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Inclement weather continues, more snow & rain during next 24 hrs in J&K



SRINAGAR, JAN 22

Inclement weather continued on Sunday with Light to moderate snowfall, Rain occurred at many places even as the Meteorological office forecast generally Cloudy with light Snow/rain over scattered places of the J&K during the next 24 hours.

The Met office said from January 24-25 moderate Snow/ (rain in Jammu) & moderate to

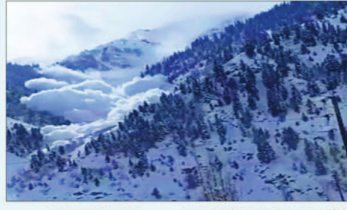
heavy Snow over middle & higher reaches and on January 26-27 partly cloudy with Light Snow/ Rain at isolated places.

Overall, weather is very likely to remain erratic with cloudy, intermittent Light rain/snow till January 29 in whole of Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, had a low of 1.0 degree Celsius

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Avalanche hits Bandipora village, no damage caused



SRINAGAR, JAN 22

A low intensity avalanche took place at a village in Tulail in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Sunday with-

out causing any damage to life or property, officials said. The avalanche hit village Hussangam in the district on Sunday afternoon.

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AC assents to amend certain provisions of Land Reforms Act



JAMMU, JAN 22

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gave its assent for authorizing Revenue Department to move an amendment in Section 21 and Section 29-A of Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor and Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K attended the meeting.

The proposed amendments shall lift prohibition on transfer of land vested under section 6, 7 and 12 of the Act and to bring these lands at par with the land vested under section 8 of the said Act. The proposed amendment bill will be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for placing before the Parliament for enactment. The enactment will be a big

Lt Governor remembers Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary

JAMMU, JAN 22

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the eve of his Jamm-Jayanti.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "Parakram Diwas is the occasion to remember the great son of our motherland who dedicated his life to the nation and the people. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is an embodiment of patriotism, courage, sacrifice and determination".

His relentless pursuit to liberate our country from foreign rule had united the entire society and shaped the idea of a modern India. On this day, let us rededicate ourselves to the idealism and the spirit of sacrifice of Netaji and work for building inclusive and equitable society, the Lt Governor added.

relief to such land holders who were vested land under section 6, 7 and 12 of the Agrarian Reforms Act, as this would enable them to sell off their land parcels which was earlier prohibited under the Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976.

The amendment will also lead to vesting of revisional power to the Financial Commissioner Revenue which shall facilitate to dispose of the cases arising out of the said Act in the larger interest of the public.

NIA team inspects twin-blast site in Jammu's Narwal, collects samples for investigation

JAMMU, JAN 22

A special team of the National Investigation Agency on Sunday inspected the scene of the twin blasts here, officials said.

Back-to-back blasts in Narwal on the outskirts of Jammu City had left nine people injured on Saturday. Police suspect that improvised explosive devices were used to carry out the twin explosions in an SUV parked in a repair shop and in a vehicle at a nearby junkyard at the Transport Nagar area.

The explosions occurred at a time when security agencies in the region are on high alert for the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra and the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

The National Investigation Agency team visited the site of the blasts

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Dr Jitendra lauds 'team biotech' for developing world's first nasal vaccine

NEW DELHI, JAN 22

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 has lauded "Team Biotech" for developing the world's first Nasal Vaccine.

He said, as Minister Incharge Science & Technology, he was proud of the fact that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) had made the major contribution in developing the world's first Intranasal vaccine for Covid through Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL).

Dr Jitendra Singh gave full credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making this possible and said PM Modi's personal intervention and regular monitoring inspired and enabled the launching of "Mission Covid Suraksha" which has not only strengthened AtmaNirbhar Bharat but also bolstered India's status as a worldwide vaccine



development and manufacturing centre, thus showcasing the strength of India's Science and Technology capabilities. It is a moment of great pride for every Indian, he said.

The Minister elaborated that the product development and clinical trials were funded by the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC under "Mission Covid Suraksha". This vaccine received approval under restricted use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above for primary two-dose schedule, homologous booster doses, he added.

National Institute of Immunology (NII) New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Department of Biotechnology utilised its "Human Immune Monitoring

and T-cell Immunoassay Platform" to examine the vaccine-induced SARS-CoV-2-specific systemic and mucosal cellular immune responses in the trial participants.

Interactive Research School for Health Affairs (IRSHA), Pune (supported by DBT BIRAC) completed the "Plaque Reduction Neutralization Assay" (PRNT) to quantify the titer of neutralising antibodies for the virus from three trial sites.

The vaccine is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised spike protein. This vaccine candidate was evaluated in Phases I, II and III clinical trials with successful results. It has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops. The vaccine is stable at 2-8°C for easy storage and distribution.

Pertinent to mention that earlier, ZyCoV-D, the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19 to be administered in humans including children and adults 12 years and above was also developed in partnership with

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Rahul led BJJ resumes from Kathua's Hiranagar



JAMMU, JAN 22

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi led Bharat Jodo Yatra after a day long break, resumed on Sunday morning from Hiranagar belt of

Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir.

The security however, have further been strengthened for the yatra in the wake of

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137-yr Cong plays second fiddle to 3 yr old Biddle India PAGD: Rana

MATHWAR JAN 22

Senior BJP leader Mr Devennder Singh Rana today lashed out at the Congress for playing second fiddle to PAGD, an amalgam of the political entities supporting soft separatism and diverting oxygen from secessionists responsible for destruction and devastation of Kashmir for over three decades.

"It is an irony that 137 year old Congress is feeling elated to become as the B-team of the PAGD, an opportunistic alliance formed three years ago in desperate bid to gain the lost ground and the cradle of power in Jammu and Kashmir". Mr Rana said, talking to media persons on the side-lines of a function after participating in the annual Maha Yagya at Shri Baba Satto Sidh Ji Maharaj temple at Jandyal which was also attended by Mr. Sham Lal Sharma, Vice President, BJP.

Rana said it is a sad day in the history of the country that the Congress, which was an integral part of the freedom movement of our nation, cannot stand up for the national interest on issues in order to appease a group that thrives on disruptive politics. He said the Congress must remember that the nation is supreme and its integrity and sovereignty cannot be compromised.

He said the founders of the Congress would not have thought even in their wildest of dreams such a scenario unfolding. However, the grand old party is not to be blamed for seeking solace and refuge under the umbrella of fringe

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Army holds meeting with security agencies in J&K, reviews prevailing internal situation

JAMMU, JAN 22

The Indian Army officials held a joint intelligence meeting with officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Forces (BSF) and Intelligence agencies in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla.

According to the official Twitter handle of the 16 Corps of the Indian Army, the meeting was held to review the prevailing internal situation based on the assessments of the security agencies that participated in it.

"A Joint Intelligence & Security Conference by Indian Army with CRPF, BSF, Jammu and Kashmir police & Intelligence Agencies was held at Rajouri to review the prevailing internal situation based on the assess-



ments of the participating agencies," the Indian Army tweeted. The meeting was held in the presence of Major General YS Ahlawat.

Notably, this meeting holds

significance in terms of security, it comes against the backdrop of the Rajouri terror attack and the Narwal twin blasts in Jammu and also ahead of Republic Day celebrations.

Congress will not accept any compromise with Rahul Gandhi's security: Jairam Ramesh in J&K

JAMMU, JAN 22

A day after twin bomb blasts rocked a busy locality here leaving nine people injured, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said there will be no compromise on the security of Rahul Gandhi who is leading the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Yatra entered Kathua district Thursday evening via Punjab. After a day's break on Saturday, the yatra, which commenced from Kanyakumari on September 7, resumed from Hiranagar on Sunday and will reach Jammu on January 23.

According to party leaders, Gandhi is likely to celebrate Republic Day with the people of Jammu and Kashmir at Banihal - the gateway town to Kashmir along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.



Talking about the security of the Gandhi scion, Ramesh said the party's stand is clear on terrorism and that there is no compromise in dealing with either the perpetrators or sponsors of terrorism.

"There will be no compromise on the security of Gandhi. His security is our topmost priority and we are following the guidelines of security agencies

in totality," he told reporters at Chak Nanak in Samba, where the Yatra will stop for the night after covering a distance of 21 km from Hiranagar.

J&K AICC in-charge Rajni Patil, J&K Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani and party chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma also addressed the press conference, asserting that the Yatra will conclude as per schedule.

"Rahul Gandhi is staying back in the Union territory and is likely to hoist the tricolour at Banihal along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on the Republic Day," Wani said.

Two back-to-back explosions had rocked a busy locality on the outskirts of Jammu on Saturday, leaving nine people injured, officials had said, adding that IDs were used to carry out the explosions in an SUV parked

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Gujarat, Assam, J&K, Bengal, others to showcase tableaux on Kartavya path during R-Day Parade

NEW DELHI, JAN 22

Colourful tableaux from Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gujarat, West Bengal and several other states and Union Territories will roll down the revamped Kartavya Path during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, with 'Nari Shakti' being the theme for majority of the floats.

A total of 23 tableaux — 17 from states and Union territories, and six from various ministries and departments — depicting India's vibrant cultural heritage, economic and social progress will be part of the ceremonial parade. Defence Ministry officials said on Sunday.

Among the Union ministries and central government agencies, the Ministry of Home Affairs will display two tableaux — one each by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), while one each will be exhibited by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Central Public Works Department that falls under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, a senior official told reporter here.

A preview of many of the tableaux, some of which are still being constructed or given finishing touches, was held at the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in the city.



"A total of 23 tableaux — 17 from states and Union territories and six from various ministries and departments will be part of the parade. Besides, there will be floats by the Army, Navy and the Air Force, and a vehicle will be displayed by the DRDO,"

the official said. Asked if there will be a tableau from the Ministry of Railways' side, he said: "No, there is no tableau from Ministry of Railways in this year's parade". The theme adopted this year by various states is largely 'Nari Shakti', besides cultural heritage and other themes, the official said. The West Bengal tableau depicts Durga Puja

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Bharat intact, in safe hands under PM Modi, Rahul should clarify blunders committed by Gandhi family: Kavinder



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Sunday asserted that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is distinct and emerging as a new world power

therefore Rahul should not worry rather he should clarify blunders which Gandhi Family committed in the last over 70 years by dividing people on different lines.

Slamming Rahul Gandhi over his Bharat Jodo Yatra, the former Deputy Chief

Minister said that Congress leader is misleading people by using this platform to satiate his own vested interests and for regaining foothold as it is difficult to decide today that whether Rahul is in more dwindling position or the Congress party because both are like

sinking ships and could be banished from the political scenario anytime.

Kavinder said that Bharat Jodo Yatra is the last and futile attempt of Rahul Gandhi to be in politics because already people of the country have rejected this man several times and the scope of his revitalization as a political personality is meager, which Rahul himself also knows deep in heart.

Later, Kavinder met a delegation of BDC Chairmen and listened to their issues. While welcoming the formation of Villages Defence Groups, Kavinder said that the formation of VDGs will restore confidence in the community as this will enhance security of people living in far off belts. He however appealed to the government to address the issues of SPOs.

Johal distributes quilts among need at village Treva

JJ NEWS SERVICE SAMBA, JAN 22: J&K BJP Kissan Morcha President and DDC member Ramgarh, Sarbjit Singh Johal today distributed quilts (Rajai) among the needy people of village Treva in district Samba.

The quilts were provided by the Shaheed Parivar Fund C/o Hind Samachar and Punjab Kesari Group which was disbursed by Johal along with Sarpanch Balbir Kour, Vice President BJP Kissan Morcha J&K UT and Rakesh Pant, General Secretary.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Member Johal said that in the present scenario, philanthropy has become the need of the hour and noble and blessed people have always come forward to extend support



to the needy people. Recalling the philanthropy displayed by the great journalist Lala Jagat Narayan during his lifetime, Johal paid glowing tributes to him and said that his immense contribution in the field of journalism would be remembered

for ages to come. He also complimented Padma Shri Vijay Chopra for upholding the philanthropic and charitable legacy to serve the needy people in the society. He also informed about the aim behind holding the distribution camp.

The senior BJP leader said that the main patron behind providing relief material for the needy people is Padma Shri Vijay Chopra. He said that the Shaheed Parivar Fund management has been sending relief material for the past about 24 years.

Mahant Rohit Shastri felicitates Regional Red Cross Society Honorary Secretary

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, honored Regional Red Cross Society Honorary Secretary (Jammu Division) Sat Pal Sharma by presenting him a citation. Honored for the honesty and dutifulness of Sat Pal Sharma ji, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that whatever he does in the service of the society. His first duty is to perform his duty with honesty, who work honestly. He is always remembered. The Regional Red Cross Society is moving ahead with the appointment of Sat Pal Sharma, Regional Red Cross Society Honorary Secretary (Jammu Division). Be it floods or earthquakes, any disaster, shelling in the border areas or the ongoing corona pandemic. The Red Cross is always on the move. Many workers are now associated with the Red Cross Movement, which started



about 57 years ago in Jammu and Kashmir. Red Cross does not have any permanent source of income. The only income from the Red Cross fair is membership, apart from voluntary contributions from government employees and students. Red Cross has always been at the forefront of helping people. Apart from providing food to the people in Jammu

and Kashmir who are facing the crisis of Corona, they are also helping them financially.

There are many needy and poor people. The Red Cross is ready to help all of them. Uttam Chand Sharma, Suman Lal Shastri, Rajiv Sharma, Rakesh Gandotra etc were present on this occasion.

Twin blasts an attempt to disrupt peaceful atmosphere of Jammu region: Pritam Saini

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan (CSS) strongly condemned twin blasts in Narwal area of Jammu district, terming it an attempt to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu region.

In a statement issued to media here today, Pritam Singh Saini, National Vice President of Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan (CSS) criticized Pakistan for pursuing a policy of hostility



against India and harboring terrorists on its soil. He said that Pakistan, which has failed to provide democracy and development to its people, is mak-

ing every effort to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that no nefarious act of the enemy would be allowed to succeed.

The National Vice President of Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan said that the twin blasts was an attempt to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu region, aiming to spread fear among the people who live in communal harmony with each other. Pritam Saini appealed to

the Central Government to take strict action against the terrorists responsible for this act.

He further appealed to the Central Government to take strict action against the anti-national forces as well as against the neighboring country Pakistan so that such acts are not repeated in future.

He urged the district administration to provide adequate medical facilities to the injured in twin blasts.

BJP holds Office Bearers meet on 1st day of 2-days working committee meet

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir held a meeting of its State Office Bearers on the 1st day of 2-day State Working Committee at Late Vaid Vishnu Dutt Sabhagaar at BJP Headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Kavinder Raina chaired the meeting, J&K BJP Seharprabhar Ashish Sood, Jugal Kishore Sharma (MP), former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and State Office Bearers of the party also addressed the meeting.

Ravinder Raina in his Presidential address appreciated the dedicated efforts of BJP activists from J&K in making the BJP as the main political party of J&K. He said that BJP activists have stood with the masses in every social and worked for their issues apart from the political programmes, which has led to the acceptability of the party at the broader level. He also told



the party workers to put their effort with more trust among the masses.

Ashish Sood gave thrust on the importance of the working committee meeting. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to improve the coordination between the top to the bottom level of the organization. He prompted the party leaders to invoke a thought provoking process to ensure the "Booth Vijay

Abhiyan".

Ashok Koul provided the outline of various sessions to be conducted in the 2-day meeting. He also provided detailed insight on various forthcoming party programmes. Former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma and All Morcha Incharge Rakesh Mahajan spoke on the importance of working of the Cells of the party.

General Secretary Vibodh Gupta explained the importance of the popular AIR programme of PM's Mann Ki Baat programme.

Chief Spokesperson Adv. Sunil Sethi presented the Political Draft of the party on which brief discussions were also held.

BJYM President Arun Jamwal spoke on the various programmes conducted under programme "Pariksha Pe Charcha".

Former MLA Rajiv Sharma provided details on the "Lok Sabha" Pravas by the senior party leaders.

IT Department Incharge Adv. Ishant Mahajan spoke on the importance and use of Information Technology in Political system.

Anju Dogra conducted the meeting proceedings.

Earlier the meeting commenced with the lighting of Traditional Lamp and recitation of Vande Mataram and organizational song by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra. Meeting concluded with the recitation of the National Anthem.

