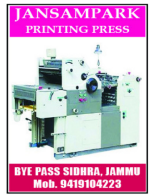




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## LG Sinha Pays obeisance to Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance to Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji, 37th head of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri at Srinagar.

Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji will be performing Pran Pratistha of Maa Sharda Murti at Maa Sharda Devi Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, tomorrow on June 05.

## UPSC Civil Services qualifiers Call on LG



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

Civil Services qualifiers Shri Waseem Ahmad Bhat and Shri Manan Bhat called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to them. The Lt Governor said that their achievement will inspire other youngsters from UT of J&K.

He called upon them to be committed and confident, as they will form the backbone of the public administration in the future.

## Shallabugh Wetland to come up as a major eco-tourism attraction: CS

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Saturday visited the Shallabugh Wetland in the Ganderbal District and took stock of the restoration measures being taken to rejuvenate it to its pristine glory.

Those who accompanied him on the occasion included Principal Secretary, Forests; Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Chief Wildlife Warden; Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir; Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal besides other concerned officers of the Forest Department.



During the visit Dr Mehta maintained that the Wetland has shown a lot of improvement in recent past. He observed that the Wetland has a rich diversity of both flora and fauna. It has therefore a great potential to be developed as a major eco-tourism destination. He stressed on taking all measure necessary to conserve both the plant and animal life besides desilting the water body. He asked the officers to regularly monitor its dissolved oxygen, pH and other bioindicators so that they are maintained in the normal range through targeted interventions. Chief Secretary

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## GOC-in-C Northern Command calls on LG



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command, Lt General Upenendra Dwivedi called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan, today.

He discussed the present security scenario with the Lt Governor and also briefed him on the elaborate security arrangements made by the security forces for Shri Amar Nathji Yatra, 2023.

The Lt Governor appreciated the role played by the Indian Army in restoring and preserving peace in the Union Territory.

Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps and Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, GOC 16 Corps accompanied the GOC-in-C Northern Command.

## Former Minister, Youth Provincial President J&K Apni Party call on LG



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 4

Syed Basharat A Bukhari, Former Minister J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan today.

He discussed several issues related to the public welfare and also

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Amid dry weather temperature to rise in Jammu and Kashmir

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 4

Meteorological Department forecast of dry weather with temperature to rise gradually in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mainly Clear weather with a brief spell of rain, thunder or lightning may occur at some places

towards late afternoon or evening chances of 30-40 per cent, the Met office said.

It said the weather is likely to remain dry but a brief spell of Shower or thunderstorms mainly towards evening can't be ruled out from June 5-12 and there would be a gradual increase in temperature that results in warmer days ahead.

There is no major forecast of any major rainfall till June 12, the Met office added.

It has also advised farmers to carry out all farm operations today and onwards till June 12 and finish work before 10 AM.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Bhaderwah lavender capital of India, agri startup destination: Dr Jitendra

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BHADERWAH, JUNE 4

It is a moment of pride for all of us... Bhaderwah has emerged as the Lavender capital of India and Agri StartUp destination.

This was stated here today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while inaugurating the 2-day Lavender festival here.

CSIR- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu has organised the event as part of its One Week One Lab Campaign.

Dr Jitendra Singh described Bhaderwah as the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution and the destination of Agri-Start-Ups.

The Minister said that the valley of Bhaderwah is the best example of development of the present progressive government at the centre which should have been celebrated much earlier, Bhaderwah being the best place for lavender cultivation in terms of land and climate.

Dr. Jitendra Singh while referring to the lavender cultivation in the region, said that Lavender is an avenue of employment generation and research opening many paradigms of development.

The lavender cultivation has changed the lives of many farmers and it is heartening to note that Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in the 99th Edition of Mann ki Baat, appreciated the efforts of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Indian Institute



of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM) in supporting farmers in the cultivation of Lavender in the Bhaderwah, Doda district, J&K under CSIR-Aroma Mission. He said, "Farmers had been engaged in traditional maize cultivation for decades, but some farmers thought of doing something different. They turned to floriculture, that is, the cultivation of flowers. Today, around two and a half thousand farmers are cultivating Lavender here. They have also been handled through the Aroma Mission of the

Central Government. This new cultivation has greatly increased the income of the farmers."

The CSIR-Aroma Mission is a flagship project of CSIR under which Lavender cultivation is being promoted in the temperate regions of J&K. The aim of the project is to increase the income of small and marginal farmers and develop agriculture-based Startups. The project is being directly monitored by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Science & Technology. Under his directions,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti issued passport after three years

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 4

PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti has been issued a passport with 10-year validity, sources said here on Sunday.

After a prolonged legal battle in the Delhi High Court, the passport was delivered to Mehbooba. Her travel document expired in 2019 and since then she had been seeking its renewal. It came



barely two days ahead of a hearing in Jammu and Kashmir High Court where Mehbooba's daughter Hijiya's plea challenging the decision of the passport office to give her a country-specific passport is to come up.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Mega nursery in J&K near Pakistan border all set to cater to local fruit growers this monsoon

**AGENCIES**  
JAMMU, JUN 4

Ahead of monsoon, a mega nursery of fruit plants set up by the Jammu and Kashmir horticulture department near the India-Pakistan border fence is all set to provide saplings of guava, mango, litchi and other fruits to the local farmers from next month.

The nursery spread over 100 acres in the Chakri area of K S Pura was inaugurated in January by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"It was set up in a record period of one and a half years and was inaugurated in January by the lieutenant governor. We have sown 12,000 mother plants," district level subject specialist at the nursery Sandeep Kumar Sharma said.



According to locals, the border belt has witnessed a massive transformation with majority of plants in the nursery have grown 4 to 5 feet.

"It is the biggest nursery of Jammu and Kashmir for sub-tropical plants. The capacity of this nursery is to produce 5 lakh saplings and we hope to add more to the existing capacity," Sharma said.

The nursery has so far produced over one lakh root stocks which will be transformed into high-quality fruit plants.

The nursery has 14 diverse greenhouses, each serving a specific purpose. Among them, two state-of-the-art polygreenhouses offer cutting-edge technology, ensuring optimal conditions for plant growth, he said.

Besides, it has two insect-proof nethouses, two screen houses, four shade net houses and three

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Article 35A repeal liberated J&K women from shackles of 7 decade discrimination: Rana



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BAGPAT UP, JUNE 4

Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said repeal of Article 35A of the Constitution of India liberated Jammu and Kashmir women from the shackles of over seven decade discrimination and deprivation.

"The landmark and historic political developments of August 5, 2019 proved death knell for the hypocrisy of the self-styled champions of the so-called women empowerment and exposed their double standards with regard to giving equal rights to the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir", Mr Rana said while addressing the conference of social Media volunteers at Modi Nagar in Bagpat Parliamentary Constituency, as part of the BJP's Jan Abhiyan to mark illustrious nine years of Narendra Modi Government.

Kanta Kamad, Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Dr Manju Shiwach, MLA Modi Nagar were present on the occasion..

He said, apart from emotionally and psychologically integrated Jammu and Kashmir with rest of the country besides ending the era of deprivation of marginalized

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Cause of Odisha train crash identified, aim to restore normal services by Wednesday: Rail Minister

**AGENCIES**  
BALASORE, JUN 4

The root cause of the three-train crash in Odisha's Balasore district and the people responsible for it have been identified, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday.

He also said the Railways is aiming to



## 28K Govt employees under I-T dept scanner for claiming bogus refunds

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 4

More than 28,000 government employees working in Jammu and Kashmir, including 8,000 police and paramilitary force personnel, are under the scanner of the Income-tax department for allegedly



claiming bogus refunds worth a few crores of rupees while filing their ITRs, official sources said.

The taxman has found that this purported fraud took place during the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filing seasons in 2020-21 and 2021-22 even as the department has registered two criminal FIRs against a Chartered Accountant (CA) and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



# Each Morcha plays a pivotal role in strengthening BJP: Ashok Koul



मेवा, सुशासन

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Under the party's country-wide series of programs on completion of PM Narendra Modi's 9 years of good governance, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu District South, under the leadership of District President Rekha Mahajan, held mega 'Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan' at Party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar Jammu. BJP General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul, former Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister & Constituency Incharge Priya Sethi, District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, District General Secretaries Akash Chopra, and Pushpinder Singh shared their views on the program.

Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, BJP Vice President Aseem Gupta, Nitish Mahajan, Neha Mahajan, Shailja Gupta, Mandal Presidents Lucky Puri, Bharat Bhushan, Vivek Patyal, District Morcha, and Mandal Morcha team were prominent among those present in the program. Ashok Koul, while addressing the Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan said that each morcha plays a pivotal role in strengthening BJP. He discussed month-long public outreach programs to ensure the massive celebration of nine years of the Modi Government under the slogan 'Nau Saa Bemisaal'. He asked the BJP workers to have direct liaisons with the common masses of

Jammu District South and highlight the effective, efficient, and Modi-led government hallmarks in the shape of public-friendly schemes and educate the public on the benefits of golden schemes. He laid stress upon the Morcha Presidents, including Prabhari and team members to make all possible efforts to make the public outreach events month long a big success. Kavinder Gupta said that the campaign aims to reach out to Urban and Rural areas of Jammu South, promoting service, good governance, and the welfare of the poor. Speaking on the significance of upcoming events, he mentioned that on June 23, World Yoga Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will communicate with the

people of the country. Furthermore, on June 25, following the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, a seminar on the 1975 Emergency will be organized. Priya Sethi said that the BJP government has ushered in a positive transformation, bringing an end to the days of turmoil and paving the way for peace and prosperity in the region. Ayodhya Gupta said that each one from amongst the party activists has to contribute and be part of the noble exercise. Rekha Mahajan said that the month-long campaign 'Nau Saa Bemisaal', will include intellectual meetings, door-to-door campaigns, rallies, and Public outreach programs at the ground level in the interest of all sections of society. She stressed the importance of strengthening the organizational structure of the party at the lowest level and acknowledged the historic steps taken during the Modi government, particularly the abrogation of Article 370, which brought peace and normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir.

District General Secretary Akash Chopra conducted the proceedings of the program and a vote of thanks was presented by General Secretary Pushpinder Singh.

