who will always be remembered as a visionary leader, a great patriot, and a true son of India. His contributions to the society will continue to inspire generations to come.

The event was attended by members of the Rajput community, as well as dignitaries from various walks of life. Prominent among those were Pushvinder Singh (Advocate), Rajveer Singh, Darvinder Singh Kaka, Mohan Singh, Vikram Singh, Surinder Singh Gilli, Balkar Singh, Dilawar Singh Makhan, Mahinder Singh, Ramesh Singh, Mandeep Singh, Mukesh Singh, Sanjay Singh, Rajeev Singh, Avtar Singh, Bhanu Partap Singh, Sumit Singh, Shubham Singh, Jaswant Singh, Raghubir Singh Raghu and many more.

Meanwhile, Pritam Singh Saini, National Vice President Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan and President All Jammu and Kashmir Saini Sabha also paid tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh on his 62nd death anniversary at Maharaja Hari Singh Park Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Pritam Singh Saini highlighted the contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh ji in socio-political and religious reforms in the state during his rule. He also threw light on the diverse facts of his personality and good governance.

He appealed to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to follow the path shown by Maharaja Hari Singh and work for the welfare of society.

Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Trust Rtd Gets New Advisors

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 26: Today a meeting was held in Jammu under the leadership of Chairman Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Trust Rtd, Mahant Rajash Bittu ji appointed new advisors.

The new advisors who have been appointed are Sanjay Gupta ji, Jasvinder Singh Kuku Ji and Dr. Varun Padha Ji.

For the same all the new appointees thanks Mahant ji and others for believing in them.



and said that on 30th April an important meeting is going to be taken place in which the works, Programs that will be done in nearby future will be discussed and we will discuss every possible initiative that will take forward the legacy of this trust.

He further added that their is so much work to be done in terms of preserving our religious Mandirs and Cultural Heritage site that we have to work on. In this meeting, major challenge and point will be discussed and what will be the possible way to do that

will be discussed during this meeting. He concludes with saying that to preserve the rituals we have to work together and I hope that for the betterment of society they will work upto our expectations and the outcome will be good

62nd Death Anniversary
MAHARAJA HARI SINGH JI

FRIENDS COMMITTEE JAMMU