GCW Udhampur holds presidium election

JJ NEWS SERVICE UDHAMPUR, JAN 22:

College for Women (GCW) Udhampur Under the guidance of Worthy Principal Dr. Monika Sharma holds presidium elections for the session 2022-23. In a two days electoral event under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (AKAM) GCW Udhampur organised elections for electing Council and Presidium; in the line of events CRs, ACrs and Sports captain of different classes were elected using ballot papers. About 66 CRs and ACrs were elected besides 30 sports captains on 19/01/2023.

Presidium was elected from the elected council whereby 9 posts were con-



ferred to Ms. Vishakha Gandotra (President), Ms. Swati Gandotra (Vice-president), Manmeet Kour (Convener students), Uzma Tahir (Gen Secretary), Shabnam (Secretary), Kashish Mahajan (Joint Secretary),

Rupali Kumari (Treasurer), Sunila Thakur (Jt. Treasurer) and Neha Devi, (Cultural Secretary)

The whole proceedings were conducted by DSW Committee under the chairmanship of Prof Sumita Rao, Convener DSW

Committee with support of committee members; Prof Suneel S. Barheyana, Prof Roopa, Prof Tania Mahajan and Prof Rajendra Singh. The whole process was supervised by election observers, Dr. Sanjeev Kour and Prof Kewal Kumar.

BJP fully geared up to take on opposition in 2024 polls: Raman Suri

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that the party cadres are well-prepared to take the opposition head on in 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The central body of the party as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been working tirelessly for the betterment and upliftment of the country and its people since the very beginning. They have asked the party workers to dedicate themselves to work for people from all sections of the society. He said, this is for the first time that benefits of central schemes have been reaching the masses without any pilferage, which itself is a major plank to

contest polls.

Raman Suri said that the party cadres have been reaching out to the masses and making them aware of the programs and policies of BJP government. "In the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, we are



firmly connected with our cadres and interacting with them on a regular basis. The BJP government at the Centre has, for the first time in the history of politics of India, given the most transparent and credible government", he informed.

Unlike the past where scams used to rock governments, BJP has established how work can be done for the masses without stealing taxpayers' money.

He said, BJP government had for the first-time isolated Pakistan and demolished terror camps by effective surgical strikes across the borders. Various central government schemes have ensured electricity in the remotest of villages and also provided people with tap water, the most basic

needs that parties like Congress couldn't achieve in 75 years.

Raman Suri said that it's a matter of pride that the iconic and historic temples of the country that were craving for restoration or renovation are today seeing magical transformation under the BJP regime.

Temple of Shri Ram at Ayodhya which is going to be completed in the first week of January 2024 is going to give a befitting reply to those forces who always opposed its construction and even went ahead to question the existence of Shri Ram.

He said, PM Modi has given 400 days before the next general election to reach out to the people, especially youngsters, telling them how India has come this far, from misgovernance to good governance, under the BJP regime. Raman Suri said, people are already aware of the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has defended our borders well

and made India a strong economy. PM's Mann Ki Baat, he said, has been connecting masses and making them aware of India's capabilities.

Raman Suri said that every effort is being made to reach out to the masses and make them aware of the achievements of the Union Government. It is because of the efforts of our Prime Minister that the 75th year of India's Independence promises to be the New India - the India we all have been aspiring for. Abrogation of Article 370, Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Vaccination for all and Ayushman Bharat, Rescue operation from Afghanistan and Ukraine, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and PM Awas Yojana are some of the schemes and programs that built confidence amongst the masses and transformed the lives of beneficiaries without any corruption or nepotism, he asserted.

Javed Rana condoles demise of veteran Islamic scholar

JJ NEWS SERVICE MENDHAR, JAN 22:

Javed Rana, former National Conference MLA and Party President Pher Panjal Zone mourned demise of former head of the Arabic Department at the University of Kashmir and veteran Islamic scholar Mufti Abdul Gani Azhari.

In his condolence message, the former MLA said "The passing away of Azhari Sahib has deeply saddened me. He will be remembered for his erudite perceptiveness on theology, and religion

. On his demise, I pay my earnest tributes to him and pray to Almighty to grant him the highest stations in

the Jannat. I also express my heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family, admirers and followers of his at this difficult time."

The senior NC leader said that Azhari Sahib's passing away has undeniably created a void in the field of Islamic learning which would not be filled for many years to come.

Publicize the names of Ex-Ministers/MLAs who encroached State, Forest lands: Harsh Dev



JJ NEWS SERVICE CHENANI, JAN 22: Urging upon the govt to make public the names of influential persons including Ex-Ministers/MLAs/MLCs/MPs who encroached State lands, Forest lands etc, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and Chairman AAP J&K SCC has sought exemplary punishment to all those who abused their position and authority to illegally usurp such lands and then get them regularized through their political clout. He said that while instructions were required

to be issued at all levels to ensure that the poor, marginalized and other landless were not harassed in conformity with the assurances given by the LG, the big fish who had illegally encroached huge chunks of govt lands needed to be booked and stringent exemplary action taken against them. He said that the poor people were solely dependent for their survival upon their existing land holdings and evicting them would deprive them of their Right to livelihood as guaranteed to them under the constitution. He

was addressing a public meeting in village Narsu of Chenani constituency today. Launching a scathing attack on the present govt for its double standards in allowing BJP leadership to illegally retain govt premises while issuing eviction notices to poor farmers, Mr. Singh said that such reckless moves and misadventurism of the govt had completely unravelled its reputation. Not only were the names of BJP leaders kept secret while allowing them to remain in occupation of such encroached

lands and public premises but they were also being provided all facilities in the govt bungalows, illegally retained by them, at taxpayers' expense. Such a practice was not only indicative of the duplicitous character of the present regime but also provided the most glaring example of patronized corruption in the UT of J&K.

Pointing towards the peculiar problems of the area, Mr. Singh sought immediate initiation of work of Narsu-Chirdi Water Supply Scheme (WSS) under Jal Jeevan Mission in view of acute water scarcity problem in the area.

He sought early construction of bridges and culverts on Narsu-Thani Dhar road. He called for opening of ration depots in Kithar Chirdi and Ladha panchayats wherefrom the people had to tread 8-10 kms on foot to collect their subsidized rations from the nearest depots.

Road connectivity vital for development: Col Mahan

Kick-start 5.5 Kms road worth Rs 8 crore from Khajura (Dalow) to Mashka

JJ NEWS SERVICE BASOHLI, JAN 22: Giving a big relief to the people of Hutt Mashka remote region, Col Mahan Singh (Retd.), DDC Chairman Kathua today inaugurated a 5.5 Kms long road in presence of prominent people of the area.

Pertinent to mention that the aforesaid road project will be constructed under PMGSY with an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore by PMGSY Roads Division Kathua under Phase III (Batch 1st) Scheme from Khajura (Dalow) to Mashka (Upto NHPC Complex) via Village Hutt falling under Sheetal Nagar (Bhoond) block of Kathua District.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman Kathua expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and LG Manoj Sinha for their vision to develop backward and remote areas of rural India in general and J&K UT in particular. He also congratulated the exuberant residents gathered in large number on this momentous occasion.

Col Mahan Singh informed that the upcoming road will fulfill long pend-



ing demand of the people of this remote region and provide vital road link between J&K UT and Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh. He said the aforesaid road link will also boost tourism in the region falling this side opposite Dalhousie has potential for tourism development.

Col Mahan said that Road connectivity is vital for development and expressed happiness on the pace of the development which has picked up during the last two years in the region. The DDC Chairman exclaimed that he believes in inclu-

siveness and public participation in the process of development and District Development Council Kathua is committed to change the lives of people in the region through sustainable development and employment generation. Besides DDC Chairman who is local DDC Councilor as well, Madhu Bala Sarpanch Draman, Surinder Singh Sarpanch Hutt, Soni Mohd, Ajay Kotwal, prominent residents, PMGSY AEE Basohli and staff, contractor Tilak Singh and his staff, local residents especially women were present in huge number.

Annual congregation of Sudan Biradari held



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Annual congregation of Sudan Biradari was held on Sunday at Shri Bawa Satto Sidh Ji Dev Sthan Jandial with a religious ambience. According to President of the Shri Bawa Satto Sidh Ji Dev Sthan Committee, Madan Lal Sudan, devotees from all parts of J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal

Pradesh and other parts of the country participated to seek the blessing of Kuldevta Bawa Satto Sidh Ji. The annual congregation at this dev sthan has been organised for more than 80 years and devotees have found great faith in Bawa Satto Sidh Ji.

The prominent among those present on the occasion were Sham Lal Sharma

Ex Cabinet Minister, Devender Rana Ex MLA, Sat Sharma Ex Minister, Rajeew Sharma Ex MLA, Suresh Sharma DDC Member, Advocate Abhinav Sharma, Omi Khajuria BJP Leader, Surinder Kumar BDC Chairman, Anjali Sharma Sarpanch, Sanjeev Singh Sarpanch, Sham Lal Sudan Sarpanch, Ashok

Shastri President Brahman Sabha Akhnoor, Pt. Parshotam Sharma Grameen Brahman Sabha and representatives of various religious and social organizations. The religious function started with Hawan Yagya followed by various religious programmes including satsang and "Bawa Ji Ki Chowki". Thousands paid their obeisance at Dev Sthan and held prayers for peace and prosperity in the society. In the afternoon (Community Lunch) was organised for all the devotees.

Madan Lal Sudan President Sudan Biradari along with other committee members including Kewal Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Wazir Ayodya Nath, Ramesh Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Atul Sudan, Daksh Sharma were present during the auspicious congregation.

Bharat Bhushan kick-start construction of tube-well worth Rs 8.63 cr under JJM

Says Modi Govt committed to provide tap water to every household under JJM



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: As part of 'Jal Jeevan Mission', District Development Council (DDC) Jammu Chairman, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi today performed Bhumi Poojan of a new deep tube well at village Amb Gran, Block Bhalwal, Sub Division PHE Bhalwal of Division Akhnoor in presence of prominent people of the area.

This tube-well will be constructed under the Central Government's prestigious scheme Jal Jeevan

Mission with an estimated cost of Rs 8.63 crore comprising over head tanks, sump tanks and distribution pipes which will cater the drinking water needs of Amb and Marjali villages. BDC Chariman Kuldeep Raj, Sarpanch Amb, Ashok Kerni Mandal President, Kuldeep Singh Chib, Manohar Lal and Panchs of the area were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman said that keeping up with the PM's Jal Jeevan Mission and the BJP's commitment to

led Union Govt's Jal Jeevan Mission, every household across the nation will get tap water by the year 2022. He said that it is the exceptional visionary qualities of PM Modi that this government is primarily focussed on providing basic amenities to the common people who have suffered a lot due to the wrong policies of the regimes that ruled the roost for decades.

The DDC Chairman said that keeping up with the PM's Jal Jeevan Mission and the BJP's commitment to

overall development; he is making all possible efforts to provide basic amenities to the people at large especially to those living in the rural areas of Jammu district. He said that Jammu district is getting benefits of Central Government schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission. He said that the government is working tirelessly to ensure the crisis of water scarcity is resolved as early as possible.

Bharat Bhushan said that clean drinking water is the first and foremost basic necessity after air for the sustenance of life and therefore it is the duty of all those working at the grass roots level to put in efforts on war footing to augment the Prime Minister's endeavour of providing tap water to every household by 2022 under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He said that this tube well on its completion and functioning shall provide a big relief to the inhabitants of this village.

Ashok Koul asks party whole timers to fortify booths



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), J&K asked party Vistaraks (whole timers) to fortify booths in a meeting conducted at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and Pawan Sharma convener Vistarak Yojana and Prabhari

District Doda also addressed the meeting.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the Vistaraks, enlightened them on various aspects of field working.

He apprised of their duties and said that they need to focus on strengthening of party organization and further asked them to rope in all the prominent members of the civil society by approaching them

with all the public welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Centre Government. He also asked the party Vistaraks to assume the pro-active role in reaching up to every ground level party activist to prepare them for the forthcoming elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Koul shared information about various forthcoming party programmes. He

asked the Vistaraks to ensure that the party programmes be held at booth level with the involvement of prominent members of the civil society.

Dr. Devinder Manyal stressed on increased Pravas by the party activists and the regular meetings.

He asked the party workers to work incessantly and said that there is no time to take rest. He asked the Vistaraks to focus on booth level management in coming times and said that the party has geared for Assembly polls.

Pawan Sharma provided a brief overview of Vistarak Yojana and assured the party leadership that they will leave no stone unturned in ensuring the reach of party to every hamlet and each household of the region.

Chairman PCT along with Corporator Ajay distributes blankets, Woolen clothes among needy



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: To alleviate the ongoing winter related hardships of the underprivileged, TR Gupta Chairman Public charitable trust (PCT) along with

Corporator Ajay Gupta take initiative for the benefit of underprivileged and distributed blankets, sweaters and caps among underprivileged individuals in ward no 52 Bharat

Mata Park Jammu. People appreciated the efforts made by the trust and JMC Corporator as the much needed requirements of blankets and other winter clothings to the needy

families. Corporator Ajay Gupta concludes with the vote of thanks to TR Gupta Chairman Public charitable trust for their efforts to support deprived section of the society and said that this trust always help the people in need and I feel honoured to be part of this, in near by future will try to do more such works for the betterment of people.

Trustees who were present in the distribution ceremony was Dr Ashok Kumar Gupta, Mr Naresh Gupta, Mr Kailash Langer, Mr KB Jindal, Mr Yash Pal Gupta, Er Ajay Sawarhwal and others.

Indian Army organises awareness talk on Women health and hygiene

JJ NEWS SERVICE RAJOURI, JAN 22: Indian Army organised a lecture cum awareness talk on Women's Health and Hygiene at Samote in District Rajouri (J&K). The lecture elaborated on the importance of health of women in the society and covered common ailments in detail.

The women and girls from Samote and adjoining areas attended the event. The attendees, who pledged to become the vectors of change in the



society, appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army in organising the event.

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Giving golden opportunity to the students of North India, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh has announced its 55th Aryans Job Fest: A multidisciplinary recruitment drive to be held on 15th March at Aryans Campus. Companies from Healthcare, Pharma, IT, ITES, Education, E-Commerce and Manufacturing will participate in this Job fest. The aspiring freshers/ expe-



rienced can visit Aryans Website i.e. www.aryans.edu.in for free online Registration. Around 20 renowned companies will recruit the candidates for around 300 vacancies. Dr. JK Saini, Director, Aryans

Group said that thousands of fresher candidates from the tricity & other peripheral areas have already stepped into the Job Market this Year after their graduation & post graduation. In this fest, job opportunities would be available for B.Tech, MBA, Nursing, Pharmacy, Agriculture, BBA, BCA, BA, B.Com, M.Tech, Diploma, ITI etc. It is to be mentioned that Aryans has achieved several milestones in the field of placements.

Narendra Singh Tomar visits the International Trade Fair on Millets and Organic Products, in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is very sensitive towards the small farmers of the country. Shri Modi, with foresight, raised the issue of Millets in the United Nations, where the resolution of the Government of India was adopted with the support of 72 countries and as per the United Nations declaration, the year 2023 is now being celebrated under the leadership of India as the International Year of Millets.

Behind this, the main objective of the Government is to increase the production and productivity, processing and exports of millets, which will ultimately help the farmers of the country.



Union Minister Shri Tomar said this in Bengaluru today as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the International Trade Fair on Millets and Organic Products. Shri Tomar said that

Millets crops can be grown in less water. Millets also help in increasing the income of farmers. With the increase in the production and consumption of millets in the country, its export will also

increase, which will benefit the poor. Millets also help in increasing the income of farmers. With the increase in the production and consumption of millets in the country, its export will also

increase, which will benefit the poor. Millets also help in increasing the income of farmers. With the increase in the production and consumption of millets in the country, its export will also

Bishwa Ijtema ends with Akheri Munajat Sunday in B'desh

DHAKA, JAN 22

The second phase of the 56th Bishwa Ijtema, one of the largest religious congregation of Muslims, ended with Akheri Munajat (final prayers) on Sunday.