# Dy Mayor inaugurates 'Glam Petz Pet Salon'

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawala inaugurated a pet salon named 'Glam Petz Pet Salon' at Gandhinagar in Bahu constituency. While talking to the media, the Deputy Mayor said that he feels happy to see that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are following the instructions of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who believes in strengthening the youth of a country. He also talked about the importance of self-reliant India and urged dog lovers to use pet salons. He further said that various schemes like Startup India, Vocal for Locals, Make in India, Mission Youth and many more are giving opportunities to passionate youth and giving them chances to spread their wings. Due to schemes like these, youth nowadays are becoming job providers instead of job seekers. He congratulated the team for bringing Pet Salon & Spa to the people of Gandhi Nagar and surrounding areas. The Deputy Mayor



said that this pet salon would also generate employment opportunities for the locals and help in boosting the economy of the area. He appreciated the efforts of the team behind setting up the showroom and wished them success in their business. He hoped that this store would soon become a popular destination for dog lovers in Jammu. Glam Petz is a franchise that has branches all over India. It has branches in Porvornim, Panjim, Navelim, Calangute, Mapusa, Jamshepudr and Mumbai. Now its branch is open in

Jammu. They provide Hair Cutting, Nail Clipping, Ear cleaning, Teeth Cleaning, Dematting, Deep Conditioning, Furminator Treatment, Medicated Wash and many more services. Piyali Chatterjee, the owner of the franchise said that Glam Petz Pet Salon grooming centre is now open in J&K so that the people of Jammu can find better professional salons for their pets. Neeraj Gupta said that he feels happy to serve J&K NGOs which are working for animals and pet lovers as his work experience at a Human Resource gave him a better

experience to work for the mission. As a young entrepreneur, he believes in giving back what he receives from society. Ankit Manhas becomes the first entrepreneur to buy this 9-year-old franchise. His passion for pets drove him enthusiastic and filled him with zeal to work with more and more pets of J&K. Prominent among those present were Indubhushan Sharma, Arun Khosla, Mahaveer Singh Chib, Kulbir Singh, Dhesher Singh, Ashok Bakshi, Darshan Bhagat, Bharat Prashar, Rahul Dubey and others.

# Neelam Langeh stresses for following the path shown by Sant Kabir ji

J I NEWS SERVICE

AHKNOOR, JUN 4: The philosophy in verse of the great Sant Kabir Dass ji Maharaj will continue to guide humanity and help overcome the malice of hate, as also build a harmonious society based on equality, love and compassion.

This was stated by Neelam Langeh, BJP SC Morcha President and former MLA while participating in the programme organized by the Sant Kabir Das Sabha on the auspicious occasion of Sant Shri Kabir Das Jayanti in Ahknoor today. The programme was organized by Ram Saran Bhagat, President of the Sabha in which Dev Raj Bhagat, District Scheduled Caste Morcha President welcomed Neelam Langeh by wearing a Turban. State General Secretary Adarsh Jathiyar, Vice President Vijay Nand



Gill and Rakesh Sangral were also present. While addressing the Sangat, Neelam said Sant Kabir ji has blessed the humanity with eternal message of peace, love and tranquility and these following these teachings would never do injustice to others and work for just society based on equality. The best way of remembering the greatest Bhakti poet

is to take a pledge to tread the path shown by him and work for the growth of tolerant society where people, irrespective of caste, creed or colour live a dignified life based on the well defined principles of humanity. The senior BJP leader said that great saints and sages have blessed humanity with their eternal messages of peace, harmony,

love and compassion that has helped the society to steer to light from dark tunnel of ignorance and selfishness. He called for emulating the message of Sant Kabir in letter and spirit, as the very secular ethos of the nation and the state is in peril. "We have to overcome all these challenges and strive for a better world to live in", he added.

# Open nallah: A threat to life & property at Rohi Morh: ABS

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Aadarsh Bhartiya Samaj, a social volunteer organisation working to promote education, environment, health and nationhood among the general masses and students community in particular by organising different kinds of activities and highlighting general / basics problems faced by the society under the guidance of Col R K Sharma (Retd) Chairman and Sardar Daljeet Singh, President. ABS noted it with concern that people living in the area of Rohi Morh facing apathy of concerned departments. One of the worst example is of open Nallah in the centre of a street in haphazard manner creating hurdle in transportation to



homes, threat to life & property with accidents and posing fear of epidemic as well. Many a times genuine local demands including irregular supply

of water and electricity, street lights, roads, streets, lane and drainage, etc were put forth to the concerned departments and Corporator (JM Ward No-73) was also apprised with the problems for resolution but no any kind of action taken in this regard. ABS reiterated that there is a dire need of construction of streets and coverage to open Nallah in the area which is already collapsed and in dilapidated condition due to negligence and ignorance of higher authorities. Through the medium of your esteemed newspaper attention of the authorities concerned is drawn for resolution of the problems faced by the people of Rohi Morh area as a welfare measure.

# S. Manjit Singh demands curb on illegal mining in Samba

J I NEWS SERVICE



J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JUN 4: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh on Sunday has demanded a curb on illegal mining of minerals from the river beds in District Samba due to which the ground water level has reduced in many villages. The Former Minister was addressing a meeting at village Koulpur during which the people apprised him about various developmental issues with the Apni Party leaders. The meeting was organised by Block Vice President, Vijaypur, Sadar Wazir Singh Jang. Addressing the meeting, S. Manjit Singh extended support to the growing concern of the people with regard to the drop in ground water level following in planned and unscientific mining in the river beds by the mining mafia. "The groundwater level has reduced to a drastic level in villages

around Devak and Basantr rivers which has alarmed the locals and they have raised serious concern over the unabated mining by the mafia with the involvement of mining department and civil administration," he said, expressing his displeasure over the situation which has caused uneasiness among the villagers. He said that the villagers are mostly dependent upon groundwater for irrigation and drinking purposes but the inaction of the authorities against the mining mafia has posed threat to the ecosystem, and ground water level. "If no action is taken against the mining mafia, the people will come on the road. Therefore, it is better for the authorities to take immediate steps to put a curb on the mining mafia who have dug deep 20 to 25 ft in the river beds which has resulted in the reducing groundwater level," he added. Meanwhile, he also referred to other developmental issues raised by the people with regard to the

connectivity, and unscheduled power cuts and demanded that the authorities should take steps for the revamp of developmental activities. He criticized authorities that they can bring positive change in the lives of the people, but their inaction, and actions against the public will have developed a feeling of alienation from the I.G administration. Citing an example of ill planned policy of Agniveers for the youth aspiring to join Indian Army, he said that the number of youth joining Indian army has reduced because of poor chances of getting regularized for regular jobs after the completion of four years. "Youth has failed to understand why the policy was introduced which has service tenure of four years, and what they will do after getting retired from the service. There is no future or sense of job protection for the educated youth. Otherwise, border areas would prefer joining the army as first priority," he said, and appealed to the Govt of India to look into the policy and make regular recruitments on a permanent basis so that the border youth of Jammu and Kashmir can be provided permanent jobs in the security forces. He also demanded a special on spot recruitment drive for the border areas and kandi belt in the paramilitary and J&K Police. He said that the talented youth should be provided an appropriate platform to work for the nation, and protect its integrity.

# Hindi play 'Girgit' stages in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant featured here today in Natrang's 'Sunday Theatre' series 'Sunday Theatre' at Rani Park, Jammu. Based on a Russian short Story by Anton Chekhov the play proved to be the hard hitting satire on the present socio-political system. The adaptation of the play was deeply rooted in the soil of Jammu and its dramatic structure made the audience feel as if they are watching their own story. Every time the play is staged, some highly contemporary and situational aspect is added to it which refines its beauty. Natrang has been endeavoring to showcase highly relevant political and social satires and today's play demonstrated to be the shining example of that. The play 'Girgit' revolves around a Dog and corrupt Police Officer, who changes colours like a chameleon, every time as the situation changes irrespective of right or wrong. The stage action starts when a Dog bites a pickpocket who



approaches the officers to help him to roundup owner but in vain. A passerby hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving around his Bungalow. On getting his clue, the officer starts beating the pickpocket for teasing a respectable dog. The officer claims that a dog of minister cannot bite unless and until forced to do so. While he is beating the pickpocket, another man from the crowd observes that the local minister cannot keep such dog, as he is

known to have pointer-hunting dogs only. On this, dog is thrashed and search continues for the owner of the dog to enable the pickpocket to claim the compensation. The beating of dog continues until a servant of the minister appears on the scene. At first he refuses to recognize the dog but later identifies him as the minister's brother's dog who has visited from Delhi. Here the dog is escorted back home with full official protocol. Mihir Gujral as Police Officer portrayed aesthetically

the changes of colours of the central character who was equally supported by Aadesh Dhar as his subordinate. Neeraj Kant as the senior officer successfully exhibited the complexities of the senior bureaucrats. Among others who gave impressive performances included Vishal Sharma as thief, Kuldeep Angral as Minister's Servant, Kushal Bhat as Dog, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Sheryaru Salaria and Sumit Bandaral. The presentations were done by Subash Jamwal.



# Modi Govt made education accessible, affordable for all: Kavinder Gupta

KICK-START DEVELOPMENT WORK AT GOVT SCHOOL BAHU FORT



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: The Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the education system across the country and has made education accessible and affordable for people of all classes and backgrounds. This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader after inaugurating development work in a government school at Bahu Fort area of Jammu. The local Corporator Sharda Kumari was also present. Notably, the local Corporator of Ward No 47, Sharda Kumari has initiated a development work of

laying floor tiles in the school premises with an estimated cost of Rs 11 lakhs. On the occasion, Kavinder Gupta along with Corporator Sharda Kumari has also kick-started the construction work of a toilet in the same government school. This toilet block is being constructed especially with a view to provide facilities to the differently-abled children. On the occasion, Vinay Gupta, Vandana Devi, Vivek Bhatyal, Kamna Chettri, Sunny Sangotra, Ajay Sharma, Suraj Rana, Ashok Kumar Vaid, Dalbir Singh, Monika Sharma, Nasreen Choudhary, Lata Gupta, Umkal Kulsom, Krishan Chander, Sanjay Kumar, Chandan Kumar,

Raj Hans, Banti Kumar and Davinder Singh were present. Addressing the gathering, the senior BJP leader said the development work of laying tiles in the school will go a long way in ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for the students to study and play. Furthermore, the construction of toilet block for differently-abled children will ensure that everyone has access to basic sanitation facilities. Kavinder Gupta laid stress on the importance of education in the progress and development of the nation. He highlighted that providing proper amenities in schools will not only improve the education

standard but will also promote a sense of equality and inclusivity. He asserted that Modi government remains committed to the development of the education sector and ensuring that every child has access to adequate facilities. Kavinder Gupta said that Modi Government has focused extensively on improving the quality of education and increasing its access to education for all. The government has introduced various initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) to promote digital literacy, and the National Education Policy 2020 to revitalize the education system. He emphasized that the education system now provides equal opportunities to children from all sections of society. The central government has taken steps to ensure that education reaches the remotest corners of the country. The former Deputy Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of Councillor Sharda Kumari for showing serious concern towards the issues having public interests. He hoped that she will continue this endeavour and work for welfare of the society in near future also.