The congregation ended with 30 minute long Akheri Munajat beginning around 12:15pm at the Ijtema venue in Tongi here as Maulana Yusuf bin Saad Kandhalvi, eldest son of Maulana Saad Kandhalvi of Delhi, conducted the munajat.



Before this, he gave a sermon to the faithful and delivered a guidance speech, popularly known as Hedayati Bayan.

The munajat and Bayan was translated to Bengali by Maulana Abdullah Mansoor for the Bengali speaking devotees.

In the presence of millions of Muslims from all

over the country, the venue was buzzing with cry's of 'Allahu Akbar'. The devotees sought mercy and forgiveness from Almighty Allah and prayed for the well being of the Muslim Ummah.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq, State Minister for

translating into Bengali by Maulana Ashraf. Members of various intelligence agencies including RAB, Police, Ansar, and Detective Police (DB), were present.

Early this morning, Maulana Morsalin delivered the Bayan after Fajr prayers, which was later

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Inclement weather...

and it also received 0.6mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0930hours on Sunday.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 6.3 on Sunday and it also received 7.3 Cms of Snow and 10.0mm of rainfall while Qazigund in Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low of 0.2 degree Celsius and it also received 5.0 Cms of snow and 10.0mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0930hours on Sunday.

Ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 6.8 degree Celsius on Sunday and it also received 4.0 Cms of snow and 4.8mm of rainfall while Kokernag had a low of minus 1.9 degree Celsius and it also received 1.5 Cms of snow and 5.9mm of rainfall during the period.

The frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara recorded a low of minus 0.5 degree Celsius and it also received 2.0 Cms of snow and 7.6mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0830hours on Sunday, the MeT office said.

Avalanche hits...

However, there was no report of any damage to life or property, police confirmed.

Teams from the administration had rushed to the spot to assess the situation and confirmed that no damage or loss of life was caused due to the avalanche, they added.

Meanwhile, residents living in the high altitudes have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing out in avalanche prone areas.

Kashmir valley is experiencing erratic weather with light to moderate snowfall at higher reaches for the past few days.

Two labourers working with Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), which is executing the work on Zojila Tunnel, died when a snow avalanche hit Sarbal area of Sonmarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on January 12.

Meanwhile, SDB has issued a fresh avalanche warning in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

A statement said an avalanche with "Medium Danger" Level is likely to occur above 2500/2600 meters over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban in Jammu division and Bandipora and Kupwara districts of north Kashmir in next 24 hours.

Avalanche with "Low Danger" Level is likely to occur above 2600 meter over Baramulla in North Kashmir and Ganderbal in central Kashmir district in next 24 hours.

It has also advised people living in these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

Dr Jitendra...

the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in the Ministry of Science & Technology under 'Mission Covid Suraksha' through BIRAC, a PSU of DBT.

Rahul led...

twin blasts in Narwal area of Jammu on Saturday.

The yatra has entered the Samba district and will stop briefly at Nankai before leaving for Vijaypur.

"At Vijaypur, the yatra will make a halt tonight and will leave for Jammu on Monday," said a party leader.

Hundreds of Congress supporters on Sunday were seen greeting and waving at Rahul Gandhi along the Jammu-Pathankot national highway.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra on January 19 entered the Jammu and Kashmir from neighbouring Punjab and was welcomed at Lakhnampur.

Politicians like Dr Farooq Abdullah from National Conference and Sanjay Raut from Shiv Sena received Rahul Gandhi.

The yatra is expected to reach Srinagar on January 29-30 and culminate with hoisting of Tri-colour at Congress's party office in Lal Chowk.

The Congress party has invited 23 Heads of national political parties to join Rahul Gandhi at Srinagar.

NIA team...

in the morning and the federal anti-terror agency is likely to take over the case for a thorough probe, the officials said.

Officers of the probe agency spent over an hour at the scene of the blasts and collected samples before leaving.

Senior officers of the Indian Army also visited the area for inspection for the second day, the officials added.

The area is still under a security cord and a massive sanitisation operation is underway, they said.

In a related development, the Army's White Knight Corps said a joint intelligence and security conference was held in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to review the prevailing internal situation based on the assessments of participating agencies.

General Officer Commanding (Ac of Spades Division) Maj Gen YS Ahlawat and General Officer Commanding (Romeo Force) Maj Gen Trivedi chaired the meeting that was attended, among others, by Deputy Inspector General of Police (Rajouri-Poonch Range) Haseeb Mughal.

"A Joint Intelligence & Security Conference with #indi-anArmy with @crpfIndia, @BSF_India, @JmukmrPolice & Intelligence Agencies was held at #Rajouri to review the prevailing internal situation based on the assessments of the participating agencies," White Knight Corps said in a tweet.

Rajouri was rocked by a terror attack that left seven people dead and 14 injured earlier this month. The suspected terrorists behind the attack are still at large.

137-yr Cong...

elements in Indian politics, keeping in view the drubbing it has been getting across the country since nearly a decade.

The nonhome and unwholly alliance between the Congress and the PAGD can be summed up as the last hope of the discarded dynastic politics, he added.

"By now, the Yatra managers and the PAGD enthusiasts must have tested their relevance on ground with the people giving contemptuous response to the Congress misadventure," Mr Rana said, adding that populism can hog headlines but not convince the politically sagacious people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have seen the ugliest face of the misgovernance over the decades. He said the three parties can fool the people once, twice but not all times to come. Those raising emotive and exploitative slogans stand exposed in both the regions and the people.

Rana said the Congress, PDP and the NC trio is a bad omen for Jammu and Kashmir, which wants turbulence to continue for sustenance of their political enterprise. The peace and normalcy in the Valley for the past three years, with stone pelting and the hartal culture becoming a nightmare of the past, is an eye opener for the people, who can see through the game-plan of the power hungry and self-centred in turbulent Kashmir. The people are openly asking questions as to who was behind these sinister machinations that crumbled the economy and put brakes on the tourist influx with the majority of people being directly and indirectly engaged, he said.

Devender Rana referred to the normal economic activity going on in Jammu and Kashmir in general and the Valley in particular that has brought cheer on the faces of the people. At a time, the 'Tudo Yatra' is heading towards Kashmir, the Valley is abuzz with unprecedented tourist arrivals, particularly the nature lovers and sports persons, who want to make this mesmerizing winter memorable in their lives, he added.

"In such a positive economic environment, any attempt to vitiate the atmosphere will be severely resented by the people", Mr Rana said.

Later Rana visited the residences of Ana Jamwal, Mubeen Fatima and Mohammad Irfan to felicitate and congratulate them on their cracking the JKRSK-KAS examination.

He said the young boys and girls, who have achieved this milestone despite most of them being from humble back-

grounds and without any special support, is commendable and an inspiration for our promising youth who aspire to qualify this prestigious exam.

Gujarat, Assam...

in Kolkata and celebrates its inscription on the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Assam's tableau proudly showcases the legendary Ahom general Lachit Borphukan and his cultural landmarks including the famous Kamakhya Temple.

The central government last year had celebrated the 40th birth anniversary of Ahom general Borphukan was a commander in the erstwhile Ahom kingdom and is known for his leadership in the 1671 battle of Saraighat that thwarted an attempt by British eyes to capture Assam.

This will be the first Republic Day celebrations hosted at the ceremonial boulevard after Rajpath was renamed to 'Kartavya Path' last year. A full dress rehearsal for the parade will be held on Monday.

The 74th Republic Day celebrations will take place on the revamped Central Vista avenue, and the government has put 32,000 tickets on sale online for the masses, defence ministry officials had earlier said. (Agencies)

Congress will...

in a repair shop and in a vehicle at a nearby junkyard at Transport Nagar area of Narwal.

Condemning the attack, party spokesman Sharma said the last leg of the Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir was chalked out in consultation with the security agencies.

"We are concerned about the safety and security of our leader. The twin explosions at Narwal and another in Bajalta a day earlier raise a question mark on the security arrangements," he said.

"We accept that the security agencies are fully alert and are doing their job satisfactorily, but claims of the government that terrorism has been finished falls flat in the wake of such incidents. On December 31 last, they (security agencies) claimed that terrorism had been eliminated and the next day there was an attack in Dhangri village of Rajouri, leaving seven people belonging to the minority community dead."

The party spokesman also said that there will be no change in the Yatra programme as its nitty-gritty have been planned in accordance with the guidelines issued by the security agencies and the Lt Governor administration.

Ramesh, the Congress general secretary and in-charge communication, alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has imposed an 'undeclared' emergency in the country.

"An undeclared emergency is more dangerous than a declared emergency... The BJP has ended the spirit of democracy in the country. Though elections are taking place but that does not mean we are democratic, he said.

He also said that the party's stand on now abrogated Article 370 of the constitution, the Congress leader said. "It is a serious issue, but what is more serious right now is the restoration of democratic activities in Jammu and Kashmir."

"J&K has become an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs. There are real issues like when the assembly elections will be held in the Union territory and how will it get back full statehood," he added.

Multiple casualties reported after shooting in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, JAN. 22

Police have responded to reports of a shooting that resulted in multiple casualties in Monterey Park in Southern California on Saturday night, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Few details are available, including the number of people shot. Internal police communications said there had been some fatalities, the report said, citing a law enforcement source.

According to the report, the shooting occurred sometime after 10 p.m. local time Saturday (0600 GMT Sunday) near the site of a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration.

Tens of thousands of people gathered on Saturday for the start of Lunar New Year festivities, one of the largest events in the region.

The injured were taken to multiple hospitals in the area, said the report. It was unclear whether a suspect was in custody.

'Building collapse in Syria's Aleppo leaves 10 dead, 3 injured'

CAIRO, JAN 22

A five-story residential building collapsed in the Syrian city of Aleppo on Sunday, killing at least 10 people, including a child, and injuring three others, media reported.

The incident occurred in the Sheikh Maqsood neighborhood, Syrian broadcaster Sham FM reported. According to preliminary data, as many as 30 people may remain under the rubble.

Firefighters and civil defense forces are reportedly working on the scene. The cause of the building collapse is yet to be established, according to the broadcaster.

4 killed in apartment fire in Japan

TOKYO, JAN 22

Four people were killed with four others feared dead after a fire broke out early Sunday at an apartment in Japan's western city of Kobe, local media said.

Firefighters received a call around 1:35 a.m. local time saying that black smoke was coming out of a window on the first floor of a three-story housing complex in Hyogo Ward of Kobe, Kyodo News reported.

Four men were confirmed dead at the scene, the report said, citing police and other sources, adding that four other men who were taken to a hospital were all unconscious.

All the eight individuals were found on the first floor of the apartment, it said.

The fire was mostly put out after about an hour.

A total of 60 square meters of the first and second floors of the 300-square-meter building were burned, according to Kyodo News.

Chris Hipkins confirmed NZ's new PM

WELLINGTON, JAN 22

The New Zealand Labor Party has confirmed Chris Hipkins as the party's new leader and New Zealand's 41st Prime Minister, said Chris Hipkins in a press conference on Sunday.

The Labor Party caucus meeting on Sunday voted the Caucus member, Minister for Education, Police and Public Service and Leader of the House Chris Hipkins as the new party leader, according to Xinhua news.

Hipkins was the only nominee to replace Jacinda Ardern, who announced her resignation on Thursday.

Member of Parliament for Kaituma and Cabinet minister Carmel Sepuloni was appointed deputy prime minister.

According to the New Zealand political system, the majority party of the Parliament forms the government and that party leader becomes the prime minister.

Speaking at the press conference after the caucus meeting, Hipkins said that he will be officially sworn in as the Prime Minister on Wednesday. Cabinet reshuffle will be also arranged in the coming week.

He vowed to focus on domestic issues, saying that high inflation, high housing prices and law and order issue will be the major policy focus for his government.

Ardern announced on Thursday that she will step down as the prime minister and the leader of the Labor Party in February and she will not be seeking re-election this year, media reports said.

Meanwhile, New Zealand's 2023 general election will be held on October 14, Ardern said.

Death toll from floods in Philippines surpasses 30 - Disaster Management Agency

MANILA, JAN 22

The death toll from the floods in the Philippines has reached 35, while the number of injured stands at 12, the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) informs.

Earlier this week, local media reported that at least 33 people had died as a result of the floods.

NDRRMC said on Sunday that the death toll stood at 35. Another 12 people were reported injured and seven are missing.

On Wednesday, NDRRMC said that the death toll from the floods stood at 30. Thirteen people were said to be injured while five others were listed as missing.

A total of 1,780 houses have been damaged in the Philippines amid the floods. 548 of them were completely destroyed. Nearly 70 cities have experienced power disruptions. Over 300 roads and 65 bridges have been damaged. Over 350 evacuation centers have been set up, currently housing about 14,300 people, according to the disaster management agency.

UK provides Ukraine with sea king helicopter - Reznikov

LONDON, JAN 22

Ukraine has received a Sea King helicopter provided by the United Kingdom as part of its military support for Kiev, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said.

"Sea King from the UK has arrived in its new kingdom near the Black Sea in Ukraine! It is a strong reinforcement for the Ukrainian Navy. Our cooperation will continue to increase. Thank you to [UK Defence Secretary Ben] Wallace. Together, we will secure the seas and lands across all of Europe!" Reznikov said on Twitter on Saturday.

In November, British media reported that the United Kingdom was going to supply Ukraine with a new package of military aid, including 10,000 artillery shells and three Sea King helicopters.

Dy Mayor congratulates siblings for qualifying JKAS examination



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: The Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria congratulated the siblings, two sisters - Huma Anjum Wani, Ifra Anjum Wani and their brother, Suhail Ahmad Wani. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria said that three youths from the same family have achieved a great achievement by passing the examination together, for which the family deserves congratulations. He also praised their hard work, dedication and commitment to crack the exam. He expressed his hope that the siblings will make the J&K proud by serving

the nation in the best possible way. The Deputy Mayor Jammu said that the success of the three siblings is an example to follow for all and it will inspire other students to take the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) exam. He also expressed his admiration for their hard work, dedication and commitment in getting through the exam. The Deputy Mayor Jammu said that the success of the three siblings is an example to follow and it will motivate other students to take up the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) exam. He urged the younger students to work hard and focus on their studies to achieve their dreams. Deputy Mayor Jammu, while congratulating all those who passed JKAS examination said that Jammu Municipal Corporation will continue to provide its support to the students who wish to pursue their dreams. The Deputy Mayor also praised the parents of the siblings for their constant support and encouragement. He said that it was due to their guidance and support that the siblings have achieved such success. The parents said that their children achieved success with their hard work and determination without any coaching. The Huma Anjum Wani, Ifra Anjum Wani and their brother, Suhail Ahmad Wani and parents expressed their gratitude to Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria and BJP leaders for honoring, Pushpendra Chadhak, Ankush Khajuria, Vivek Patyal, Pami Chowdhary and others were present.

Administrative Services (JKAS) exam. He urged the younger students to work hard and focus on their studies to achieve their dreams. Deputy Mayor Jammu, while congratulating all those who passed JKAS examination said that Jammu Municipal Corporation will continue to provide its support to the students who wish to pursue their dreams. The Deputy Mayor also praised the parents of the siblings for their constant support and encouragement. He said that it was due to their guidance and support that the siblings have achieved such success. The parents said that their children achieved success with their hard work and determination without any coaching. The Huma Anjum Wani, Ifra Anjum Wani and their brother, Suhail Ahmad Wani and parents expressed their gratitude to Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria and BJP leaders for honoring, Pushpendra Chadhak, Ankush Khajuria, Vivek Patyal, Pami Chowdhary and others were present.

Connect with common masses from every booth: Sat Sharma



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) held series of organizational meetings of party activists regarding upcoming party programs and booth sashaktikaran at Wards 16 and 18 areas of Jammu East Constituency. Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma, Corporator

Dinesh Gupta also accompanied the BJP leader in the meeting which was attended by several local leaders including office bearers of District Jammu Committee as well. The meetings were held under the leadership of Mandal President Raman Sharma. Sat Sharma while addressing the meeting asked the party leaders to lay emphasis on strength-

ening the party at booth-level with various upcoming elections in J&K slated to be announced any time in near future. He told the party leaders to contact the ground level workers and the common masses hailing from their booth area to apprise them of the works done by the BJP government, both in state and centre, and discuss their issues in detail alongside. He

asked them to do their task diligently and ensure their work to the full expectations of the organization. Rajinder Sharma in his address told the party activists to frequent their visits to every booth in coordination with everyone. He laid special emphasis on the booth sashaktikaran. "Senior party leaders in conjunction with local leaders should contact every prominent person in the booth in order to increase the party's base and endorsement of its policies and works," said Sethi. District Vice President Jaideep Sambyal, District General Secretary Rajesh Gupta, OP Gupta, Kailash Karan and several others were also present including Shakti Kendra Pramukhs.

Suchetgarh witnessing unprecedented all round development: Tony

Inaugurates 'Mini Secretariat' at last village on IB's zero line



JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh has asserted that Suchetgarh is witnessing unprecedented all round development nowadays as a result of the efforts made by the people's representatives at the Panchayat level. He expressed this during

a function in which he inaugurated Mini Secretariat at Panchayat Ghar Suchetgarh, the last village on the zero line of International Border (IB) here today. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Sarpanch Sham Lal Bhagat, Mandep Choudhary, Bacchan Singh, Capt Paramjit Singh, Sarpanch Balwinder Choudhary, Choudhary Ramesh Lal and youth leader Choudhary Gara Ram. Addressing the gather-

schemes ensuring delivery at the people's doorstep then the official or official responsible will be taken to task. The senior AAP leader said, "We as people's representatives at the grass roots level as well as on behalf of Aam Aadmi Party ensured the people of Suchetgarh in particular and Jammu as a whole that we will serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with utmost honesty and dedication." Tony reiterated that no stone will be left unturned in coming up to the expectations of the people of the state. He said that it is the outcome of our strong determination to work with honesty and dedication that Suchetgarh region is witnessing a sea change nowadays. However, Tony said that deteriorating situation of law and order is a seriously worrisome matter as of today. He said that the hands of terrorism are being extended to Jammu region now and Govt must take necessary stringent measures to nip this evil in the bud and ensure peace in the region.

Raj Rattan strongly condemns twin blasts in Narwal, seeks befitting reply

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Raj Rattan Raina, BJP leader today strongly condemned twin blasts in Transport Nagar in Narwal area of Jammu District in which several people were injured.



In a statement issued here today, Raj Rattan Raina said that the twin blasts in Jammu is an attempt to disrupt peace and spread fear among the people who live in communal harmony with each other. "It appears that the

Narendra Modi zero tolerance policy against terrorism should be implemented on ground in letter and spirit and whoever dares to challenge the same should be taken to task. He sought investigation into the incident and punish the accused persons involved in the blasts which has wounded over 6 people. He also demanded better medical facilities to the injured persons whereas the critical injured should be shifted out of J&K for advanced medical treat-

ment. Raj Rattan Raina appealed to the authorities and security forces to punish the anti-national elements who are hell bent to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir in an attempt to divide the people on communal lines. "Jammu is a symbol of peace, and brotherhood where people from different regions live together in harmony. Such an incident was an attempt to create division among the people," he added.

Khajuria call on Sood, discuss various issues

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: In order to give first hand knowledge about the party in Jammu region, today BJP State executive Member Som Nath Khajuria Meet Ashish Sood SehPrabhari BJP J&K and discuss various organization issue of concern and thing's pertaining to strengthen the BJP at grassroot level in Jammu and Kashmir.



and recent incidents that take place in Jammu provision, trying to disturb the harmony of UT on which BJP SehPrabhari Ashish Sood assured that he will take up the matter with Party leaders and proper

security will be provided especially in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Doda areas. Aashish Sood also take brainstorming session keeping in view spearheading the party's drive to

win seats spread across the UT. As, the main focus of BJP has been working to amplify up its booth-level presence and reach out to various communities with an eye on the beneficiaries of several central government schemes, was also discussed in the meeting. Som Nath Khajuria detailed about various welfare schemes of the Centre and state government and mentioned that BJP has given a corruption free rule in the country and in Jammu and Kashmir too.

NDPI chief asks govt to take accountability of its failure on security front

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) expressed its strong concern over rising terror incidences in areas of Jammu province asking Government to take accountability of its failure on security front. "Now there is a sudden rise in terror incidences in Jammu province areas which should be taken seriously and recent massacre in Dhangri village of Rajouri, IED recovery at KheoraRajouri, twin explosions at Narwal Jammu yesterday are some incidents which hint towards troublesome situation in Jammu province areas," he said.

Concerned over twin explosions in Narwal area of Jammu, NDPI held an office bearers meeting in the party office, here on Sunday, which was addressed by NDPI chief Rajesh Gupta who was accompanied by other senior leaders including UmeshManhas, Rajiv Luthra, S. Kuljit Singh, SandeepAnand and Tilak Raj. Rajesh Gupta, while condemning the terror act of explosions in Narwal, has castigated the Jammu and Kashmir Government for failing on the security front calling for an urgent intervention of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Gupta said that the number of terror incidences in areas of Jammu province has witnessed a sharp rise in past couple of months which is a serious concern as almost all the areas of province were peaceful before since more than a decade and things were going on peacefully

NDPI leader said that terrorists are now targeting civilian population which is a cause of concern. He asked J&K Government to ensure that the victims are provided with best possible treatment wherever required and financial aid to their families. Rajesh Gupta also appealed to people from all sections of society to remain United in this tough time and to give a solid reply to the forces which are trying to create a situation of unrest in the society. He also called for immediate assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and said that only a democratically elected Government can come concrete on the security front as the bureaucratic setup of LG Administration has failed.

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Armed forces strengthened, given fillip under Modi regime: Danish

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Danish Mishra, Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday asserted that armed forces in the country received much sought after fillip under the dispensation led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi bolstering the three services as never before.



In a statement issued to media persons, the BJYM leader said that the changes which the armed forces saw in the last 7 to 8 years have boosted the morale of men in olive, white and blue, and instilled a phenomenal valour and confidence among them making defence line rock solid and attack line ferocious like a lion but at the same time generous as sun in spring time. Referring to the government's Agniveer scheme, Danish said that people should not get misled by the negative society prevailing in the

country, rather they should express faith in what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said about this new mechanism developed to recruit future soldiers. The senior BJP leader endorsed PM Modi's stance that the Agniveer Scheme is a transformative policy and a game changer in strengthening the armed forces and making them future-ready. He said that making armed forces strong and dexterous is the dream of the Modi Government and therefore the defence sector has become a priority of the people sitting at helm. "Efforts are underway to modernize the armed forces and make them 'Aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) through equipping them with modern arms, ammunition and latest technical gadgets to remain at the top whenever the need arises", Danish said, adding that youths should make all out efforts to become technical savvy as this is vital in the future because whether it is armed forces or any other profession silicon devices' presence is a must and knowhow of technology can prove to be a game changer under all conditions.

BJP Govt streamlined process of obtaining arms licenses, tweaked rules to remove anomaly: Dr Parneesh

JJ NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JAN 22: Dr Parneesh Mahajan Convener Department of Training, Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Sunday hailed BJP Government for streamlining the process of obtaining arms/guns licenses in J&K by tweaking rules and removing the shortcomings leading to misuse of the entire exercise.

Appreciating the decision to revoke the ban on issuance of arms license after carrying out extensive scrutiny and removing the ambiguity, the BJP functionary said that the government is moving in a very care-

ful manner to ensure that processes and set-ups in different fields are made free of lacunae so that no person can misuse the system by taking undue benefits from the gaps and loopholes. Dr Parneesh said that in this particular case, the government had to impose the aforesaid ban looking into large scale bungling in the issuance of gun licenses in the past but now after comprehensive exercise to rectify the lacunae, the entire gamut has been made failsafe plugging the gaps, which was the need of the time as J&K is the sensitive region and arms and guns going into irre-

sponsible or anti-national elements hands can pose a grave risk to common man. "The government led by PM Narendra Modi has achieved another important goal to ensure safety of people by ensuring that arms licenses could only be given to responsible persons having satisfactory antecedents and appreciable character", the senior BJP leader maintained, adding that successive governments in the region have created mess in all spheres of life and the aforesaid being one of the most dangerous ones as the life of common man was at stake.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

J&K's improving health sector

Quality healthcare services should be the top priority of any government. Unfortunately, successive regimes, over the years, were least bothered to take necessary reforms to provide better medicare facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in rural areas. In recent times, there has, however, been significant improvement in healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir and it could be well-gauged from the fact that the Jammu and Kashmir government, at present, spends Rs 2 crore every day on the treatment of common people and 97 percent of the population of the Union Territory has insurance coverage. The government has provided SEHAT Golden cards to 80 lakh citizens, with 28,000 hospitals extending treatment facilities to them across the country. Today, dialysis facilities have been made available in all districts. Geriatric and Pediatric wards have been established in all district hospitals. All these facilities have been made available during the regime of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha whose administration has shown determination and commitment to take better healthcare to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Several reforms have been undertaken to implement the system of 'Any Treatment, Anywhere, Anytime'. The 'e-SAHAJ' initiative entails online appointments from doctors and the digitization of patients' medical records. As many as 575 health facilities are covered under these initiatives. According to the official statistics, Jammu and Kashmir government has issued Golden Cards to over 16 lakh families under the Ayushman Bharat scheme that has transformed the healthcare facilities for residents of the union territory. Around 17 lakh families have been covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. It has removed the burden of out-of-pocket expenses as the PMJAY aims to make the entire process of paying for healthcare cashless. The major beneficiaries of the scheme are the people in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as they were, until now, unable to get quality treatment due to paucity of funds. With the major transformation in the healthcare sector, all public and empanelled private hospitals have been directed to not charge any extra payment for medical care from all PMJAY beneficiaries to reduce corruption or delay in services. The government has started the AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in convergence with the Central Government's AB-PMJAY scheme to provide free-of-cost 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage' up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family on a floater basis. The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has rightly claimed that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K's health sector has gone through a sea change ensuring high-quality affordable, accessible healthcare for all. The need of the hour is to remove all the regional imbalances which existed earlier in the field of health care. As J&K's health sector has been performing better than the national average on several parameters, the efforts should be further stepped up to further achieve quality and accessible healthcare.

HEED JOSHIMATH WARNING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Although work on highway and power projects sanctioned during the last decade is underway, there is an urgent need to review these projects to strike a judicious balance between development work and environmental concerns. This may dampen economic growth and job creation, but it has to be carefully weighed against the risks of an ecological disaster in the area.

KM SINGH

THE tragedy befalling the township of Joshimath is a cumulative effect of the brazen apathy of the local government to heed the repeated warnings from environmentalists, geologists, experts and most importantly, local people.

Chandi Prasad Bhatt, a well-known environmentalist connected with the Chipko Movement, has lambasted successive governments for failing to act on warnings of the lurking dangers in Joshimath, submitted to the local government more than two decades ago. According to Bhatt, a study conducted by 12 scientific organisations, including the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), had reported that over 99 per cent of the mapped area of Joshimath was landslide-prone in various degrees.

Incidents of land sinking in Joshimath were noticed as early as the 1970s. One of the earliest reports highlighting the vulnerability of Joshimath dates back to 1976 when an 18-member committee chaired by MC Mishra warned that the town of Joshimath is 'geologically unstable' and suggested several restrictions and remedial measures.

The Mishra Committee was set up to probe the cause of landslides and the sinking of Joshimath town. The report suggested a ban on heavy construction around Joshimath. This report revealed that Joshimath, located in an ancient landslide zone, was built on a loose, unconsolidated surface with the material beneath being soil and debris. As a result, this area does not have a high load-bearing capacity. This report cautioned against 'unplanned development in this area' and identified its 'natural vulnerabilities'. It further mentioned that the dearth of adequate drainage facilities was also responsible for landslides in the region.

Ignoring this warning of the Mishra Committee, a number of hydropower projects have been sanctioned in this region since then. These include the Vishnugad project in Joshimath Tapovan region. Local people and activists in the region allege that a private agency which conducted the survey for this project failed to take cognisance of fragile geological conditions where tunnelling could disturb the local ecology in this mountainous region. In May 2010, two researchers from



Garhwal University and the Disaster Mitigation Management Centre published a well-researched article in the journal Current Science, highlighting the following three risks facing Joshimath town: (1) The government should not have overburdened the town through the tunnel alignment which was part of the hydropower project.

(2) The tunnelling process punctures the water-bearing strata and causes harm in water gushing out and flooding the area.

(3) Inability to understand the ecology and geology of the area before implementing large-scale infrastructure projects such as hydropower projects and road construction are acts of negligence by the authorities.

Over the years, Joshimath has become a gateway for a large number of pilgrims visiting Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib, besides providing passage to tourists going to Auli. According to a report, experts believe that unplanned construction, overpopulation, hydropower projects and obstruction of the natural flow of water may have led to the present disaster in Joshimath.

Following the Kedarnath tragedy in 2013, a two-member Bench of the Supreme Court had taken cognisance of the ecological hazard caused by hydel projects in Uttarakhand. This led to the stay of 24 proposed plants on the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins. An experts' panel chaired by environmentalist Ravi Chopra mentioned in its report in 2014 that there was a direct as well as indirect role of hydropower projects in the aggravation of the floods of 2013. The Supreme Court directed the Union

Government to outline a policy regarding hydropower projects, but it is yet to come. Divergent views among Union ministries — Environment and Power on one side and Water Resources on the other — appear to have delayed the response.

Ravi Chopra, who was also the Chairperson of the Supreme Court panel on the 'Char Dham' all-weather road project, stated during a press conference organised by Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti last week that a scientific paper 'Change in hydraulic properties of rock mass due to tunnelling', published in 2015, mentioned that repeated bursting and trapping of the tunnel boring machine for the construction of the 12.1-km tunnel from Helang to Tapovan in Uttarakhand had led to cracks in the area. This gives credence to the assertion being made by the environmentalists and local people that what has happened in Joshimath is a result of the tunnelling exercise conducted by the NTPC. The project, which also envisages a concrete barrage 15 km upstream of Joshimath, has been drawing flak from the public for the crisis facing the town due to land subsidence. Garhwal division is among India's most vulnerable regions. The Kedarnath floods of 2013 and the Chamoli disaster of 2021 killed about 200 people in Joshimath's vicinity and damaged two hydel projects in the area. They are also warning signs of the devastation the next Himalayan flood could wreak. Although work on several highway and power projects sanctioned during the last decade is underway, there is an urgent need to review these projects to strike a

judicious balance between development work and environmental concerns. This may dampen economic growth and job creation, but it has to be carefully weighed against the risks of an ecological disaster in the area. For the administration in hill regions, these are tough but necessary calls to make.

Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently released satellite images of Joshimath and a preliminary report on land subsidence which shows that the entire town may sink. Satellite images of Joshimath released by ISRO show that the Himalayan town sank at a rapid pace of 5.4 cm in just 12 days, triggered by a possible subsidence event on January 12. The images show that the Joshimath-Auli road is also going to collapse due to land subsidence. The finding in the preliminary report of ISRO is indeed frightening. Following the alarm caused by the sinking of Joshimath town, the Uttarakhand Government has set up a seven-member panel comprising experts from IIT Roorkee, the Geological Survey of India, the National Institute of Hydrology and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology to conduct a field survey in Joshimath. The expert panel's field assessment draft report after the initial survey on Joshimath has pointed out that sediment-laden water, gushing out of an unknown underground source, might have caused arcuate-shaped erosion and cracks as deep as 1 metre.

KM Singh
Founder member, National Disaster Management Authority

Need to care grievances of the farmers

RAKESH AATHUR

There is urgent need to address the farmers' grievances in the time including the district & area in which most of the complaints are already piled for the necessary solution of the problems relating to land and its compensation during the process of the Express way, National Highway no.1 and others relating to their personal regarding land occupation and evacuation in the area. There number of such complaints are enhancing day by day perhaps at the par of the revenue staff deployed there or others in the area.

If we ask to the local residents of the samba district Des Raj, Krishan Lal, Ramesh Lal, Ashok Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Satya Devi, Chano Devi, Krishan Lal, Rahul Kumar, Raj Kumar, etc they are shouting with request to concede their demands to render hard and fast against the revenue department of the area who is confined here acting as contrary to their duty while they are neglecting to the interests of the common people whether it may be Express way, N.H.1 compensation or to address the grievances of the farmers and landholders of the same area.