# PPKS organises youth Conference pays rich tributes to Sant Ram BA



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Commemorating Late. Sant Ram BA on his 38th death anniversary an Arya Samaji & close associate of Dr B.R.Ambedkar and great social reformer of J&K, Prajapati (Kumhar) Sabha organized a Youth Conference in the chairmanship of Ayodhya Kumar Manawa, President of the Sabha. Dr Kamal Kishore (Ph.D on Sant Ram BA) from Haryana was the Guest of Honour. A large number of students and members participated. The Conference commenced with tributes to Sant Ram BA, by garlanding his portrait followed by speech of F.C.Satia, General Secretary of the J&K Prajapati Sabha. Sh Satia told that Sant Ram B.A (14 February 1887-5 June 1988) was an anti-caste warrior, and his Jaatpaat Todak Mandal drew the attention of the entire nation. He devoted his entire life to the cause of building a casteless society. He belonged to Kumhar com-

munity born in Purani Bassi village near Hoshairpur, but later on he had his own house built, in Lahore. After Partition, he again came to Purani Bassi. Santram became an Arya Samaji at a young age and became famous due to "Jaatpaat Todak Mandal", which he had founded in 1922. The same Mandal had invited Dr Ambedkar to deliver the presidential address at its annual convention at Lahore in 1936 but many members of the Mandal did not agree with Ambedkar's script and ultimately, the Mandal postponed its convention. Later, Ambedkar published his script as a book titled Annihilation of Caste. Ayodiya Kumar Manawa, President of the Sabha told that Many fundamentalist Hindus opposed the "Jaatpaat Todak Mandal" but Sant Ram BA did not disband the Mandal. Instead, he conducted its activities on his own. Sant Ram BA wrote more than 100 small booklets advocating

Hindu-Muslim unity and an end to caste discrimination. These booklets stirred up the Hindu community. Hamara Samaj, a book penned by him published in 1948, is an eye-opener for Hindus even today. He passed away on 5 June 1988, in his daughter's home. Balwant Kataria, General Secretary AIBCF, deliberated on OBC issues. He said that nothing has changed after formation of UT. The old Reservation act has not been changed and thus the system of two certificates to the OBC category is still prevalent. He said there is different ruling for central OBC certificate and children of all employees are eligible for OBC certificate irrespective of salary income. So, children of all employees should apply for OBC and take benefit of central OBC quota of 27%. In case of any difficulty or doubt, they may contact him on 9419121623. Bansi Lal Choudhary, (Convener OBC Mahasabha), spoke on

Other Social Caste Certificate (O5C) and told that income from all sources is taken into account whereas in central OBC salary is not taken into account for calculation of creamy layer amount of 8 Lakhs. He regretted that reservation in J&K as per Mandal Commission has not been implemented even after formation of UT. Sr Advocate Ashok Basotra and Ajay Kumar spoke on Indian constitution. He told that India is made up of diverse Religions, Regions and cultures. Only secularism can save our country. Any attempt to mix religion into governance shall be dangerous. Indian constitution should be protected at any cost. In the concluding remarks, Dr Kamal Kishore said that remembering our social reformers and getting inspiration from their efforts is our duty and we should perform it. He said Arya Samaj has tried to achieve Casteless And Classless society but resistance from within society is unfortunate. Others who graced the occasion include Madan Lal Baldotra, (Sr Vice Prez), Jeet Singh (Convener), Rajinder Parshad, Raj Kumar Chalotra, Rajinder Sikka, (Prez Sain Sabha), Kewal Fotra, Om Kataria, Joginder Angotra (from Vishwakarma Library), Hritik Malgotra, Krishan Lal Dafara, Manga Ram, G.R. Dafara, Ashok Baldotra, and Kartar Singh from Akhnour.

# Shiv Sena warns on over charging on MRP



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) of J&K raised serious concern over open lot of wine traders in Jammu city by charging over the MRP. Addressing media persons at party

centre office here today, Manish Sahni, President J&K Shiv Sena said that it surprised that the wine traders selling liquor by charging over Rs 20 to 50 on MRP which is more than the fixed face price and the administration is turning a blind eye over the grave issue.

Sahni said that most of the liquor shops in Jammu are charging more than the retail price. The shopkeeper misbehaves with the customer on demanding the bill and most of the liquor vendors are refusing the online payment, he added. Sahni said that the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir claims to provide corruption-free administration, but loot is being played under this nose. Sahni said in a warning tone that if strict legal action will not be taken against those who collect more than the fixed price, then Shiv Sainiks will stop this loot and plunder in their own way and if any law and order situation worsens during this period, the J&K administration will be responsible for it. On this occasion president Mehla wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Prabhari Ashwani Prabhakar were present.

# CE Jal Shakti in deep slumber, people craving for drinking water in Pir Panjal range: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, JUN 4: Javed Ahmed Rana, President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Pir Panjal Zone and former MLA has said that Jal Shakti Department has become totally defunct which is evident from the fact that the projects sanctioned under NABARD in this region are overlapping as a result of which the common people living in this region are suffering very badly. In a statement issued to media here today, the senior National Conference

leader stated that the people of the Pirpanjal region are facing severe drinking water crisis and despite approaching the concerned authorities of the Jal Shakti Department, the Chief Engineer (PHE) is unmoved and is hesitant in coming out of the office and visited Pirpanjal areas thus leaving the people to the mercy of God. Javed Rana while coming down heavily on the Bharatiya Janata Party Govt at the Centre and its proxy Govt in J&K said that tall claims are being made by them about "Har Ghar Jal" but the ground

situation is quite contrary with the people of Pirpanjal region craving for drinking water with the concerned authorities in deep slumber. Casting the BJP Govt for creating a false narrative of transparency and accountability, Javed Rana said that the Office of the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department in this hilly region has become a hub of corruption with the staff of the department sharing the loaves of corruption leaving the common people struggling to suffice their drinking water requirements.

He said that one fails to understand as to why the funds are not being released for the repair and maintenance of the defective water supply pipelines. He further questioned the UT Administration as to whether the Pirpanjal region is being discriminated because of its being a National Conference stronghold as part of BJP's vindictive politics at the cost of common people who struggling under the unprecedented miseries thrust upon them by the BJP Govt due to its anti-people policies.

# Peace is imperative for sustained prosperity and development in J&K: Mir

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Apni Party Senior Vice President and former cabinet minister Ghulam Hassan Mir has said that a peaceful environment in Jammu and Kashmir is a primary requirement for sustained prosperity and development in the region. He urged people to have a positive mindset in order to ensure the resolution of the issues here. He made these comments while addressing a public meeting at the Devbug area of north Kashmir's Kunzar Tangmarg on Sunday. The prominent participants of the meeting included DDC, Kunzar Sheikh Nazir Ahmad, BDC Kunzar Aftab Beigh, Ifran



Ahmad Tantray, Apni Party's District Vice President Mohammad Assadullah, Abdul Majeed Khanday, Ghulam Mohammad Malik, Habibullah Khanday, Mohammad Latief, Abdul Aziz Tantray, Abdul Aziz Sheikh, and others. According to a press note issued here, the meeting was convened to identify the pressing public issues that the local people are facing. On this occasion, Ghulam Hassan Mir urged people to contribute their efforts for sustained peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "For enduring prosperity and development in J&K, it is imperative that we actively work towards establishing last-

ing peace here. By fostering a peaceful environment and promoting harmony, we can attain everything significant for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Peace and harmony hold the key to obtaining economic upliftment, which will eventually empower the people both economically and politically." The meeting attendees appraised Mir about certain pressing public issues and grievances. He gave a patient hearing to the people and assured them that he would bring these matters to the notice of concerned officials to ensure a swift resolution of these issues. The participants shared their views and visions about the prospect of development in the area. In extracurricular activities. General public hailed the efforts of Sopore Police for helping such needy students. At the end of the event, community members expressed their gratitude for the support provided by the department.

# MSCBC Trust's National Art Workshop enters Day-2

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PEHALGAM, JUN 4: The week-long National Art Workshop "Kavyabhoomi" organized by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable (MSCBC) Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG at Pahalgam in Kashmir entered into Day-2 here today. It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop has been organized to give impetus to the genre of arts in the Valley and to encourage the young and budding artists to explore their hidden artistic talent. The renowned artists leading the national arts workshop are reflecting different themes and aspects of art making the endeavour a world class experience for the budding artists and the lovers of art. A total of eleven artists including five from Kashmir and others from different parts of the country are taking part in the workshop. Prominent among other artists entrusted the



responsibility to do the spade work for the national arts workshop are Laxmi Priya Panigrahi, Bhakti Vilas Lad, Nilisha J Phad, Kishore Roy, Vikram Nayak, Digvijayee Khatua, Snober Jeelani Shah, Naushad Hussain, Azim Hassan, Zargar Zahoor and Javaid Iqbal. Artist Nilisha J Phad from Delhi while interacting with this reporter said that she has done masters in portraits and was very

enthusiastic to participate in this workshop in Kashmir. While pointing to her artistic creation in the workshop, she said "In my work I have tried to reflect duality focussing on the human nature. She thanked the organizers of workshop for providing the opportunity to the artists to create and display their works in such a beautiful destination i.e. Pahalgam. Laxmi Priya Panigrahi

from Amritsar said that Pahalgam is a very beautiful place and an exceptional destination for the artists to create their works especially in view of the fact that the panoramic view acts as a catalyst to further sharpen the artists' creativity and skill. While standing beside her artistic creation she said it was really a nice experience to meet different people during the workshop here, she asserted. Snober Jeelani Shah from Srinagar while pointing towards her creation at the workshop said that her field is materialism and she is working on contrasts. She lauded the organizers for providing them a proper platform to improve and display their artistic skills and bringing out the best in them by providing them national level exposure. Bhakti Vilas Lad from Mumbai while talking to this reporter stated "I like to be part of this workshop as it has provided a unique chance to enhance our creativity amid beautiful valleys.