Even some where few officials dealing is too odd to a common man while through their offices, alleges to be acting like callous meeks to the innocent applicants and since how the compensation of the national highway



and Expressway is also under process they are favouring to the unfair parties and compelling to the innocent and frail landholders to abide with their beck & calls at the helm of their power indulging misrule and oppression without caring the concerned upper hierarchy. On ground level one can guess that there is anarchy like situa-

tion prevailing in the district since last time.

A major level connivance and partiality can also be dusted in all such practices if there initiated enquiry against the such voracious officers in immediate sense & all so should be transferred immediately from Jammu division to Srinagar division for more

than a decade years of their duty in order to prove their competence that whether they are ideal officers or not? Is the demand of the several of the residents and farmers across the region, unless genuine interests of the innocent farmers may never be addressed and serving officers no doubt shall attain with an experience at such niche

posts.

For the common interests, they are requesting the higher authorities to take suitable action against these negligent ones aftermath of their immediate transfers towards other far-off places. And the landed and personal interests of the innocent farmers from such callous and voracious employees should be secured, who perhaps for the sack of extra money scapote to the number of farmers and landowners of the area.

If we talk of the corrupt means which are prevailing mainly in the revenue department in the area is highly got out of the limit in which number of corrupt employees are marry making after huge mischievous but none of in charges of the department are unable to assess the situation to act in time or enquire them. Similarly a patwari of the samba tehsil has been constructing an illegal building at his residence, since more than two months but there occurred number of complaints against him in written and other modes to the revenue department concerned samba and others but still the all such complaints are been put into cool boxes.

In-addition the information regarding it has been also mailed and supplied to the Higher hierarchy all of they had shown empty thumbs to the applicants and if they are facing a quite problematic and gloomy situation because if department concerned had bent became towards such influential

employees that then innocent applicants where they may approach!

The work on the spot is continuous not any of the concerned staff took cognizance. Le tehsil samba had not visited the spot and verified it whether what is the condition, then what a common man expect from such voracious and delinquent staff, therefore there is greater resentment among the people against the system that who may control so and take timely action in such regards.

There are no such complaints already against such delinquent employees are already submitted but none could have taken any cognizance in this regard. So in last no. of such complaints are mailed to honorable lieutenant governor for requisite action in this regard.

Meant the system of the bureaucracy has been shattered of the area and no one is caring in this regard including govt. agencies and government tiers present here. They all are rendered as mere watching signs here and there on the spot

So it is a matter of furry and shame for the local administration to take suitable action in this regard and therefore they demanded from Prime Minister should take secant action in this regard in order to relief to the common people at par without wasting time, if in future the system has to maintain is the demand of the common people of the area.

After 5 Years, Curtains Are Down Finally For Mythological Drama 'RadhaKrishn'

As the mythological drama 'RadhaKrishn' has concluded after completing 1,145 episodes. Lead actors Sumeeth Mudgalgar and Mallika Singh, who played the lead roles of Lord Krishna and Radha, shared their experience of working for almost five years.

Sumeeth said: "It has been a privilege to play the character of Lord Krishna as several popular actors have enacted this character. Initially, it was a mammoth task to crack the assignment, but eventually, I realised that it was my journey and it was a competition against myself."



"It's been almost five years, I have been associated with the show. Now the perceptions are changing, everything right from the set to the environment is changing.

And suddenly you realise that you won't be able to see these things again and thus you start appreciating them more.

You suddenly feel emotional, I really cannot imagine my life after the show."

The mythological show based on the story of Lord Krishna and Radha, which premiered on October 1, 2018, was con-

sidered among the longest-running shows and a prequel to it also started, titled 'Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki' in 2021 and ended in July 2022.

Mallika, who played Radha recalled

how tough it was initially for her to get into the skin of the character. "It was a wonderful experience to play the part of Radha, and I was overjoyed when I was offered the role in the TV series 'RadhaKrishn'. At the initial stage, I found it a bit hard to cope but then gradually we had to multitask while getting into character, and I realised it was my journey where I learned a lot and adapted myself to all the challenges."

"Now the long journey has come to an end where I am emotional but also happy that I've made innumerable memories as well as good experiences. Though it is difficult to accept the fact that the show has come to an end, we will miss the set and crew members of the show since each and every person of the show has put their best to make this show a success," she concluded.

'RadhaKrishn' aired on Star Bharat.

Rohit Shetty Remembers 'Chennai Express' While Shooting Train Sequence



Filmmaker Rohit Shetty recalled his 2013 action comedy film 'Chennai Express', starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone while shooting a train sequence with Sidharth Malhotra for his upcoming web series 'Indian Police Force'.

He posted a picture from the sets in which Sidharth can be seen in action mode with a pistol in his hand inside a train while Rohit is seen standing with his crew behind him at the station.

He wrote in the caption: "Shooting a train action sequence reminds me of Chennai Express days."

'Chennai Express' which was released in 2013 was among the most successful films and follows the story of Rahul Mithaiwala and how his life goes upside down while travelling on a train

to immerse the ashes of his grandfather. Now, while shooting for an action sequence, Rohit remembered his shooting days from the sets of his film.

The filmmaker also recently got injured while shooting a car action sequence on the sets in Hyderabad and he informed the fans through his post. Rohit's upcoming web series 'Indian Police Force' features Sidharth Malhotra in the lead role along with Vivek Oberoi and Shilpa Shetty. Rohit is known for his action drama and cop series like 'Singham' which was released in 2011 and its sequel 'Singham Returns' came in 2014.

As per the media reports, Deepika Padukone has joined the cast of 'Singham Again'. It also features Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn.

'Indian Idol 13': Ex-Army Officer Shares How Challenging It Was To Fight At 17000 Ft During Kargil War

Retired army officer Yogendra Singh Yadav has shared how he fought for 22 days, and how difficult it was for them to fight at the height of 17,000 feet at Tiger Hill, which is Drass-Kargil area of Ladakh, and lose his soldiers during the Kargil war.

He appeared on the singing reality show 'Indian Idol' as a celebrity guest for the 'Republic Day' special episode, and recalled the Kargil War of 1999.

During a conversation, singer and judge, Vishal Dadlani said: "Today, we can breathe and live freely because of such brave army officers."

He also revealed that by receiving the Param Vir Chakra award for the Kargil war at the age of 19, he became the youngest person to get the award.

As the army and navy officers support-



ed their favourite contestant on the show, Yogendra also came in support of Chirag Kotwal and appreciated his performance on the patriotic track 'Hai Preet Jahan Ki

Reet Sada' from the 1970 film 'Purab Aur Paschim' starring Manoj Kumar and Saira Banu.

Himesh Reshmiyan also praised him by saying: "Today is an important day and the way you sang it gave us goosebumps."

You sang it so well and felt every word of the song while you were performing. You hit the chords just right, we will always remember that."

The top 8 contestants, including Rishi Singh from Ayodhya, Bidipta Chakraborty, Debosmita Roy, Senjuti Das, Sonakshi Kar from Kolkata, Chirag Kotwal from Jammu, Navdeep Wadali from Amritsar, Shivam Singh amazed the judges and guests with their performance on patriotic tracks. 'Indian Idol 13' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Srijit Mukherji Says 'Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke' Based On Experiences Of IPS Officers

Film director Srijit Mukherji got candid about his upcoming web series 'Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke' which revolves around the life of a woman IPS officer, Kavya played by Regina Cassandra.

He said: "It is not based on one person, rather it is based on several experiences of brave IPS officers over the years and across the country."

The 45-year-old director is known for his films like 'Autograph', 'Hemlock Society', 'Jaatishwar', 'Begum Jaan', 'Gurmaamr', among others, and he also directed several web series including 'Ray', 'Fuldar Goyendagir', and many more.

Srijit further shared as a director what were the important factors he kept in mind while directing this web show.

He replied: "Police force is the key element of this show. Samar Khan not only produced

the show but he has this bank of experience when it comes to these armed forces shows and patriotic shows, so he guided us.

There are nuances in the different kinds of operations and functioning of the police forces in different parts of the country. All of this had to be kept in mind."

We believe that this show is inspired by true events, who is it based on?

It is not based on one person, rather it is based on several experiences of brave IPS officers over the years and across the country.

At the last, he said that OIT has given a platform to directors and writers to explore and create with much more freedom.

"It has given an alternative way of telling a story which is a huge thing because that is how all storytellers and creators will look for various alternatives," he concluded.

Jammu And Kashmir's First Female Police Officer Recounts Establishing Herself Being A Woman



Shahida Praveen Ganguly, former Assistant Commissioner of Police, CID Cell Jammu & Kashmir, and lady encounter specialist, who was the first female police officer in J&K Police, recently appeared on the singing reality show 'Indian Idol 13', and talked about her days of struggle to make her place in the police force as a woman.

She also opened up about facing any fear during conflicts and in sensitive areas and said fearfully that she is not scared at all.

Shahida said: "To be honest, there is no such thing as fear, it's only your intrinsic thoughts."

She also added how as a woman she has faced not only barred wire barriers but also gender barriers. Only she is appearing on the show 'Republic Day Special' episode along with other members of the Army and Navy forces, and CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) as celebrity guests.

Superstar Vs Superfan: Akshay Kumar Has A Face-Off With Emraan Hashmi In 'Selfie' Trailer

The makers of 'Selfie' dropped the trailer of the film on Sunday, where actor Akshay Kumar, who plays a superstar and Emraan Hashmi, who essays a police officer and his superfan will be seen having a face off.

Akshay took to Instagram and shared the trailer. He captioned it: "Iss kahaani ka villain toh pata nahi par hero #selfie hai (I don't know the villain of his story, but hero is the Selfiee)"

In the three-minute-long trailer, Akshay's character Vijay has a 'superstar' entry and Emraan, a police officer, his 'biggest fan' and his son wish to click a selfie with their 'hero'. He even tells his wife, played by Nushratt Bharucha, of divorce if she speaks against his icon.

Akshay talks about how he has an erratic schedule, doing four films, out of which two are for OTT,



number of commercials, live events and reality shows.

However, things take a turn over Akshay's driver license. He is seen telling Emraan's son in the film to never be an 'opportunist' like his father. What next

is Emraan telling his son that it's a battle between his superhero and his dad's superhero.

The trailer ends with Akshay and Emraan in a disco in shimmery outfits as the song 'Main Khiladi Tu Anari' plays in the

background. 'Selfie' will release on February 24. Directed by Raj Mehta, it is the official Hindi remake of the Malayalam film 'Driving License'. The film starred Prithviraj and Suraj Venjaramoodu in lead roles.

Jonathan Majors Ate 6,100 Calories A Day For Four Months For 'Magazine Dreams'

To transform into a bodybuilder, Jonathan Majors ate 6,100 calories a day for four months for 'Magazine Dreams'.

The actor stunned everyone with his transformative performance as a toxic bodybuilding fanatic. Majors appears as a hulking beast in the film, with the camera often lingering on his muscles for minutes on end, reports Variety.

The actor revealed at the

Variety Studio presented by Audible at Sundance that he spent four months eating

TO TRANSFORM INTO A BODYBUILDER, JONATHAN MAJORS ATE 6,100 CALORIES A DAY FOR FOUR MONTHS FOR 'MAGAZINE DREAMS'.

over 6,000 calories in order to transform into the character. "I'm 6 feet tall. I'm 202 pounds," Majors said. "In order to sustain that and to grow that you have to eat as much protein that you weigh. I ate 6,100 calories a day for about four months. That

included the pre-work and the post-work of 'Creed III'."

"The normal bodybuilder works out two times a day," Majors continued. "What ended up happening is I would train two hours, two times a day for the movie and a third time after wrap. Meanwhile, you eat six times a day. Lots of chicken. Lots of elk. That's just for me. I like

it." After getting jacked for 'Creed III' and 'Magazine

Dreams', is Majors excited to slow down on the training? He'll be scaling back, but he won't exactly be slowing down. "I played football in Texas. I got an appetite," Majors said. "I really like being physi-

cal. I like hiking and running. I've got dogs. I'm only 33 - I got to do something to stay with it. I don't work out three times a day anymore. Just once a day."

Majors performance in 'Magazine Dreams' earned acclaim from Variety film critic Owen Gleiberman, who wrote in his review: "Majors looks and sounds like the hulk cousin of Dennis Haysbert, and his inner silent persuasive quality is transfixing. What a performance!"



The One Low-Fiber Food No One Over 40 Should Be Eating Anymore Because It Practically Guarantees Weight Gain

Fiber is an essential component of any healthy diet. It keeps your gut healthy, helps regulate blood sugar, and allows you to stay fuller longer—all of which contribute to healthy weight loss. However, many of the foods you may be eating every day don't offer very much fiber at all, making them poor choices for your overall health, especially if you're trying to shed a few pounds. In fact, there's one popular breakfast food you may be eating regularly that could be holding you back from your weight loss goals.

To learn more about the low-fiber foods that you should stop eating over 40 if you want a slimmer waistline, we spoke to health experts Onyx Adegbola, MD, PhD, founder of Casa de Sante, and Allison Sizemore, Certified Sports Nutritionist and Online Coach from Couture Fitness Coaching. They told us that processed foods, namely sugary breakfast cereal, should be avoided



as much as possible. Learn more below! When it comes to low-fiber foods, processed, refined options are oftentimes the worst culprits. "These types of foods contain empty calories that

which can leave you feeling unsatisfied despite eating more than necessary." She notes that eating these foods will likely cause blood sugar spikes and crashes throughout the day, along with cravings for more unhealthy foods—it's a vicious cycle that certainly won't do you any favors if you're trying to lose weight. As far as the worst processed low-fiber foods, Sizemore puts sugary breakfast cereal at the top of the list. "Eating cereal like this, especially alone with no protein or added fiber, can cause a spike in glucose, which can lead to weight gain and insulin resistance over time," she warns. Of course, you'll likely run into instances where you're going to eat some low-fiber foods. Sizemore offers up some advice for when you're in this situation: "If you must eat a lower fiber food, try to pair it with protein and healthy fat plus some fiber to keep blood sugar more stable and to help keep you

full for longer," she concludes.

At the end of the day, getting enough fiber in your diet is essential—and it should especially be a priority if you're trying to lose weight over 40. "Eating enough fiber is important for weight loss at any age, but especially so for people over 40," Dr. Adegbola says. "Fiber helps to keep us full longer, which can make it easier to eat less and thus lose weight. Additionally, fiber helps to slow the absorption of sugar into the bloodstream, preventing spikes in blood sugar levels that can lead to cravings and overeating." She points out that ample fiber is also essential for keeping your digestive system healthy and reducing bloating, since it can help reduce inflammation in the gut.

The best way to ensure you're getting enough fiber is to fill your plate with whole foods like fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and healthy fats—and whenever possible, avoid processed foods like sugary breakfast cereal.

The Supplement That Helped Me Beat My All-Day, Insatiable Hunger



My appetite changed in the second half of 2022. I was more snappy, constantly thinking about my next meal, and just, well, wanting to eat more.

My doctor asked me how much protein I was eating, and as a vegetarian for 10 years, I realized I probably could do better there. So, after a decade of no meat, I started eating meat again (that's a story for a different day). Even with the upped protein intake, I was still so hungry.

Why does fiber matter?

Did you know only 5% of Americans get enough fiber every day? That means 95% of Americans (so, like, most) aren't meeting their recommended daily needs. How much fiber you need per day varies from person to person, but for me, it's at least 25 grams. (Spoiler alert: I wasn't getting anywhere near that!)

Fiber enhances feelings of satiety², which help you feel full for longer—a feeling I desperately wanted in my life. While I think of myself as having a pretty healthy diet (my plate is often an amalgamation of veggies, grains, and both plant-based and animal protein, and I, for the most part, avoid processed foods), when I crunched the numbers of my go-to meals, I was coming up short on my fiber intake.

Fiber is a complex carb that comes from fruits, veggies, whole grains, and legumes—all foods I eat plenty of. In fact, many of these 25 high-fiber foods show up in my weekly (if not daily) rotation. And yet, I still wasn't hitting the recommended daily intake.

I wanted to see if getting closer to 25 grams per day would help me feel satiated. And like it was meant to be, we released our very own fiber product: organic fiber potency⁺.