# Police distributes school kits among needy students

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SOPORE, JUN 4: As a part of Civic Action Programme, Police in Sopore distributed essential school items including school bags, notebooks etc among needy students of sub division

Rafiabad at Dak Bungalow Chijhama, in the presence of senior police officers. While interacting with the students, Sopore Police assured them of all possible support in future as well and advised the students to concentrate in their studies and also take part

in extracurricular activities. General public hailed the efforts of Sopore Police for helping such needy students. At the end of the event, community members expressed their gratitude for the support provided by the department.





## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Shallabugh Wetland...

stated that in order to bring this picturesque place on the tourist map, world class eco-tourism amenities should be created here for attracting wild life lovers from all across the country. He urged them to improve the road surface leading to the destination without any delay.

Dr Mehta also impressed on the officers to look into the creation of other facilities like designated parking area, viewing decks, and landscaping of its surroundings to make them aesthetically appealing for the tourists. He asked them to involve the local PRIs and the community in the overall planning and restoration measures. He termed their role essential as the local people would be the greatest beneficiaries both in terms of gaining employment and better environment.

Chief Secretary discussed various issues related to the sustainable conservation of the Wetland and directed immediate measures like Bio-fencing of the lake area using willow species, solid waste management, procuring of adequate number of fibreglass boats for visitors, introduction of ATVs, promoting local homestays in the adjoining villages, zero tolerance against bird hunting and poaching and promoting sustainable use of wetland resources for livelihood improvement of the local villagers.

Dr Mehta also complimented the Regional Wildlife Warden for result oriented efforts to restore the health of the water body. He expressed hope that with the efficient implementation of integrated plan, the water body will turn into a great attraction and emerge as one of the favorite new destination in the valley.

Giving the brief description about the wetland the Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Region said that Shallabugh Wetland Reserve is the largest wildlife protected wetland in Kashmir valley which its spread over an area of 1675 Hectares falling in Districts of Srinagar and Ganderbal. It was also informed that this wetland was declared a Ramsar Site last year.

The Chief Secretary also informed that in the year 2022 about 49 demarcation pillars were erected and out of total 5 kms of ring embankment, 3 kms were completed. Moreover chainlink fencing of about 958 ft was completed, 250 cleanliness drives were carried out besides organising a bird festival and Asian Waterbird census 2023.

It was also given out that in the current year, works like completion of ring embankment, installation of 25 Boundary pillars, 1950 Bio-fencing pillars, restoration of navigational channels, water pools, construction of dockyard, watch towers, regulatory gas besides provision of other basic amenities are also scheduled for completion as part of its restoration plan.

## Amid dry weather...

...dusk sets in as rain can occur any time during the evening.

Srinagar recorded a low of 10.4 degree Celsius against 9.8 degree Celsius a day ago and it was 2.1 degree Celsius below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The maximum temperature though showed an increase but was still 2.3 degree Celsius below normal of 26.3 degree Celsius recorded on Sunday.

Qazigund recorded a low of 8.2 degree Celsius against 8.2 degree Celsius the previous day and it was 2.7 degree Celsius below normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Pahalgam had a low of 7.9 degree Celsius against 5.1 degree Celsius recorded the previous night and it was 2.6 degree Celsius below normal for the famous tourist spot of south Kashmir.

Kokernag had a low of 8.5 degree Celsius against 8.1 degree Celsius recorded the previous day and it was 2.6 degree Celsius below normal for the south Kashmir's picnic spot while frontier district of Kashmir's Kupwara recorded a low of 8.2 degree Celsius against 9.5 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 2.8 degree Celsius below normal.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.6 degree Celsius against 3.2 degree Celsius recorded a day ago and it was 4.0 degree Celsius below normal, the Mt office said.

## Bhaderwah lavender...

CSIR-IIM is implementing Lavender cultivation in Bhaderwah and other parts of J&K.

It is important to mention that over many decades of scientific interventions, the CSIR-IIM has developed its elite variety (RL 12) for harvesting and processing the flower. The variety of Lavender is highly suitable for cultivation in the rainfed temperate regions of India. Under CSIR-Aroma Mission, CSIR-IIM introduced Lavender and provided more than 30 Lakh free Lavender plants to the farmers of different districts of J&K. The end-to-end technology package for cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing of the Lavender crop were also provided to the farmers. CSIR-IIM installed fifty distillation units (45 fixed and five mobile) at different locations across J&K to support farmers in processing their product.

Many small and marginal maize farmers in the temperate regions of the Jammu division have successfully adopted Lavender. Lavender cultivation has employed large numbers of farmers and young entrepreneurs in the geographically remote regions of J&K. Due to the intervention of CSIR-IIM, a new industry around Lavender cultivation has developed in the region. More than 2500 farmers are cultivating Lavender in different parts of J&K. Women are primarily employed in the Lavender fields for harvesting and processing the flower, which has increased women's income in the region. Many young entrepreneurs have started small-scale businesses through the value addition of Lavender oil, hydrosol, and flowers. CSIR-IIM conducted many skills development programs and trained more than 2500 farmers and young entrepreneurs from J&K on Lavender cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing.

The net annual income of farmers who switched from maize to Lavender cultivation has increased many folds from around Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per hectare to Rs. 3,50,000/- to Rs. 6,00,000/- per hectare. Farmers of the Bhaderwah, Doda District, produced 300, 500, 800, and 1500 Litres of Lavender oil in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. They earned > Rs. 5.00 Crore between 2018-2022 by selling dry flowers, Lavender plants, and Lavender oil. The successful end-to-end technology

transfer on the cultivation of Lavender to the farmers of J&K by CSIR-IIM, Jammu, under Aroma Mission has been widely covered nationally and internationally by print and electronic media. The media has recognized this initiative of CSIR-IIM as the "Purple Revolution." CSIR-IIM received the CSIR award for S&T innovations for rural development (CAIRD-2020) for Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir; Rural Development Through Lavender Cultivation in J&K.

Prominent among many others present were Dr. D Srinivasa Reddy, Director, CSIR-IICT, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM, Jammu, Dhaneer Singh, DDC Chairman, Doda, Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, DDC Vice Chairman, Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner Doda.

## Former J&amp;K CM...

The passport given to Mehbooba, who was the last chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state before it was bifurcated in 2019, is valid from June 1, 2023, till May 31, 2033.

The Delhi High Court in March this year had asked the passport authority to decide within three months on issuing a fresh travel document to the PDP chief.

"Considering that the matter is remanded back to the passport officer and the initial location is two years ago, let the passport officer concerned take a decision expeditiously and in any case within three months," Justice Prathiba M Singh had noted in the order in March this year.

The court's order had come on a petition by Mehbooba seeking a direction to the passport authorities to take an early decision on her appeal regarding the issuance of a new passport.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said in her plea that there was a considerable delay in issuing a new passport to her despite reminders.

She said no decision was being taken on her appeal. The central government's counsel had informed the court that an order was passed on the appeal on March 2 and the matter has been sent to the passport officer in Jammu and Kashmir for reconsideration.

In February this year, Mehbooba had sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the issuance of the passport, saying she had been waiting for it for the past three years to take her 80-year-old mother on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

In March 2021, Mehbooba and her mother were denied passports after the Jammu and Kashmir Police had cited an "adverse report". (Agencies)

## Mega nursery in J&amp;K...

...naturally-ventilated polygreenhouses, he added.

The irrigation of thousands of plants in the greenhouse is being done through a computerised system using boom irrigation, drip irrigation and shower watering techniques and the entire system is managed through artificial intelligence.

Officials said that local farmers will now be able to get plants of various species from the nursery at lower costs.

All the citrus fruit plants that were earlier brought from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will be produced locally. This will also help increase the income of local fruit growers.

"We have a protected environment to produce plants throughout the year. Local farmers here get an enormous benefit here. We engage local labourers too. In the days to come, it will be beneficial for farmers of Jammu division," said Sharma. (Agencies)

## Article 35A repeal liberated...

segments like Valmikis, PoK refugees, Gorkhas, Gujjar Bakerwals west PAK refugees and the other weaker sections, the abrogation of special status bode far-reaching benefits. How ironic it had been for over seven decades since independence for the daughters seizing to be the citizens of their aboriginals after marrying non-state subjects. This provision was against the principle of equality, he added.

Devender Rana said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A demonstrated the firm will of the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah to accomplish BJP's mission of One India and Nation First. The determination and resolve with which the central leadership went ahead with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and Kashmir has unnerved the inimical elements across the borders and their lackeys back home. He said the Congress, which ruled the country and Jammu and Kashmir for better part since independence, showed callous insensitivity towards the people in general and women in particular.

During his hectic day-long schedule, Mr Devender Rana along with the prominent local Karyakartas of the BJP interacted with media persons, prominent citizens of the Baggat Lok Sabha constituency and paid floral tributes to valiant freedom fighters Ashfaq-ullah Khan and Ram Prasad Bismal at Vandna Chowk while on way to Baggat.

In his public discourse, the senior BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir highlighted some of the numerous achievements of the Modi Government during the past nine years, saying these have inspired the people, not only across the country but around the world as well. The comity of nations sees in India an upcoming superpower that can lead the nation states in resolving crisis and conflicts. For comparators, the mere thought of India becoming Vishwa Guru under Narendra Modi's visionary leadership is a sense of pride, Mr Rana added.

He touched every sector of economic development with statistical data and India's enviable foreign policy during the past nine years and said this has made all the difference. The development and nation building remains top priority for the Yashwanth Pradhan Mantri", Mr Rana added.

"In this odyssey of national reconstruction, Jammu and Kashmir remains the proudest for the BJP," Mr Rana said, adding that the UT has been recognized as one of the best performing Union Territories in implementing the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which extends health insurance coverage to 97 percent of the population holding 80 lakh gold cards. He said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing industrial revival after seven decades of stagna-

tion. Rs 66,000 crore in private investment proposals have flooded within a year while 1,455 industrial units are operational, marking the largest industrial campaign in the region's history. Land has been allotted to a record-breaking 1,711 industrial units, and the rise of 56 start-ups has ushered in a new social revolution. With a dedicated budget of Rs one lakh crore for physical infrastructure development, the foundations of progress are firmly laid. Jammu and Kashmir is soaring to new heights with a record-breaking influx of 1.88 crore tourists, the highest since independence. Schools across the UT operated for a remarkable 200 days last year. The tribal communities have not only escaped economic deprivation but are also experiencing the fruits of social justice. Empowered by the Forest Rights Act, they now hold rights over water, forest, and land. Concerns of all segments of the society including Kashmiri Pandits, West Pakistani Refugees, SCs and STs are being addressed on priority, he added.

Referring to the charisma of Prime Minister Modi, the senior BJP leader Mr Rana recalled the Australian Prime Minister describing him as the Boss and another Prime Minister of an African country bowing before his leadership. He said while chronic inimical neighbor Pakistan is grappling with a food crisis, Modi government provided free rations to 80 crore people and also ensured free Covid vaccine for the entire country. Modi government ran the world's largest free immunization programme, under which over 200 crore doses of made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines have been administered.

Rana said that the Prime Minister Modi transformed the country England, which had opposed freedom to India, has been surpassed with this nation emerging as fifth largest economy of the world now. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the IMF forecasts that India will attain fourth place by 2025 and to the third place by 2027.

Devender Rana also referred to India's transformation into a digital economy, primarily led by UPI of the NPCI, which is one of the major achievements of the government. Today, India leads in terms of using digital translations, where even roadside vendors accept digital payments even for very small amounts. Under the Swachh Bharat mission, over 3 lakh villages have declared open defecation free, over 2.5 lakh villages have liquid waste management facilities, and almost 2 lakh have solid waste management arrangements.

These are just a few of the major achievements of the country registered under Mr Narendra Modi in the past nine years", Mr Rana added.

## Cause of Odisha train...

...restore normal services on the affected tracks by Wednesday.

Talking to reporters at the accident site, the railway minister said the issue is of electric point machine, a vital device for railway signalling, and electronic interlocking.

The change that was made to electronic interlocking which led to the accident has been identified, Vaishnav said while denying that the incident had anything to do with the anti-collision system "Kavach".

The crash involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, which were carrying around 2,500 passengers, and a goods train occurred around 7 pm on Friday near the Bahaganu Bazar station in Balasore. At least 16 people were dead and over 1,100 injured in the accident.

"The enquiry into the accident has been completed and as soon as the commissioner of railway safety (CRS) provides his report all the details will be known.

"The root cause of the horrifying incident has been identified... I do not want to go into details. Let the report come out. I will just say that the root cause and the people responsible have been identified," the railway minister said.

He also said the kin of around 300 accident victims have been provided compensation. "We met the patients and doctors at Soro Hospital. Special trains are being run from Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ranchi, Kolkata and other places so that patients can reach homes after treatment," Vaishnav said restoration work was being carried out on a war footing and tracks have already been laid on one of the main lines.

"We have mobilised all resources. I also want to say that Kavach has nothing to do with the accident. This accident occurred due to changes to the electronic interlocking system. The remarks of (West Bengal minister) Mamata Banerjee is not true," Vaishnav said.

"The setting of the point machine was changed. How and why it was done will be revealed in the probe report," he said.

"An electric point machine is a vital device for railway signalling for quick operation and locking of point switches and plays an important role in the safe running of trains. Failure of these machines severely affects train movement and deficiencies at the time of installation can be a safety hazard," he added.

The preliminary probe report, said the signal was given and taken off for the up main line for train number 12841 (Coromandel Express). The train entered the loop line, dashed with the goods train and derailed. In the meantime, train number 12864 (Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express) passed through the down main line and two of its coaches derailed and capsized, the report said.

Vaishnav, who is on ground zero since Friday night, supervising rescue and relief operations as well as the railway track restoration efforts, said the railway aims to complete restoration work on tracks by Wednesday.

The rescue and relief at the accident site is complete, he said.

Over 1,000 workers are working round-the-clock for early restoration. It has deployed more than seven Poclain Machines, two accident relief trains, and three to four railway and road cranes for the resumption of rail traffic.

The work on repairing tracks and overhead electric lines is in progress.

Earlier in the day, the railway tracks were cleared of wrecked coaches.

In a statement, the South Eastern Railway zone said, "All 21 coaches which capsized and derailed have been grounded. Now the site is being cleared of bogie/wheels sets and other components. Three goods wagons and locomotive grounding work is going on. Track linking

## People of India are going to defeat BJP: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, JUN 4

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said after the Karnataka election victory his party will "decimate" the BJP in Telangana and other state polls, emphasising that it is not just the Congress party but the people of India who are going to defeat its hate-filled ideology.

"We have shown in Karnataka that we can decimate the BJP... We did not defeat them, we decimated them. We smashed them in Karnataka," Gandhi said at a dinner event organised here Saturday by the Indian Overseas Congress-USA.

Gandhi arrived in New York after visiting Washington and San Francisco and will address a community rally at the Javits Centre in Manhattan on Sunday.

He said in the Karnataka elections, the BJP "tried everything in the book, they had the entire media, they had 10 times the amount of money we had, they had the government, they had the agency. They had everything and then we decimated them," Gandhi said.

"And I want you to know that we are going to decimate them in Telangana next," he said to loud cheers and applause from the gathering.

"It will be hard to find the BJP in Telangana after this election." Election in the southern Indian state is scheduled to be held later this year.

Congress supporters, officials, party members and members of the diaspora gathered in large numbers at the community event that was also attended by New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

Apart from the Telangana election, there are elections scheduled for "Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where we will do the same we did to them in Karnataka," Gandhi said to cheers and applause from the supporters.

and overhead electric work is going on in parallel." The Railways is also operating special trains for transporting survivors and relatives of the deceased. (Agencies)

## 28K Govt employees...

...404 other people, with the J&K Police crime branch after a similar fraud was detected for the last few fiscals.

The alleged irregularities came to light sometime back after the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) wing of the department located in Srinagar found that a number of people who are assessed in the Union Territory of J&K had claimed "excessive and ineligible deductions" under various heads leading to claim of bogus refunds, the sources said.

The Principal Director of I-T (J&K and Ladakh) M P Singh sanctioned filing of police FIRs against the CA and 404 other people that includes some dubious tax advisors and filers for "entering into a conspiracy amounting to defrauding the exchequer of a sum of Rs 16.72 crore between the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20."

The department found that many among these people had filed incorrect or false ITRs and had identified claimed around Rs 4 lakh in refunds, they said.

The department, as part of the complaints that resulted into two FIRs filed on May 25, has shared with the police the names, addresses, PAN and bank accounts in these 405 people after which the crime branch froze these bank deposits, the sources said.

The police has booked these people under various sections of the IPC like 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery), 471 (using a forged document as genuine), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and section 66D of the Information Technology Act (cheating by impersonation).

The department has also written to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) seeking cancellation of the accused CA's licence, who runs a consultancy firm in Rajbagh area here and who considers the "primary and largest" in the case, the sources said.

Aligned with this development, the department ran a fresh check in November last year for the ITRs filed by salaried employees working in J&K and found similar instances of bogus claims of deduction made by them to seek refunds.

The employees, as per the sources, belong to the power development, health, tourism, education, bank, universities apart from personnel of the police and the Central Armed Force Polices (Cafps) that are deployed in J&K for law and order and counter-terrorism duties.

The I-T Principal Commissioner wrote to the heads of these organisations in March informing them that there is a provision to correct or update such returns by filing an ITR-U and avoid getting into legal trouble.

Over 9,000 employees filed their ITR-U in J&K by this March end and the department collected additional tax of more than Rs 56 crore, the sources said.

An ITR-U enables a taxpayer to update their returns (ITRs) using the e-filing portal anytime within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

However, many employees did not avail this opportunity of filing ITR-U and now they will be issued penalty notices and in some cases police FIRs will be filed like the one filed against the 405 people, the sources said.

According to an estimate, over 28,000 government employees have fraudulently claimed refunds for 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the department will soon initiate action against them after sending them notices for scrutiny of their ITRs, the sources said.

According to the law, if a person evades tax or misdeclares their income in the ITR they can be prosecuted and charge sheeted by the tax department under section 276C of the I-T Act that entails a rigorous imprisonment ranging from six months to seven years on a case-to-case basis. (Agencies)

## Former Minister...

...submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to development projects.

...Sh Khalid Rathore, Youth Provincial President, Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party also called on the Lt Governor and discussed the issues related to youth engagement and sports activities in the valley.

The Lt Governor assured the former minister and the Youth Provincial President of appropriate action on the genuine issues and matters expressed by them.



## NSS Unit GCW Parade Jammu in collaboration with Eco Club and Science Club organised an interactive Session on Mission LIFE

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: NSS Unit GCW Parade, Jammu in collaboration with Eco Club and Science Club organised an interactive Session on Mission LIFE as a run up to World Environment Day to be celebrated on 5th June, 2023 under the supervision of principal of the College Dr. S. P. Sarawat and under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers of the College Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Dr. Mohd. Majeed and Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad.

Around 150 participants including NSS Volunteers, student members of Eco Club and Science Club participated in the programme. The programme started with a welcome address by



Prof. Anjali Abrol, Convener Science Club and after that the principal of the college gave a brief insight into the importance of

Mission LIFE. Dr. Arun Gupta and Dr. Latika Bharti, Medical Officers from AYUSH, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir were the resource persons for the

event. Dr. Arun Gupta acquainted the students and faculty members about the Mission LIFE.

He interacted with the audience regarding the healthy lifestyle to be adopted in order to maintain a healthy environment. He also talked at length about the sustainable develop-

ment agenda of the Govt of India. He underlined the importance of Millets in meeting the overall nutrition of the body. Some of the Chair Yoga Asanas were also performed by the audience under the guidance of Dr. Arun Gupta.

Later Dr. Lotika Bharti explained some exercises for the health of eyes and relieving stress. The participants also took pledge on Mission LIFE read by Ms. Latika Bharti.