This powder fiber supplement blends so easily into whatever I'm drinking. A hot beverage works great, but sometimes, for efficiency's sake, I just toss it in my protein shaker and knock it back with eight ounces of water. It doesn't taste like anything and mixes amazingly well. When I start my day with fiber supplementation, I stick to three meals a day and the incessant snack monster in my head takes the day off.

The organic gaur fiber, green kiwifruit, and mushroom trio (reishi, shiitake, oyster) help get me to my goal of 25 grams per day while also providing added gut benefits (like supporting digestion³, promoting gut microbiome diversity and abundance⁴, and reducing bloating⁵) and helping me maintain healthy blood sugar and cholesterol levels⁶.

The takeaway.

Metabolic health is a particular passion of mine, and here I was, eating healthy but still struggling with blood sugar balance and satiety. I knew these were red flags, and all it took was a little leg up from organic fiber potency⁺ to get me to a place where food wasn't always on the brain. The additional benefits? They're pure icing on the cake.

Potential Health Benefits of Cauliflower

IT'S HAILED AS A LOW-CARB SUBSTITUTE FOR RICE OR A MEATLESS STAND-IN FOR CHICKEN WINGS, BUT CAULIFLOWER HAS EVEN MORE TO OFFER, ESPECIALLY NUTRITIONALLY.

Cauliflower has made a huge comeback in recent years. While you can roast or steam it for a quick and tasty way to get your veggies in, you can also get pretty creative with it. From cauliflower wings to cauliflower rice, this cruciferous veggie can replace just about everything—even so far as cauliflower steaks and pizza crusts. It's low in calories, carbs, and fat, so it's easy to see why it's popular among keto dieters and people with diabetes looking for low-carb food options.

The recognizable white cauliflower isn't the only option, though. There are purple, orange, and green varieties, thanks to different pigments (which are usually also antioxidants, so vary the colors for more nutrients). Regardless of the shade, all cauliflower tends to have a similar flavor—mild and nutty with slight sweetness. You can eat it raw or cooked, which has a slight effect on the taste. Raw cauliflower is a little more bitter than its cooked counterpart.

Like most produce, cauliflower is best enjoyed when it's in season, which is during the fall months, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). But don't let that stop you from picking up some cauliflower the remainder of the year—it's easily found in the freezer

section of most grocery stores year-round.

The taste and versatility aren't the only reasons to add cauliflower to your regular meal plan. Cauliflower is also packed with numerous potential health benefits. Here are seven more to consider.

1. Cauliflower Is Rich in Free-Radical-Fighting Antioxidants

"Being part of the brassica (cruciferous veggie) family, cauliflower is rich in special types of antioxidants called phytochemicals, which are known to help fight off free radicals from causing damage and aging to our cells," says Jenna Volpe, RDN, who is based in Austin, Texas. She adds that cauliflower also contains antioxidants such as anthoxanthins, flavonoids, chlorophyll, quercetin, and coumaric acid.

Free radicals are unstable atoms that break havoc on cells, but antioxidants are sometimes referred to as "free radical scavengers" because they stabilize and neutralize them. Free radicals happen naturally in the body, but other sources are all around us—sun exposure being a big one. An antioxidant-rich diet can help mitigate the harmful effects of free radicals and have positive effects on diseases like cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, cancer, and others, according to a review published



in 2021 in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

2. Cauliflower Fights Inflammation, Potentially Reducing the Risk of Disease

There's a silent killer on the loose, and it's known as inflammation. According to research published in 2020 in Nature Medicine, chronic inflammation contributes to some of the leading diseases and causes of mortality worldwide, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and kidney disease. Many factors contribute to inflammation, and your food choices are among them. Some foods drive inflammation, while others reduce it. Cauliflower is among the latter.

"Cauliflower and other cruciferous vegetables have properties that fight inflammation, according to a study published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics," says Christine Byrne, RD, who is based in Raleigh, North Carolina. "Inflammation is complex, and some inflammation is good and necessary, but chronic inflammation can increase your risk of premature disease."

3. Cauliflower Can Support a Healthy Immune System With High Levels of Vitamin C

Oranges, bell peppers, strawberries—these fruits and vegetables are high in vitamin C and touted as being beneficial for

your immune system. Getting enough vitamin C through food positively affects immune health and reduces susceptibility to infection, according to a review published in 2020 in Frontiers in Immunology.

Now you can add cauliflower to the roster. A serving of cauliflower makes a significant dent in your daily vitamin C requirements.

Per the USDA, 1 cup of raw chopped cauliflower contains 51.6 milligrams of vitamin C, making it an excellent source.

4. Thanks to Its Vitamin K, Cauliflower Encourages Bone Health and Proper Blood Clotting

Vitamin K is an essential nutrient, and cauliflower is a good source of it, with 16.6 micrograms packed into 1 cup of the raw chopped veggie. It has antioxidant properties like other vitamins, but where cauliflower really shines is blood and bone health.

"Cauliflower is the only white veggie rich in fat-soluble vitamin K," Volpe says. "The nutrient's main role in the body is in blood clotting and coagulation, which explains why its name originates from the Germanic word *koagulation*, aka the ability to clot blood, coagulate, and prevent bleeding." Without blood clotting, wounds would continue to bleed and wouldn't be able to heal as a result.

Health benefits of cheese: your favourite indulgence is also good for your health!

Cheese made from the milk of animals that are raised 100% grass-fed contains omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin K2

Cheese is everywhere. It is a delicious indulgence for many a people. You can enjoy it melted on pizza, sliced for a sandwich, or sprinkled over a salad. But cheese also has a bad rap as a high-fat food. And while it may be true that cheese contains a high amount of fat, it can provide some surprising health benefits as well.

Cheese is what's known as a whole food: a food as close to its natural form as possible, with minimal to no processing.

The nutrition you get from cheese can vary a lot depending on what kind of cheese you eat—and how much. It is obviously advisable to steer clear of highly processed kinds, as they can contain additives and high levels of sodium.

Beneficial nutrients present in cheese include:

- Protein
- Vitamin A
- Vitamin B12
- Vitamin K
- Zinc
- Calcium
- Vitamin D

28 grams of American cheese contains:

- 104 calories
- 5 grams of protein
- 9 grams of fat (5 grams saturated)
- 1 gram of carbohydrates
- 0 grams of fiber
- 0.6 grams of sugar
- 293 milligrams of calcium
- 468 milligrams of sodium
- 28 grams of Brie cheese, on the other hand, contains:

- 100 calories
- 1 gram of carbohydrates
- 9 grams of fat
- 5 grams of protein
- 150 milligrams of calcium
- 170 milligrams of sodium
- 28 grams of Feta cheese:
- 60 calories
- 1 gram of carbohydrates
- 4 grams of fat
- 5 grams of protein
- 60 milligrams of calcium
- 360 milligrams of sodium

The key to finding healthier cheeses is reading the label.

Harder cheeses tend to be higher in sodium, and nutrient content can vary from brand to brand. Avoid products that are cheese-flavored and opt for



minimally processed varieties instead. When in doubt, always check the packaging.

Types of cheese
There are thousands of different varieties of cheeses made around the world. Many cheeses made in the United States use cow's milk, but cheese can also be made from the milk of goats, sheep, and other animals.

Whole milk: Whole milk cheeses are made from regular, unskimmed milk. They can be high in saturated fat, so people with cardiovascular disease or

high cholesterol may choose to limit their intake.

Low-fat and reduced fat: In the United States, cheeses labelled "low-fat" must contain 3 grams of fat or less per serving. A "reduced-fat" cheese has at least 25 percent less fat than the regular version of the cheese.

Aged cheese: These include cheddar, Parmesan, and Swiss. They are firm in texture, and some can be high in salt. Aged cheeses are stored before they are ready to sell, so they have time to mature. The aging

process tends to create stronger flavors.

Fresh cheese: such as ricotta and cottage cheese are generally high in moisture and soft in texture. They're ready to be eaten quickly, without needing time to age, so they are known as "fresh" cheeses.

Possible health benefits of cheese

Cheese made from the milk of animals that are raised 100% grass-fed contains omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin K2, a nutrient your body uses to clot blood. Research has shown that dairy products like cheese can help keep you from getting cavities in your teeth.

Bone health
The calcium, protein, magnesium, zinc, and vitamins A, D, and K content of cheese mean it can contribute to healthy bone development in children and young adults, and to osteoporosis prevention. Some theories have proposed that eating dairy products leads to higher acid levels in the body, and that this can destroy rather than encourage healthy bones. However,

scientific evidence does not support this view.

Dental health
Cheese can enhance dental health. Calcium plays an important role in tooth formation, and cheese is a good source of calcium. In addition, at least one study has shown that eating cheese can raise the pH level in dental plaque, offering protection against dental cavities.

Blood pressure
Statistics show that people who eat more cheese have lower blood pressure, despite some cheeses being rich in fat and sodium. Calcium can help reduce blood pressure. Low-fat, low-sodium cheeses are recommended. A suitable low-sodium cheese would be low-fat or reduced-fat natural Swiss cheese.

Other low-fat cheeses include cottage cheese, ricotta cheese, parmesan, feta, and goat's cheese, and low-fat cream cheese. Many cheeses are now available in "lite" versions, such as cheddar, brie, havarti,

and feta. Check the nutritional information, because some reduced-fat cheeses have added sodium.

Due to extreme processing, fat-free cheeses are not recommended as a regular part of the diet, even for those looking to reduce calories or fat.

Healthy blood vessels

Some cheeses contain high levels of cholesterol and sodium, suggesting that they can lead to cardiovascular problems. However, in 2014, researchers concluded that dairy products could be a good source of the antioxidant, glutathione. This antioxidant is crucial for brain health and for preventing age-related neurodegeneration.

In 2016, scientists also found that the antioxidant properties of cheese may protect against the negative effects of sodium, at least, in the short term.

In the study, the blood vessels of participants who consumed dairy cheese functioned better than the blood vessels of those who ate pretzels or soy cheese.

Italy's Meloni eyes boost in strong energy ties with Algeria



ALGIERS, JAN 22: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni is looking to boost already strong energy ties with Algeria to further wean Italy off Russian energy, a focus of her two-day visit to the North African nation starting on Sunday.

Russia's war in Ukraine, which upset global strategic and economic dynamics, gave a new and urgent dimension to ties between Algeria and Rome, long dependent on Russian energy. Other European Union nations also have scrambled to find sources of replacement for Russian energy.

Italy and gas-rich Algeria now want to build on then Premier Mario Draghi's successful initiatives last

year to boost Algerian energy supplies to Italy and, as an Algerian diplomat said, "push beyond that."

"We want Italy to become a European hub for Algerian gas. A junction for other EU countries," Algeria's ambassador to Rome, Abdelkrim Touahria, said in an interview with Rome daily *Il Messaggero*, published on Saturday.

Algeria has replaced Russia as Italy's No. 1 energy supplier, sending natural gas via the Trans-Mediterranean pipeline.

An initial deal last year concluded by Draghi added 9 billion cubic metres of gas by 2023-2024, Eni said at the time. Months later, in July, a USD 4 billion agreement between the

companies Eni, the Italian energy company, Occidental and Total was concluded.

Meloni is expected to meet with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune as well as the nation's prime minister. Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi is to be among those in the delegation.

"Today we are the leading energy partner of Italy," Touahria said. "But we aim to push beyond that."

Touahria, the Algerian ambassador, said that Italy's Eni and the Algerian oil company Sonatrach are also looking together to the future with projects like oil and gas exploration in the south Sahara.

Besides energy, a raft of topics also will be discussed during Meloni's visit, from naval construction to cars and startups.

Meloni's far-right-led coalition won a September national election, and it was likely that immigration and migrant issues, dear to the European far-right, would be on the agenda.

Italy is a magnet for migrants escaping poverty, war and other woes in their home countries, and North Africans, often from Tunisia and Algeria, are among them.

Algeria's ambassador to Italy met this week with Italy's interior minister before Meloni's visit. Italian consular officials in Rome regularly try to identify illegal migrants thought to be Algerian held in Sardinia and southern Italy, the official Algerian news agency APS quoted Touahria as saying.

Chris Hipkins becomes NZ's new prime minister – there are two ways it can go from here

PALMERSTON NORTH (NEW ZEALAND), JAN 22: Following the surprise resignation of Jacinda Ardern on January 19, the New Zealand Labour Party already has a new leader: Chris Hipkins. The handover from Ardern to Hipkins has been achieved with the same efficiency as the handover from Andrew Little to Ardern in 2017. But will it be as successful?

Hipkins entered parliament in 2008 – along with Ardern. Under Ardern's leadership, he held ministerial portfolios in education, police and public services, and was Leader of the House.

His role as education minister includes a (not altogether successful) centralisation of all the country's polytechnics under one administrative umbrella – a form of restructuring

typical of this Labour government.

He distinguished himself during the COVID pandemic as a hard-working and competent leader who contributed a much-needed clarity and common sense.

As a dependable and intelligent politician who doesn't mind being an attack dog when it's called for.

As leader, however, Hipkins now faces an uphill battle, with his party trailing the opposition National Party in the most recent published polls. But he lacks Ardern's charisma.

In 2017, there was an instant "Jacindamania" effect when she took the party leadership, and Labour's polling shot up. One simply can't imagine a "Chris-manian", however.

But maybe that's not a bad thing right now.

There are two ways this could go now. First, the nightmare scenario for Labour: the government continues to be sniped at over controversial and unpopular policies such as the Three Waters programme and the income insurance scheme, economic problems continue to damage household budgets, the opposition leaders (both National's Christopher Luxon and ACT's David Seymour) have a field day.

In head-to-head debates with Luxon once the election campaign begins, Hipkins lacks the fire that Ardern was able to show when she needed it, and becomes political roadkill at the ballot box on October 14. Labour supporters wake up in a cold sweat.

With Labour's ongoing slump in the polls, trailing National by around five or six percentage points, this scenario can't be ruled out.

Following defeat, Labour could go into the kind of spiral it endured after Helen Clark's loss in 2008, with one unsuccessful leader after another.

We can recall the defeat of Labour's Phil Goff in 2011 and David Cunliffe in 2014 when up against National's John Key. And, to be fair, National suffered a similarly bad run after Bill English stood down in 2018 and until Luxon became leader in November 2021.

So is there a dream scenario for Labour? For Ardern's charismatic – and now rather polarising – personality heading for the exit, the party could turn things around.

Brazil's army chief fired in aftermath of capital uprising



BRASILIA, JAN 22: President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva fired Brazil's army chief just days after the leftist leader openly said that some military members allowed the January 8 uprising in the capital by far-right protesters.

The official website of the Brazilian armed forces said Saturday Gen. Julio Cesar de Arruda had been removed as head of the army. He was replaced by Gen. Tomas Miguel Ribeiro Paiva, who was head of the Southeast Military Command.

Lula, who did not comment publicly on the firing, met with Defence Minister Jose Mucio, chief of staff Rui Costa and the new army commander in Brasilia at the end of the day. Speaking to journalists afterward, Mucio said the January 8 riots had caused "a fracture in the level of trust" in the army's top levels and the gov-

ernment decided a change was needed.

In recent weeks, Lula targeted the military with criticism after supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed through government buildings and destroyed public property in an attempt to keep Bolsonaro in office. The uprising underlined the polarisation in Brazil between the left and the right.

Lula said several times in public that there were definitely people in the army who allowed the rioting to occur, though he never cited Arruda.

During a breakfast with the press, Lula said earlier this week that "a lot of people from the military police and the armed forces were complicit" and had allowed protesters to enter the buildings with open doors. In another interview, the president said that "all the military

involved in the coup attempt will be punished, no matter the rank."

The comments were followed by Lula scheduling several meetings with the defence minister and the armed forces' commanders. Mucio denied they had mentioned the January 8 rioting, but he said relations between the military and the government needed adjustment.

On the eve of Arruda's firing, a video of a Paiva speech earlier in the week was released in which he said the election results should be respected in order to guarantee democracy.

Rioters who stormed through the Brazilian Congress, the presidential palace and the Supreme Court in Brasilia sought to have the military intervene and overturn Bolsonaro's loss to Lula in the presidential election.

In a video posted on social media from inside the presidential palace on the day of the attack, a colonel is seen trying to stop police from arresting Bolsonaro's supporters who had invaded the building. He asks for patience from the military police, which report to the federal district's government.

More than a thousand people were arrested on the day of the riot and the morning after the disturbance, which bore strong similarities to the January 6, 2021, riot at the US Congress by mobs who wanted to overturn former President Donald Trump's election loss.

Azam Khan sworn in as caretaker CM of Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR JAN 21: Former bureaucrat Muhammad Azam Khan was sworn in as the caretaker chief minister of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province at a ceremony held here on Saturday.

Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Gulam Ali administered oath to Khan, whose name for the role was finalised after talks between outgoing chief minister Mahmood Khan and leader of the Opposition Akram Khan Durrani.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Governor House in Peshawar and was attended by civil and military officials. Earlier on Saturday, Ali formally appointed Khan as the caretaker chief minister of the province in the interim set-up.

Khan has previously served as the finance minister of the province. He was also the chief secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from September 1990 to July 1993.

Khan's name was announced at a joint press conference by outgoing chief minister Khan and Durrani.

"We decided on Azam Khan's name after consultation with our leader," Khan said.

"We agreed on Azam Khan as our consensus candidate. We have chosen a person who is acceptable to all," Durrani was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune newspaper.

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former defence minister Pervez Khattak played an important role in reaching the consensus. Talking to reporters after the appointment, Khan vowed to extend "complete cooperation" to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for holding "free and fair elections" in the province.



He said that efforts would be made to further strengthen the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and control inflation in the province, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly stood dissolved on Wednesday after the governor signed and approved the chief minister's summary on the orders of PTI chief and ex-premier of Pakistan Imran Khan for the dissolution of the provincial legislature.

The government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday sent a summary to the governor for the approval of the dissolution of the provincial assembly before midnight, a move aimed at forcing the federal government to announce snap polls.

"In pursuance of provisions of Article 112(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, I do hereby forward my advice for dissolution of the provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 17th January 2023," outgoing chief minister Khan said in a statement.

The KP Assembly was dissolved almost months before the expiry of its mandated period. The current

assembly was to expire on August 13 this year.

On January 14, the Punjab Assembly was dissolved despite the Punjab governor's refusal to sign the summary for the provincial assembly's dissolution.

Former premier Khan in a bid to force the government to hold early general elections ordered the dissolution of provincial assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Political pundits believe that the federal government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is in no mood to succumb to pressure from Khan whatsoever for holding general elections in the country before the expiry of the scheduled time in August this year.

The federal government will straight away go for holding elections in two provinces – Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – after the dissolution of the assemblies.

Federal Information Minister Maryum Aurangzeb has clearly stated that general elections as per the constitution of the country will be held in October this year.

Ukraine's Zelensky honours those killed in helicopter crash

Kyiv, Jan 22

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held an emotional meeting with the families of those who died in a helicopter crash earlier this week.

Zelensky on Saturday spoke with family members of seven of those killed in Wednesday's crash in the Brovary area of Kyiv, the capital city. The helicopter carrying Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskiy and other top officials slammed into a kindergarten building in the residential suburb, killing him and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground.

Monastyrskiy, who oversaw the country's police and emergency services, was the most senior official killed since Russia invaded Ukraine. His death, along with the rest of his ministry's leadership and the entire helicopter crew, was the second major calamity in four days to befall Ukraine, after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, but he said relations between the military and the government needed adjustment.

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More than a thousand people were arrested on the day of the riot and the morning after the disturbance, which bore strong similarities to the January 6, 2021, riot at the US Congress by mobs who wanted to overturn former President Donald Trump's election loss.

There is a realistic possibility of local Russian advances" around Bakhmut, an eastern city whose capture would give the Kremlin a long-awaited victory after months of battlefield setbacks, the UK ministry said.

Fierce battles for Bakhmut have been raging and three civilians were killed by Russian shelling in that area of the eastern Donetsk region, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office reported on Saturday morning.

In total, five civilians were killed and 13 wounded by Russian shelling over the past 24 hours in Ukraine's east and south, where active fighting is ongoing,

Kyrylo Tymoshenko said in a Telegram post.

Ukrainian forces repelled Russian attacks in Bakhmut and other parts of the country's embattled east overnight, the military said in a Facebook update Saturday morning.

A 60-year-old woman died after Russian shells hit her home in the north-eastern Kharkiv region, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said in the Telegram update. He added that four other peo-

ple were wounded in the province.

One woman was also killed in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where Russian forces launched more than 160 shelling attacks overnight, Gov. Oleksandr Starukh reported in a Telegram post. He said that 21 cities and towns were targeted, and two other civilians sustained injuries.

Russia's defence ministry said that troops conducted an exercise to repel a mock air attack near Moscow. The ministry said the exercise used 5-300 mobile surface-to-air batteries, but didn't give a precise location for the drill.

The exercise follows reports from social media that Pantsir S-1 anti-aircraft missiles had been mounted on buildings in central Moscow, including the roof of the riverside defence ministry command centre. The ministry hasn't commented.

Russia's air-defence capability has come under question after drones allegedly from Ukraine attacked two air bases deep inside Russian territory.

FBI searches US President Biden's Wilmington home finds more classified materials

Washington, Jan 22

FBI investigators have found additional classified documents from US President Joe Biden's residence in Wilmington after conducting a 13-hour search of the home, intensifying the probe into discoveries that could become a political and possible legal liability for him as he prepares to launch a reelection bid in 2024.

Bob Bauer, the President's personal attorney, said in a statement that during the search on Friday, "Department of Justice took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding materials, some of which were from the President's service in the Senate and some of which were from his tenure as vice president."

"DOJ also took for further review personally handwritten notes from the vice-presidential years," he said.

The total number of classified documents found in the residences and private offices of Biden has now increased to nearly a dozen and a half. All documents, including from his term as vice president from 2009 to 2016, have now been taken into possession of federal agents.

"DOJ requested that the search not be made public in advance, in accordance with its standard procedures, and we agreed to cooperate," Bauer said.

Biden is spending time at his Wilmington, Delaware residence this weekend. "DOJ had full access to the President's home, including personally handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, to-do lists,

schedules, and reminders going back decades," Bauer said.

Last week, US Attorney General Merrick B Garland appointed a special counsel Robert Hur to investigate the discovery of the classified documents at the private offices and residence of the President.

Richard Sauber, Special Counsel to the President, said that Biden directed his personal lawyers to be fully cooperative with the Justice Department as part of its ongoing investigation. That has been the case since a small number of materials were initially discovered at the Penn Biden Center, he said.

The President and his team are working swiftly to ensure the DOJ and the Special Counsel have what they need to conduct a thorough review, he said.

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Gujarat, Assam, J&K, Bengal others to showcase tableaux on Kartavya Path during R-Day Parade



NEW DELHI, JAN 22: Colourful tableaux from Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gujarat, West Bengal and several other states and Union Territories will roll down the revamped Kartavya Path during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, with 'Nari Shakti' being the theme for majority of the floats.

A total of 23 tableaux – 17 from states and Union territories, and six from various ministries and departments – depicting India's vibrant cultural heritage, economic and social progress will be part of the ceremonial parade, Defence Ministry officials said on Sunday.

Among the Union ministries and central government agencies, the Ministry of Home Affairs will display two tableaux – one each by

the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), while one each will be exhibited by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Central Public Works Department that falls under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, a senior official told reporter here.

A preview of many of the tableaux, some of which are still being constructed or given finishing touches, was held at the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in the city.

"A total of 23 tableaux – 17 from states and Union territories and six from various ministries and departments will be part if the R-Day parade. Besides, there will be floats by the Army, Navy and the Air Force, and a vehicle will be dis-

played by the DRDO," the official said.

Asked if there will be a tableau from the Ministry of Railways' side, he said, "No, there is no tableau from Ministry of Railways in this year's parade".

The theme adopted this year by various states is largely 'Nari Shakti', besides cultural heritage and other themes, the official said.

The West Bengal tableau depicts Durga Puja in Kolkata and celebrates its inscription on the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Assam's tableau proudly showcases the legendary Ahom general Lachit Borphukan and its cultural landmarks including the famous Kamakhya Temple.

The central government last year had celebrated the 400th birth anniversary of Ahom general Borphukan was a commander in the erstwhile Ahom Kingdom and is known for his leadership in the 1671 battle of Saraighat that thwarted an attempt by Mughal forces to capture Assam.

This will be the first Republic Day celebrations hosted at the ceremonial boulevard after Rajpath was renamed to 'Kartavya Path' last year. A full dress rehearsal for the parade will be held on Monday.

The 74th Republic Day celebrations will take place on the revamped Central Vista avenue, and the government has put 32,000 tickets on sale online for the masses, defence ministry officials had earlier said.

NGT refrains from levying Rs 750-crore environmental fine on Jharkhand govt

New Delhi, Jan 22
The National Green Tribunal has refrained from levying a Rs 750-crore environmental compensation on the Jharkhand government for improper management of solid and liquid waste.

The tribunal also noted the state government's undertaking that Rs 1,114 crore had already been allocated for solid and liquid waste management.

According to data presented by the state's chief secretary, there still existed huge gaps in management of solid and liquid waste, a bench comprising Chairperson Justice AK Gole said.

"...compensation of Rs 750 crore may be liable to be levied on the state but it does not appear to be necessary to do so in view of a statement of the chief secretary that a sum of Rs 1,114 crore will be credited to a ring fenced account for being spent within one year to bridge the gaps in waste management by a specific action plan to be executed within one year," the bench also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel said.

The bench observed that a paradigm shift in handling of the situation was required as the nagging problem of waste management stared the administration in the face and remained unresolved to the detriment of the environment and public health.

"First change required is to set up a



centralised single-window mechanism for planning, capacity building and monitoring of waste management at the state level," the bench said.

The single-window mechanism should be headed by an officer of the rank of additional chief secretary with representation from the departments of Urban Development, Rural Development, Environment and Forest, Agriculture, Water Resources, Fisheries and Industries, the bench said.

"The chief secretary fairly accepts that there is a gap of about 330 million litres per day (MLD) in sewage generation and treatment and legacy waste of 32 lakh metric tonnes (MT) and, in normal circumstances, the state would be liable to pay compensation of about Rs 750 crore at the

scale of compensation fixed in other states," the bench said.

The green panel, however, noted that according to an undertaking submitted by the authorities concerned, a higher amount of Rs 1,114 crore was allocated and would be soon credited to a separate ring-fenced account.

"In view of the undertaking given, we refrain from levying environmental compensation (EC) on the state of Jharkhand for time being," the tribunal said.

It also directed the chief secretary to file six-monthly progress reports with verifiable progress.

The National Green Tribunal is monitoring compliance with Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other environmental issues by states and Union Territories.

BJP's UP chief sets target to win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in 2024



LUCKNOW, JAN 22: Narendera Modi has to be re-elected as prime minister by winning all the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in the 2024 General Elections, the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit chief Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary told party workers on Sunday.

Chaudhary set the target while discussing the outcomes of recent bypolls and encouraging party workers.

Presiding over the day-long meeting of the BJP State Executive at the Indra Gandhi Pratishthan here, Chaudhary said, "The God-like workers of the BJP, who have worked tirelessly, have won the byelections in Azamgarh and Rampur."

They worked to help the BJP win

the Rampur parliamentary and the Gola and Rampur (Sadar) assembly constituencies. The unfavourable results in the byelections in the Khatauli (assembly) and Mainpuri (parliamentary) constituencies mean that "we need to work harder together", Chaudhary added.

The BJP won the Rampur (Sadar) assembly constituency while the Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav won the high-stakes Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat -- where the bypoll was necessitated by the demise of Mulayam Singh Yadav -- in October. Samajwadi Party ally Rashtriya Lok Dal won the Khatauli assembly seat.

The saffron party also won the Rampur parliamentary constituency

during a bypoll in June. The byelections were necessitated by Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's resignation from the Lok Sabha. It also retained the Gola Gokarnath assembly seat, defeating the Samajwadi Party.

"By securing the remaining Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 General Elections and fulfilling the Mission 2024 target of winning all 80 seats, we have to fulfil the commitment of making Narendraabhai Modi the prime minister once again," Chaudhary said.

He added that elections to municipal bodies in the state would have been completed by now but the way the opposition parties tried to create hurdles by adopting "gimmicks".

Chaudhary claimed that the BJP would defeat the parties that obstructed the municipal elections.

The BJP leader added that India's chairmanship of the prestigious G20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation had started a new chapter of history in the country.

In India's largest state, the government is ready to hold the third groundbreaking ceremony to invite investors under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chaudhary added.

He also hit out at the opposition parties in the state.

Uddhav to address Sena workers on Bal Thackeray's 97th birth anniversary

MUMBAI, JAN 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said party president Uddhav Thackeray will address the party workers on Monday to mark the 97th birth anniversary of the Sena's founder Bal Thackeray.

Talking to reporters here, Raut said Uddhav Thackeray will pay homage at the party founder's statue near the Gateway of India on Monday and address the party workers at Shammukhanand Hall later in the evening. "The significance and importance of the day is strong for all of us,"

the Sena leader said.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is currently hearing a dispute between the Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions of the Shiv Sena over the party's poll symbol bow and arrow.

The two factions have been embroiled in a tussle over the poll symbol after a split in the party last year.

Raut had on Saturday expressed confidence that "pressure politics" will have no impact on an independent institution like the ECI.

On his visit to Jammu to participate in the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Rajya Sabha leader said it is a non-political movement which is getting support.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is afraid of the yatra and is hence criticising it, he claimed.

To a question about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as the prime ministerial candidate, Raut said in a democracy, people's wish is supreme. "Anybody who has people's support can become the prime minister," he said.

UP BJP state working committee passes motion over death of PM's mother, Mulayam Singh Yadav

LUCKNOW, JAN 22: The Uttar Pradesh BJP working committee meeting on Sunday passed a condolence motion over the death of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben, Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and former governor Keshari Nath Tripathi. State General Secretary Subrat Pathak proposed the motion at the beginning of second session of the meeting, saying

the party has been hit by the untimely death of many of its senior workers.

BJP's state media in-charge Manish Dixit said the state has lost some politicians of the opposition as well as eminent journalists, litterateurs and historians.

The working committee passed the condolence motion over the death of Modi's mother Heeraben, former BJP

state president Keshari Nath Tripathi, Mulayam Singh Yadav, comedian and Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council chairman Raju Srivastava, M.A Arvind Giri, and others.

BJP UP president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary had on Saturday said that the party would hold 98 working committee meetings by February 5, and 1,900 mandal level meetings by February 12.

Noida Police to verify pre-owned cars' documents, seize if details not updated : CP Laxmi Singh

NOIDA, JAN 22 : Across Noida and Greater Noida, owners of vehicles that have been sold more than once need to update their registration documents and the failure to do so could lead to a seizure of the vehicles, according to Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh.

The Gautam Buddha Nagar police commissioner-erate is set to launch a concerted campaign for random checks and verification of documents of vehicles that have been owned by more than one person, Singh told PTI.

The genesis of the initiative lies in the investigation of a recent hit-and-run case reported from Greater Noida on New Year's Eve, in which three B.Tech students were hit by a speed-

ing car. One of the students, Sweetie Kumar, was critically injured and had to undergo a brain surgery. It took police more than a fortnight to trace the car and arrest the driver.

"It was a blind case with almost no lead or clue. On the basis of whatever information we had on the suspected car -- a white Santro -- and the first part of its registration number, 'UP 16' (Gautam Buddha Nagar), we launched the probe," the police commissioner said.

"The transport department told us 12,000 Santros cars were registered here. A further shortlisting of the vehicles led around 1,000 and eventually, the number of suspected cars came down to just four, includ-

ing the one that belonged to the culprit, who was then arrested," she added.

Singh said during the probe, police came across multiple vehicles that were sold and purchased more than once and what alarmed the investigators was that several of those did not have their registration details updated.

There have been instances of old vehicles with no traceable links to their genuine owners being used in criminal activities, the police commissioner pointed out.

"We realised that such multiple ownerships, people driving or riding vehicles, the ownership of the vehicles led around 1,000 and eventually, the number of suspected cars came down to just four, including the one that belonged to the culprit, who was then arrested," she added.