The programme ended with a formal Vote of Thanks by Prof. Privadarshini, Convener, Eco Club. The proceedings of the session were carried out by Ms. Swati Chib, NSS Volunteer of the College.

## Tony seek resignation of Railway Minister over Balasore tragedy

HUGE NEGLIGENCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE BY INDIAN RAILWAYS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman of AAP J&K for Administrative Affairs and DDC Suchetgarh on Sunday sought resignation of a Railway Minister in response to the tragic accident in Balasore.

The senior AAP leader said that while the party wants to refrain from any political mudslinging, Prime Minister Narendra Modi owes it to the people to explain who is responsible for such a catastrophic loss of life.

He said that the government at the Centre and Railways did nothing to improve rail safety measures over the past nine years and only increased train fares. The lack of action by the authorities is what led to this heartbreaking accident. He questioned why Kavach, a state-of-the-art train protection technology, has yet to be implemented in the country. He said Kavach is designed to automatically apply brakes if a train is running too fast and could



have averted the tragedy in Balasore.

Notably, more than 300 persons have lost their lives in the train derailment in Balasore, Odisha while more than 400 people have received severe injuries. Tony believed that the Railway Minister should take responsibility for the safety lapses in the railway system that led to the incident and he should resign on moral ground. He asked the government to investigate the matter thoroughly and ensure the implementation of Kavach technology as soon as possible.

While sympathizing for loss of lives, Tony demanded adequate compensation

for the families of the victims and urged the government to give decent jobs to the kins of deceased in the Indian Railways.

Earlier, Tony along Sarpanch Akshay Kumar and other prominent people of Suchetgarh started blacktopping work of a road leading to cremation ground at Village Bajchak. Tony said that this road has been constructed first time since the inception of the aforesaid village. He said during rainy season, the locals faced severe hardship while carrying the dead bodies to the cremation ground due to the lack of a properly constructed road. He said the blacktop-

ping of said road would give massive relief to the residents who have long awaited such development.

Tony asked people of the area to support and strengthen the AAP Party for the overall development of the state and country in general.

Among others who were present include Numbardar Gurdeep Singh, Naresh Kumari Bokri, Panch Bawa Ram, Som Nath, Vicky Kumar, S.Darshan Lal, Muktiyar Singh, Capt Ashok Kumar, Mohinder Lal, Ram Krishan, Pappu Ram, Bittu Ram, Pappi Singh, Mohan Lal, Muskan, Ali Akka Din and Swarna Singh.

## BJP regime humiliated Dogras by demoting J&K State to UT : Harsh Dev

JJ NEWS SERVICE

CHENANI, JUN 4: National Panthers Party (NPP) organized a massive rally in Sudh Mahadev today to draw the attention of the govt towards the basic problems faced by the common masses who were suffering due to their gross neglect at the hands of an apathetic and indifferent administration. The NPP workers took out a massive rally which started from Bus Stand and culminated near Paap Nashini where the gathering was addressed by several party leaders including Mr. Harsh Dev Singh Former Minister and NPP President, Mr. Sukhdev Singh Founder member, Mrs. Manju Singh besides other senior party leaders.

Addressing the huge gathering, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, said that J&K had suffered socially, politically and economically after its re-organization and division into two Union Territories. "With J&K having been divested of its statehood status, the trade, tourism and economy of the erstwhile princely Dogra state of the country has been adversely impacted.

While the economy fast dissipated and the development scenario witnessed a downward slide, the ever growing unemployment seemed to be the only notable feature of the saffron rule.

The past few years witnessed massive public uprisings against the anti Jammu and anti people policies of the ruling dispensation which continued to be suppressed through iron fist of police and civil administration.

Taking repeated surrenders on almost all its professed promises, the narcissistically pleased and power intoxicated BJP continued to use the coercive apparatus of state to silence all those who dare raise their voice



for justice and sought fulfillment of promises made by it during elections. Rather than honouring the commitments made by it during last polls, it was trying to crush the dissenting voices by causing dissensions in and breaking the opposition parties", roared Mr. Singh. Describing the BJP's handling of dissent and disquiet as oppressively bizarre, undemocratic and morally sinister, Mr. Singh appealed to the people not to succumb before the machiavellian designs of the power hungry rulers. He assured that NPP would stand with people through thick and thin and continue to expose and oppose the BJP for its political debauchery and subterfuge.

Mr. Harsh Dev Singh further lambasted the BJP for having done the greatest disservice to J&K by demoting it to the level of UT. It has humiliated the Dogras by dismantling the oldest dogra state.

The extension of several draconian laws after abrogation of Art 370 including opening of lands and jobs to outsiders had in particular, come as a rude shocker for the people of J&K. The unemployed youth of Jammu region have been the most disappointed lot with their share in

services have been abysmally reduced. The Daily wagers, the contractuals, the underemployed have all felt cheated in the BJP regime, divulged Singh. Alleging that a deep rooted culture of corruption was prevalent in the UT, Mr. Singh called upon the vigilante organizations to keep a close watch over the functioning of various Deptts particularly PHE, Mining, Education, PWD, Power, CAPD and RDD. He said that the lackadaisical approach of the concerned authorities was responsible for the power and drinking water crisis in the majority of the rural areas.

He called for developing the tourism potential of Sudh Mahadev, Mantalai, Basht, Karlah, Chulyar, Bup and Sarar.

He sought early clearances of liabilities and other work done claims of contractors and mates pending for the last 2-3 years in PWD, PHE, PDD etc. He sought immediate release of compensation to the farmers whose lands and other structures were acquired for construction of PMGSY roads.

He regretted that there were no takers for the sufferings of the people with corrupt officers enjoying full patronage of the political bosses.

Bhagwat Mahapuram Week Celebration Organizing Committee, Lower Gadijgarh (Jammu) at Khajuria Food Mall, Miran Salibi.

Among the dignitaries present in the program include Lecturer Punnu Ram Sharma, (Retired) - Chairman Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuram Week Celebration Organizing Committee, Vijay Sharma (Gunnur) - Vice Chairman, Babu Ram Sharma - Principal, Manohar Lal Sharma - Vice President, Jai Prakash Sharma - Treasurer, Vikas Sharma - Chairman Bhargava Public School, Advocate Rajeev Sharma, Advocate Vineet Sharma, Yash Sharma - Journalist, Pandit Surinder Sharma, Pandit Varun Sharma, Shastri Rakesh Sharma, Pitambar Sharma, Raju Sharma, Subedar Jitender Sharma (Retd.), Narendara Sharma, Chaman Raina, Pawan Sudan, Vijay Sharma, Devender Sharma, Vicky Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Ramesh Khajuria, Mukesh Bhargava, Satpal Bhargava, Kuldeep Bhargava, Rajesh Khajuria (Rajul), Hitek Raj Raina, Ajit Kumar Sharma, Subedar Pawan Kumar Sharma (Retd.), Vijay Khajuria, Rinku Raina, Tejinder Raina, Rajesh Raina, Subedar Rajinder Sharma (Retd.), Prem Sharma and Lavish Sharma etc. attended.

## Dr Ved Prakash Shastri inaugurates 'Adarsh Poonchi Channel'



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: Dr. Ved Prakash Shastri today inaugurated 'Adarsh Poonchi Channel' - a social YouTube channel run by Pandit Chaman Lal Sharma - in a colorful program. Speaking on the occasion of launching, Dr. Ved said that - for the all-round development and upliftment of the nation and society, to encourage the good works of the society, to remove the evils and to fulfill the social, religious, cultural objectives Adarsh Poonchi Channel is being dedicated to the society. He said that the society has hope and full faith that

the channel will fulfill its duties towards the society, promote social and national unity, promote its age-old language, culture, civilization, rituals, prevalent and established religious works, songs, customs. He expressed the confidence that this channel will be fully helpful in the promotion, protection and carrying of customs, social works and education. On this occasion Rajesh Bakshi - Member Jammu Cantonment Board, Om Prakash Khajuria, Pandit Dushyant Sharma also expressed their views. Along with this, Om Prakash Khajuria also organized the investiture ceremony of Shrimad

## NC resents over LG's statement for insulting people's participation in elections

BJP INTENTIONALLY DELAYING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN J&K: RATTAN LAL



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 4: J&K National Conference has expressed its great resentment over the statement given by the Lt Governor that the successive governments have hijacked and rigged elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The Party said that it was an insult to the people of the State who have always participated enthusiastically in the electoral process.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC while addressing party workers meeting at village Dhanu in Bhalwal area of Nagrota Constituency.

The Provincial President said that the statement of Lt Governor was an attempt to malign the political parties and the people of J&K who have shown their commitment to democracy time and again. He said the statement of Lt Governor could be seen as undermining the credibility of the Election Commission of India (ECI), which is an independent constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections in the country.

Rattan Lal Gupta has accused the BJP Government at the Centre of delaying the due Assembly elections in order to maintain its hold in Jammu and Kashmir. He said BJP is scared of facing elections in J&K because they know they have no base there. That is why the Saffron Party is delaying election process.

The senior NC leader asserted that democracy cannot be imposed from outside but has to come from within. He emphasized that the people of J&K should be allowed to decide their own future through a democratic process.

Notably, the Assembly elections in J&K were last held in 2014, before the state was bifurcated into two Union Territories in August 2019. Since then, the Union Territory has been under President's Rule.

Earlier, Kuldeep Raj, senior NC leader who organized today's meeting, raised serious concern over scarcity of basic amenities like shortage of power, water and lack of healthcare facilities in the area. He said people have been forced to live a miserable life. The meeting was chaired by Sarpanch Sain Khan and

was attended by Lambardar Swarn Singh, Bharat Singh, Mohan Lal, Rajinder Singh, Madan Lal, Nadeem, Shabir and others.

Rattan Lal said that general public is confronting number of problems. He said that people are desiring for power and water facilities and have been compelled to come on roads at many places across the region. He said that BJP government is running an authoritative dispensation in J&K with citizen rights under siege as common man is ignored on all fronts. He also asked the government to clear the liability of MGNREGA of the area which has crossed nearly Rs 2 crore.

Pandep Bali, Provincial Secretary JKNC Jammu, asked party workers to gear up for upcoming polls in Jammu and Kashmir. Asserting that NC alone is the solution to end the miseries of people, he asked party cadre especially the workers to gear up for the upcoming Panchayat and Local Bodies elections to give befitting reply to the Saffron Party which are befouling the people with their hollow slogans.

Raghubir Singh, District President Jammu Rural A, asked people to be cautious from divisive policies of BJP and support the National Conference in the upcoming polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell JKNC Jammu, asked people of the area to strengthen hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to once again install a government which is people-centric and considerate towards the problems of the common man and not like BJP Government which is doing anything and everything for selected few in the country.

## Inter Command CME Cum Workshop held

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUN 4: CME titled "SMART (Serving MGOs Advanced Resuscitation, Triage & Transport) Capsule" organised by Command Hospital (NC) was inaugurated at Dhruva Auditorium by Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Army Commander (NC), in presence of Army dignitaries from Udhampur, eminent doctors form civil hospital and CME delegates. It focused on prioritized and protocolized medical care to be provided during emergency situation.



The pedagogy used was interactive and case scenarios based which saw immense participation and involvement from the CME delegates. Faculty was invited from AFMS hospital as well as AIIMS, New Delhi

and SMVD Hospital, Katra.

The delegates composed of doctors of Army, Navy and Air Forces from all over the country along with doctors from local hospitals GMCH Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, SMVD

Hospital, Katra, District Hospital, Udhampur and 150 delegates benefitted from the program.

The highlight was the workshops organized on mannequins with simulation of real-life case scenarios. Participants were given hands on training and different life saving scenarios were discussed.

Medical poster presentation by doctors was well received and provided opportunity to delegates to showcase their works. The CME was supported by DRDO & was awarded 122 CME credit points by J&K Medical Council.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

High dropout rate among ST children

It is quite surprising that the Project Approval Board (PAB) for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under Samagra Shiksha Scheme has expressed concern over high drop rate among the Scheduled Tribe (ST), which normally reside in educationally backward and remote areas of the region, children and asked the UT administration to expedite community-based survey identifying issues for such drop-out rate. During a meeting of the Board held recently through video-conferencing, Jammu and Kashmir government revealed that the drop-out rate among ST children at secondary level was as high as 11.77 percent in Kishtwar district while it was 7.35 percent at primary level in the district. In Rajouri district, the drop-out rate among ST children was 5.34 percent at upper primary level while it was 1.80 percent in Shopian district. Ramban district too has high drop rate of 4.40 percent among ST children at secondary level. According to the PAB, the annual average dropout rate at the secondary level in the year 2020-21 was 3 percent. "However, it is important to note that the dropout rate among ST children is still very high. It is also important to mention that the dropout rate in certain districts is very high in the district of Kishtwar (8.27) at primary level, district with high drop-out rate at upper primary level are Rajouri (6.52), Shopian (5.96). Similarly, the district of Ramban had a 27.28 percent drop rate at secondary level while it was 12.10 percent in Kishtwar district. The UT administration, in its action taken report, has claimed that regular monitoring and better facilities to the students of the various classes, besides introduction of various interventions, has helped in reduction of the drop-out rate. Moreover, providing education at the Behaks (Dhoks) i.e. Seasonal centres during the period of the migration of ST Children with their parents has also helped in reduction of drop-out rate of ST students. A total of 1873 Seasonal Centres are functioning in the UT of J&K, with enrolment of more than 36,000 children. The minutes of the Board meeting revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has uploaded details of 27,496 children on PRABANDH Portal, who were drop out and willing to continue their education through Open Schooling System with financial assistance. The UT administration has assured that the State Open Schooling (SOS) is functional in J&K and it has the capacity to provide education to the identified Drop Out children. The UT shall ensure that all the Drop Out children in the age group of 16 to 19 are registered with the State Open Schooling System. For better results to their initiatives, the government should would bear the additional funds to be incurred on the activity as the approved unit cost for covering Drop Out children through Open Schooling is Rs. 2000 per child per annum as per the norms of Samagra Shiksha.

ERDOGAN'S RE-ELECTION COULD HERALD BETTER TIES WITH INDIA

WITH THE RISE OF INDIA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, IT'S IN THE INTEREST OF DELHI AND ANKARA TO EXPAND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT.

NAVDEEP SURI



There was a sense of deja vu as Turkey's extended election ended with the victory of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

There was the ubiquitous, carefully burnished image of Erdogan as a strong, nationalist leader up against an Opposition that was accused of kowtowing to the West and being soft on the (Kurdish) terrorists. There was a carefully crafted appeal to religious conservatives, accompanied by disdain for the liberal and secular followers of Kemal Ataturk and disparaging attacks on the LGBTIQ community, besides the conscious amplification of the glories of the Ottoman Empire, with 'Sultan' Erdogan heralding the dawn of a new 'Turkish century' 100 years after Ataturk established the secular Turkish republic in 1923. Other elements included the ability to use high-profile diplomatic events to draw attention away from pressing bread-and-butter issues; the relentlessly efficient, grassroots-driven party machinery against a fractured Opposition; the control of the media; the advantage in financial resources; and questionable use of enforcement agencies against Opposition leaders.

The aggregate of these elements combined to deliver the fifth consecutive electoral victory for Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AK Party). The first three wins made him the country's PM until the constitution was amended in 2017, abolishing the parliamentary system and the office of the PM to create an executive presidency where the President becomes both the head of the state and the government. Erdogan was elected President in 2018 and this election gives him a second five-year term with around 52 per cent of the popular vote - a figure that has remained almost constant over the six election cycles, including the constitutional referendum of 2017.

The Opposition had hoped for a different outcome this time. After all, the country has seen the lira's value drop by 90 per cent over the last 10 years of Erdogan's rule and many economists blamed the 44 per cent inflation and a near-empty foreign exchange kitty on his unorthodox economic policies and, particularly, his arm-twisting of the central bank to prevent an increase in interest rates.

The dire economic situation was expected to trigger an anti-incumbency wave and yet, the AK Party has demonstrated the rock-solid support of its base by retaining its 52 per cent share of the vote. Analysis shows that much of Erdogan's vote comes from the relatively less affluent hinterland where the conservative Sunni Islam still has a substantial influence.

His rival Kilitciodoglu's promise to restore the more liberal parliamentary system, return to economic orthodoxy and reduce strains in ties with the West resonated well in the metropolitan areas of Istanbul and Ankara and in the affluent and more westernised coastal areas, but in the end, it was the high voter turnout in the heartland that carried the day for Erdogan.

As he starts his third decade in power, Erdogan must bring the economy back on an even keel. The faltering economy, to an extent, has already led Erdogan to temper some of his more ideologically driven foreign policy postures in the region with a healthy dose of pragmatism. He has ended Turkey's proxy wars with Saudi Arabia and the UAE and restored normal ties with both. They have responded by placing \$5 billion each with the Central Bank of Turkey to bolster its foreign exchange reserves. The UAE has also pledged to invest \$10 billion and moved quickly after Erdogan's re-election to announce the ratification of their Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the aim of raising non-oil bilateral trade to \$40 billion in five years.

Qatar remains a strong partner and potential source of investments. Full diplomatic relations have been restored with Israel and a change in attitude towards the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria could be in the offing.

Erdogan has also leveraged the Ukraine conflict to reposition Turkey as a pivotal player in the region. Although a NATO member since 1952, Turkey has maintained close ties with Russia and Erdogan has often claimed a special relationship with President Putin. And yet, his government has supplied significant numbers of its Bayraktar TB2 armed drones to Ukraine. It was also at the heart of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, allowing safe transport of foodgrains from Ukrainian ports.

Meanwhile, Turkey held back its assent on Finland's inclusion as the 31st member of NATO until March 2023 on the grounds that the country was providing a haven to what Erdogan called Kurdish 'terrorists'. And it continues to exercise a veto on Sweden's inclusion for the same reason.

By maintaining a strongly independent foreign policy stance on ties with Russia and China even as it remains a key member of NATO, Turkey under Erdogan is asserting its intent to reclaim the centrality that it enjoyed during the five centuries of Ottoman rule.

Despite a fair amount of goodwill at the popular level, India's ties with Turkey have failed to take off because Ankara has tended to view

Jammu and Kashmir through the prism of religious fraternity with Pakistan. Sporadic attempts to give some momentum to the relationship have often been torpedoed by intemperate statements by Turkish leaders that betrayed a complete lack of sensitivity over India's position. The most recent case was the manner in which Erdogan attacked India's decision to revoke Article 370 in August 2019. And yet, there might be some grounds for optimism. The economic crisis in Turkey has coincided with the rise of India on the global stage and it is in the interest of both sides to expand their economic engagement. A breakthrough of sorts came about when Prime Minister Modi met President Erdogan on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Samarkand in September 2022. The request came from the Turkish side and the meeting turned out to be unexpectedly cordial. India also responded with a prompt and substantive humanitarian assistance package following the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey in February.

The G20 summit being hosted by New Delhi in September will provide another opportunity for a Modi-Erdogan meeting. It remains to be seen if the pragmatism shown by Erdogan in reshaping Turkey's foreign policy over the past two years extends to its ties with India. Or will he remain wedded to his Islamist credentials and continue to side with an imploding Pakistan?

Navdeep Suri Former diplomat and Distinguished Fellow, ORF

Scripting success, Punjab to Kenya

MANY INDIANS, PARTICULARLY SIKHS, WERE SENT TO AFRICA BY BRITISH RULERS TO BUILD A RAILWAY LINE. GENERATIONS LATER, THEY ARE SCRIPTING SUCCESS STORIES THERE WHILE KEEPING PUNJABIYAT ALIVE

PRABHUJOT SINGH

The beautiful country of Kenya has a sizeable population of Indian expatriates, especially Sikhs. The natives adoringly call them simbas (lions), while others acknowledge them as 'kalasinghas'. It is not without reason that Sikhs hold a special place in the hearts of Kenyans. Many of them have scripted success stories in the land which they made their home more than 125 years back when the British brought them here as labourers to build the Mombasa-Nairobi African rail line in 1896. For these early arrivals from India, it was tough working in difficult terrains. Many became victims of attacks by ferocious animals, besides falling prey to illnesses like malaria.

Today, these expatriates are playing a major role in every field, be it business, trade, medicine, politics, academics, entertainment or sports. The longest political prisoner in the history of Kenya, Makhan Singh, was a part of the freedom movement in India when he was brought here. He continued his struggle, later dedicating his life to the natives.