Mumbai civic body rejects allegation of 'scam' in setting up of jumbo COVID-19 centres

MUMBAI, JAN 22: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has said the allegation of a Rs 100 crore scam in setting up of jumbo COVID-19 centres is "baseless" as only Rs 33.13 crore has been spent on providing manpower at two such facilities in the city.

Also, the matter of verification whether the partnership deed, stamp paper for the contract with a hospital management services company is fake is concerned with the Registration and Controller of Stamps Department and does not fall under the BMC's purview.

Therefore, it is totally wrong to accuse the municipal administration in this regard, BMC chief Iqbal Singh Chahal said in a statement on Saturday.

On the issue of different dates mentioned on the stamp paper and the last page of the partnership deed, the contractor stated before an inquiry committee of the BMC that this was an "inadvertent typographical error," the statement said.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kirit Somaiya had alleged irregularities in setting up COVID-19 centres by the country's richest civic body, which is currently under an administrator as the five-year term

of its elected representatives ended early last year and fresh polls are due.

The former Lok Sabha MP had also filed a complaint at the Azad Maidan police station in south Mumbai, based on which an FIR (first information report) was registered against Lifeline Hospital Management Services company and some persons for allegedly submitting fake documents to obtain contracts for COVID-19 care centres.

Chahal had on January 16 recorded his statement with the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the alleged irregularities in award of contracts for health facilities during the pandemic, and later said jumbo COVID-19 care centres were set up on the Maharashtra government's orders.

In the statement issued on Saturday, he said, "A sum of Rs 33.13 crore is spent for providing manpower at Dahisar and NSCI Jumbo COVID-19 centres together, so the allegation of Rs 100 crore scam is baseless."

The amount paid by the BMC is only for the salaries of doctors, nurses, technicians and ward boys, and

no complaints were received regarding non-receipt of salaries, he said.

"As per directives of the central and the state governments, the BMC has taken elaborate measures to contain spread of the pandemic and to save the lives of lakhs of people from COVID-19 infection from 2020 to 2022.

As a part of it, as per directions of state Government, the BMC had to provide manpower to operate and manage various jumbo COVID-19 centres set up by various other government agencies," the statement said.

OFFICE OF THE NEW MODERN PUBLIC SCHOOL SARH ZONE MAHORE						
Serial No	Name of Member	Parentage/Spouse Name	Address	Occupation	Qualificat /n	Designation
1	Prinkal Devi	Sham Singh	Sarh	Social worker	M.sc/B.ed	President
2	Sh Mast Ram	Late Sh. Durga Dass	Sarh	Social Worker	10th	Vice-president
3	Sh. Mani Ram	Late Sh.Shiv Saran	Sarh	Retired JKP Sub-Inspector	10th	Secretary
4	Mohd Afzal	Late Sh.Gulam Rasool	Sarh	Social worker	Graduate	Member Parent
5	Mohd Shabir		Sarh	Shopkeeper	10+2	Member Parent
6	Rattan Singh	Sh.Krishan Singh	Sarh	Social worker	10th	Member
7	Nasir Shah	Sh.Zaman Shah	Sarh	Student	Post Graduate	Member

Any person from the public having any objection regarding Management Committee of NEW MODERN PUBLIC SCHOOL, SARH (MAHORE) may file objection in the office of Director School Education Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice.

PM SHRI Schools to act as role model for implementation of National Education Policy: Alok Kumar

435 schools shall be developed as green schools under the initiative

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Principal Secretary, School Education, Alok Kumar, chaired maiden meeting of Steering/Monitoring Committee for final selection of PM SHRI Schools from across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, first of its kind PM SHRI Scheme was launched on Teacher's Day, 2022, by the Prime Minister, which is also being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj (State/UT Nodal Officer, PM SHRI), Directors School Education, Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Ravi Shanker and Tassaduq Hussain, Director Finance SED, Ifthakar Hussain, Special Secretaries SED, Kanta Devi, Nasir Wani and Anu Behl and Joint Director Planning Parshotam Kumar. Project Director apprised the



meeting that Pradhan Mantri School for Rising India (PM SHRI) is a centrally sponsored scheme for development and upgradation of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening selected existing schools through State, UT governments and local bodies.

He informed that the Department of School Education and Literacy, Union Ministry of Education, has identified 4747

schools in J&K through UDISE+ data. Among them 4648 schools applied through online challenge portal while 2159 schools passed as per the benchmarks set by MoE. However, after verification at the district level only 1241 schools were approved for state level verification/selection. He also informed that, 722 schools are to be selected in 02 years, where in Portal for self applying shall be opened 04 times in a year. Principal Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, said that rigorous exercise needs to be done as the PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020, act as role model schools and shall also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity. The PM SHRI schools will deliver quality teaching for cognitive development of students and will strive to create and nurture holistic and all-round individuals equipped with key 21st cen-

tury skills, he added.

While deliberating on the issue, Alok Kumar said that PM SHRI Schools will provide inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020.

Principal Secretary also reiterated that the PM SHRI Schools will be developed as Green schools and shall act as laboratory for effective implementation of NEP, 2020. Besides, it will incorporate environment friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic free, water conservation and harvesting, climate change related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt sustainable lifestyle. More prominently, Pedagogy adopted

in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based and enjoyable, he maintained.

He intimated that the selection of Schools at UT/State level is based on the assessment of the resources available and their effectiveness in terms of availability, adequacy, appropriateness and utilization for each of the domains set in the guidelines of the scheme. The identified gaps will be filled in a systematic and planned manner, he added.

Linkage with Sector Skill Councils and local industry for enhancing employability and providing better employment opportunities will also be explored, he said. Following threadbare discussion, 435 schools out of 1241 shortlisted Schools were recommended by the State/UT level committee to MoE for consideration under PM SHRI scheme in the first phase.

Pre-Republic Day celebration held at GHSS Boys Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 22: As a part of Pre-Republic Day celebration 2023, a programme was today held here at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Kishtwar.

Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Sham Lal was the chief guest on the occasion while Chief Education Officer, Sudarshan Sharma was the guest of the honour in the programme.

Debate, Quiz and Symposium was held wherein the students of various educational institutions of government and private Schools of Kishtwar participated.

As many as 30 students took part in the contest on the topic of Debate "Parliament vs Presidential System, what System of Democracy is Better" and Quiz theme on "Indian Constitution" and Symposium theme "Speech on prominent Personalities and Freedom Fighter of Kishtwar."

Winner in three topics were given awards by ADDC in presence of CEO Kishtwar and other jury members of the institution.

Staff of the institution and other students witnessed their presence in the programme.

Consultation prizes were also given to the participants.

DC GBI takes stock of sanitation management at Safapora block

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 22: In order to take on-spot stock of sanitation management in the district, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambr conducted an exhaustive tour of Safapora Block. He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad, CEO, MDA, BDO Safapora besides PRI members of Safapora Block.

On the occasion the DC inspected various ongoing works related to sanitation management like SWM segregation shed, Waste to Wonder Park and site of SWM Manual Baler machinery installed at Manasbal.

While visiting SWM segregation shed being constructed at Kohistan Colony Safapora, the DC was informed that 90 per cent work is completed.

On the occasion, he gave necessary instruction to BDO for making necessary changes so that shed can be fully and conveniently utilized for segregation purpose.

Meanwhile, the DC visited the "Waste to Wonder" Park being developed under MGNREGA in their area and took stock of ongoing works. He Directed BDO to explore more options of forward linkages for the segregated waste and a scientific landfill site.

DC appreciated the role of officers & officials of RDD who worked tirelessly since last 5 months for making a significant progress in achieving the feat of Swachh Gram in the district.

Later, the DC took stock of the operationalisation of SWM Manual Bailing machinery that has been installed at Manasbal. He asked ACD to install Manual Bailing Machinery on other identified primary waste collection locations also.

Earlier, the DC reviewed the functioning of Halqa sanitation committees, door to door waste collection and its transportation.

While interacting with the members, the DC said that district administration is committed to make Ganderbal district garbage free and 100 per cent disposal of waste on scientific lines. He stressed upon the general public and PRIs to actively participate and cooperate in taking this initiative of Swachh Gram to it's success.

He directed the Sanitation Committees to ensure 100 per cent door to door waste collection in their Halqas and appealed people to Cooperate with the committees. He further added that District Administration will take action against those who dump garbage/cowdung on roadside.

Pertinently to mention here that Ganderbal is the only District in whole UT of J&K that figures in the 2-star category and is at 2nd position in the list of ranking of districts in the country based on Delta achievement score of SSG-2022.

SHD Bandipora organises awareness camp for sheep unit holders & Graziers at Kunan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: Sheep Husbandry Department Bandipora organised one day awareness camp for sheep unit holders & community Graziers at SDO, office, Kunan.

The camp was presided by District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora Dr. Showkat Ahmad and witnessed the participation of beneficiaries selected under different income generation schemes during the current fiscal & most cooperative chopans in the district.

The DSHO Bandipore Dr Showkat Ahmad while welcoming the participants expressed his sincere gratitude to DDC member, Arin for attending the camp as guest of honour. He threw detailed light on different sheep development programmes of the Department. He exhorted upon the selected beneficiaries to maintain a close liaison with the field functionaries of the Department for timely prophylactic health cover of their animals at their doorsteps. He said that the Department has initiated a massive awareness campaign across the district to sensitize the aspiring youth who intend to establish their own sheep farming ventures. He said that UT administration has recently cleared 29 prestigious projects under Agriculture holistic development programme which will change the landscape of agriculture & allied sector in the UT & will prove a game changer.

He impressed upon the youth to come forward & become partners in our efforts to achieve self sufficiency in mutton & wool production.

DIET Banihal conducts 5 day capacity building programme on "Four skills of teaching languages"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANIHAL, JANUARY 22: PSTE Wing DIET Banihal conducted 5 day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on "Four skills of teaching languages" at GHSS Banihal.

As many as 50 primary level teachers from six Educational zones attended the training programme.

The objective of the CBP was to update the pedagogical skills among primary level teachers and acquaint them with the basic skills of teaching languages viz English, Urdu, Hindi etc. The CBP was formally inaugurated by Sudeesh Principal DIET Banihal whereas S A Tantar Principal GHSS was also present at the inaugural session. DIET faculty members Sajad Hussain Katoch, Irfan Ahmed Bhat and Ghulam Mohd Bohroo were also present on the occasion. While interacting with the participants Principal DIET Banihal asked the participants to update themselves with the modern trends and techniques of teaching. She said that teaching at primary level is a tough and challenging task which requires mastery over teaching skills. "Now teacher has to play multi roles so it is important rather necessary for the teachers to keep updated so that he/ she may cater the needs and requirements of the students", she added. She further said that development of literacy among the learners at foundational stage is the prime importance so it is important to train primary level teachers accordingly.

She asked the participants to remain concerned and take these experiences to the actual classroom and facilitate learners accordingly. S.A Tantar Principal GHSS Banihal interacted with the participants and asked them to develop teaching com-



petency and enhance their knowledge and skills. He asked the participants to develop work culture in the educational institutions. He said that NEP 2020 focuses on competency based learning through innovative pedagogy. He also advised the participants to update themselves and develop pedagogical skills so that the knowledge and information can be transferred to the learners.

MA Katoch, the coordinator of this CBP highlighted the objectives of conducting this CBP. He discussed the importance of developing four skills of teaching languages among primary level teachers.

He said that NEP 2020 focuses on competency based learning through innovative pedagogy and those art and skills need to be developed among primary level teachers.

He said that it was important to apply appropriate teaching techniques for developing literacy and teachers must know the pedagogy. He said that focus is being laid to

develop literacy among the learners and DIET Banihal has been organizing various training programmes to prepare teachers to realize the goals of NIPUN BHARAT Mission and for effective implementation of NEP 2020.

Others who delivered their presentation include Dr. Bilal Ahmed Makhdoomi on "approach of teaching Urdu" Shameem Ahmed Rynyal on Importance of four basic skills for teaching languages, Indu Sharma "how to teach hindi at primary level", Nawaz Sharief Mir on "how to develop English language at primary level". It is worthwhile to mention here that as a pre-training analysis a questionnaire was administered to the participants to understand their level and analyzed what are the needs of primary level teachers.

At the end of this CBP the participants acknowledged the efforts of all the RPs who have tried their best to develop pedagogical skills among the participants.

DDC Chairman Saraf Singh Nag kick starts JJM Schemes worth over 17 crore in Reasi



JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JANUARY 22: District Development Council Chairman Reasi, Saraf Singh Nag today kick started JJM Schemes projects worth over 17 crore in Katra block in presence of DDC Member Katra, Nirmala Bhagat, BDC Chairman Katra, Sham Lal Bhagat.

The District Development Council Chairperson kick started work on testing Commissioning of dugwell, pump room, Retrofitting and Augmentation of WSS Kanjlii under JJM which shall cover 448 households of villages Kanjli and Chhapano. Retrofitting and Augmentation of WSS Bhabbar Brahmana shall cover 660 households of villages Bhabbar Brahmana and Bhabbar Rasayalan.

Retrofitting and Augmentation of WSS Dera Baba shall cover 355 households of Villages Dera Baba and Mansoo thereby overcoming safe drinking water scarcity in Panchayats Bhabbar Brahmana, Dera Baba and Kanjli of Blocks Reasi and Katra.

While interacting with the locals, the DDC Chairperson congratulated them and said that Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to providing functional tapped water connections to all the households.

He also said that government is committed to ensure proper drinking water facilities to the general public and measures are being taken in this regard.

He appealed to the PRI members and people to work in tandem for timely completion of this project so that the majority of the schemes shall be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The DDC Chairperson also asked the concerned officers from the Jal Shakti Department to ensure that the quality work on these schemes is completed within the set deadlines so that necessary benefits could be provided to the general public with the completion of the projects. Sarpanchs and locals were present on the occasion.

J&K launches Rs 879 cr Food Processing Project to maximize farmer income, minimize post-harvest losses

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched an ambitious project targeted to revolutionize the food-processing sector and transform the lives of farmers in the UT.

The "UT Level Food Processing Programme for Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K" is a Rs 879.75 crore initiative that aims to maximize farmer income and minimize post-harvest losses.

This comprehensive project has been designed to increase the competitiveness of seven identified products across categories in terms of cost, quality, branding, and sustainability within five years. The government is invest-

ing in value-addition, logistics, marketing and branding of various Agriculture, Horticulture and livestock products to achieve this goal.

The project will focus on developing 17 districts in J&K with establishment of processing and marketing infrastructure, providing growth and development opportunities to stakeholders and facilitating suitable economies of scale in production and post-harvest activities. The government has allocated a budget of Rs 879.75 crore for the project including a grant-in-aid of Rs 293.25 crore (33.33%) and a debt-equity of Rs 586.50 crore to be raised by entrepreneurs. The project shall create 7030 direct jobs and lead to establishment of

34 enterprises with expected revenue generation to the tune of Rs. 1436.04 crore every year.

"UT Level Food Processing Programme for Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K" is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors in UT of J&K. The committee is headed by Dr Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR and has other luminaries in the field of Agriculture, Planning, Statistics and Administration like Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA, Dr. P. K. Joshi, Secretary, NAAS, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture

Commissioner MOA & FW, Dr. H. S Gupta, Former Director, IARI, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department Atal Dulloo besides Vice Chancellors of twin Agriculture Universities of the UT. The programme will focus on seven products in 17 districts/clusters including Milk for Jammu and Pulwama, Walnut for Kupwara and Kishtwar, Basmati for RS Pura, Samba and Kathua, Vegetables (Conventional/Organic/Exotic & Mushrooms) for Doda, Budgam, Samba and Udhampur, Meat and Poultry for Srinagar and Kathua, Trout for Anantnag and Ganderbal besides Cherry for Ganderbal and Baramulla.

"This project represents a beacon of hope for farmers in J&K, who have been facing challenges such as post-harvest losses that are generally in the range of 15-20 per cent and the wastage of 20 per cent of the total fruit produced due to non-availability of packaging and processing facilities and mismatch between production and post-harvest management," said Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department Atal Dulloo. "The government's investment in this project is expected to address these issues and help farmers to better price realization and enhancing their income by creating competitiveness across the entire value chain," he added.