"We are Kenyans and owe everything we have to this country. We are also proud of our identity as Indians as well as of our Sikh heritage," says 70-year-old Gurdeep Singh Phlora, a businessman who lives with his family in Karen, a posh area of Nairobi. "Our roots are in India and we often visit the country. But we do not miss India much as we celebrate all our social and family functions, including weddings, in desi style," says Phlora, who was born in Nairobi. "Kenya is blessed with nice weather, amazing flora and fauna and endless natural resources," says his cousin Jasbir Singh Phlora,



"We have beautiful gurdwaras and temples, and, above all, freedom to follow our religion. We have been equal partners in the progress of our nation. The country's population has swelled from seven million in 1960 to nearly 55 million now." Avtar Singh Sohal, popularly known as 'Tari', has taken part in six Olympic Games - four times as a hockey player, once as a coach and once as a judge on the technical committee. Even at 85, he works six days a week to promote the sport at the grassroots. Interestingly, 26 Punjabis have represented Kenya in hockey in the Olympic Games between 1956 and 1976. Another 13 have played in the World Cup.

Among other well-known Punjabis here include Mahan Singh, founder of the Kenyan Hockey Union, and Tiger Joginder Singh, who has been one of the most daring motor racists in African history. He has been conferred with the title of 'Flying Sikh'. Avtar Singh Sohal, Harpal Singh Jhandu, Baljit Singh Virki, Gurdeep Singh Phlora, Swaran Singh and Nanak Singh Bansal are the backbone of the Sikh Union Club.

One of the oldest clubs of Indian expatriates in the world, it enjoys a prestigious place in Kenya. Started as Khalsa Club in the early 1920s, it moved to its own club house in 1932. Today, it is the first private club to have an astroturf with artificial lights, besides a cricket ground of international standards, a swimming pool, a banquet hall, snooker and billiards rooms.

In April this year, Vaisakhi Cup was organised in which hockey teams comprising Punjabis from the UK and Malaysia participated. Teams from Punjab (India), Punjab (Pakistan) and Canada, however, could not participate. Often referred to as the "Mohammed Rafi of Africa", Deedar Singh Pardesi is a legend. He was recently felicitated at Batala during events commemorating the death anniversary of "Birha da Sultan" Shiv Kumar Batalvi.

A number of Sikhs have been elected to public offices. Among them is Sunjevan "Sonia" Kaur Birdi, the first woman of Asian origin to be nominated as a Member of Parliament in 2013. She currently serves in the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development. When Sikhs moved to Kenya in the late 19th century as part of the British workforce, they carried with them Guru Granth Sahib. Here they got permission to set up a gurdwara. A temporary structure made of tin sheets at Makindu, halfway between Nairobi and Mombasa, the route on which the famous rail line was built, was where the first gurdwara, now known as Gurdwara Makindu Sahib, was set up. Said to be 'Sachkhand asthan' of Sikhs in Africa, today beautiful darbar halls adorn it along with a kitchen and langar hall. There are 92 well-furnished rooms for visitors, besides a museum and library. Another old gurdwara is the Railways Landhis in Nairobi. Built in 1902, it has been granted heritage status. It has a kitchen and langar hall, besides a residential wing. Sikhs are playing their role in keeping Punjabiyat alive in this land.



## How Drake Encouraged Nelly Furtado's Musical Comeback

Rapper Drake encouraged Nelly Furtado's musical comeback. Nelly, 44, revealed that fellow Canadian Drake, 36, - who invited her to be a surprise guest for his All-Canadian North Stars event in Toronto last summer - reminded her about her legacy and value to the music industry and urged her to get back in the studio to work on new music.

Rapper Drake encouraged Nelly Furtado's musical comeback. Nelly, 44, revealed that fellow Canadian Drake, 36, - who invited her to be a surprise guest for his All-Canadian North Stars event in Toronto last summer - reminded her about her legacy and value to the music industry and urged her to get back in the studio to work on new music.

She told Variety: "I have more gratitude nowadays so I know how blessed I am to be a performer and creator. I'm really leaning into my profession. I met Drake a year ago and we had some deep conversations about life and art and he blew up my head reminding me what a valuable artist I

am and told me to 'boss up' and make new music, and I listened. So, I couldn't say no when he invited me on stage. I had to be brave and boss up and start the next chapter."

As per Female First UK, Nelly has been working on her new album - her first since 2017's 'The Ride' - since last year and she has enjoyed the collaborative, creative process. She added: "I have been making new music solid, nonstop for the last year the way I like to: late nights, space to create wildly and loads of community and collaboration. I am making a pop album influenced by sounds that I love. My album touches on dance - I did a record with SG Lewis that I adore.



## Greta Gerwig Hopes To Revive The Culture Of Musicals Like 'The Wizard Of Oz'



Actress-director Greta Gerwig has compared the 'Barbie' movie to disco music. The 39-year-old filmmaker was inspired by musicals such as 'The Wizard of Oz' when it came to her tale about the beloved Mattel doll, and she hopes it gives audiences a fun, communal experience in the same way as the popular 1970s musical style, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told 'Total Film' magazine: "Basically, the assumption of disco is that when people get together, what they want to do is dance. I feel like that's really optimistic for a musical genre. And I feel like 'Barbie' is the same way."

The movie was shot on the Warner Bros. lot in Leavesden and lead star Margot Robbie was amazed at how many people working on site would 'gravitate' towards their studio in the hope of catching a glimpse at a scene.

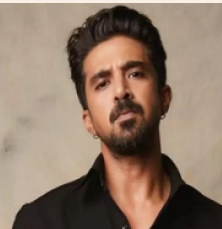
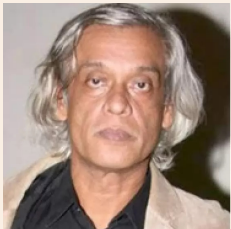
She said, quoted by 'Female First UK': "You've never seen so many grown men find excuses to come to set. Everyone would gravitate towards it. I mean, 'Fast + Furious' was shooting at the same studio and they would all come over to look. Our crew was made up of extraordinarily talented people who've seen the greatest sets in the world and they would tear up. Everyone was so excited."

Greta previously admitted she feared making the film would end her career.

## MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY: SUDHIR MISHRA, SAQIB ALL PRAISE FOR EACH OTHER

Filmmaker Sudhir Mishra and Saqib Saleem are collaborating for ZEE5's original show 'Crime Beat' and they seem to have nothing but praise for one another.

Talking about the show at a pre-release party in Mumbai, Sudhir Mishra said: "It is a great idea -- the hunter becomes the hunted, and you don't know who is playing who. It is about a journalist and a gangster, so who is the story here? Is the gangster using the reporter, or vice-versa. It is a damn interesting show."



The series, created by Sudhir Mishra and Sanjeev Kaul, has Saqib Saleem, Rahul Bhat, Saba Azad, Danish Husain, Sai Tamhankar and Adinath Kothare playing the leading parts.

On Saqib, Mishra said: "He doesn't call

attention to himself and he always plays the part correctly. He doesn't punch above his weight, he doesn't try to impress with

just one shot, he allows the story to tell the tale. "You see the story through him. After

watching him through the entirety of the story, you'd realise what an amazing actor he is."

'Crime Beat' is a crime thriller series about an honest cop, a dangerous criminal and a twisted journalist coming together to create headlines.

Giving his take on the show, Saqib said: "The experience of 'Crime Beat' has been fantastic. I have been associated with the show for the last six months and it has turned out to be really amazing.

"The teaser is out and it has got some great feedback, so I am happy. I am very fortunate that I got to work with Sudhir Mishra and Sanjeev Bhai, and of course, a great range of actors."

ZEE5 will release the trailer and confirm the streaming date soon.

## Ezra Miller Lies Low On 'The Flash', Wants 'Conversation To Be About The Movie'



'The Flash' is almost here, and the rollout has been anything but typical, says 'Variety'. With just 13 days to go before the film's June 16 release, titular star Ezra Miller has done no press and will make a low-profile appearance at the Los Angeles premiere on June 12, only posing for photos rather than doing interviews, 'Variety' notes.

The film's director, Andy Muschietti, and cast members Ben Affleck, Sasha Calle, and Michael Shannon will also hit the red carpet that will be missing the standard press gauntlet. (The film's Michael Keaton and fellow DC Universe superhero Jason Momoa will miss the premiere as they are filming movies in London and New Zealand, respectively.)

Typically, the star of a \$190-million tentpole will promote the film in interviews across print, TV and oftentimes podcasts spanning multiple continents, 'Variety' points out, adding that Harrison Ford has been 'ubiquitous' in the run-up to the June 30 bow of 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny', including a high-profile showing at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Ezra wants the movie to open and the conversation to be about the movie and not about Ezra," a source close to Miller, quoted by 'Variety', explains. "They are focused on their mental health and don't want it to be transactional." (Miller uses the pronouns they/them to refer to himself.)

Warner Bros. is attempting to pull off an unprecedented feat by taking its latest DC offering into the global marketplace without any promotion from its star, who was mired in controversy following arrests and erratic behaviour, but who has stayed out of trouble since last summer after seeking treatment for "complex mental health issues" following "a time of intense crisis," says 'Variety'.

But will Miller's lack of shilling hurt box office prospects of 'Flash'? The answer appears to be 'no'.

## KGF Makers Hombale Films Hail Ace Director Prashanth Neel On His Birthday



Hombale films, the production house behind 'KGF' and 'Kantara', described its leading director Prashanth Neel a very happy birthday and described him as a "madman" who transforms his scribbles into scripts that transcend borders.

Best known for helming the 'KGF' franchise, Prashanth Neel is now in the thick of 'Salaar' with Prabhas in the lead role. It is one of the most anticipated movies of the year. A statement issued by the company said: "A madman transformed his scribbles into scripts that transcended borders. Narratives presented in ways that hadn't yet been seen. To one such madman, we wish a very happy birthday." In this day and age, the statement pointed out, Prashanth Neel and S.S. Rajamouli are probably two of the only and biggest pan-India content creators. Salaar, incidentally, is being billed as one of the biggest films of 2023, mounted a budget reported to be Rs 400 crore. The team and technicians of 'KGF' are also behind 'Salaar', so expectations are very high about the film, which is scheduled to be released on September 28.

## Veteran Actress Sulochana Latkar - Screen 'Mom' To Many Stars - Passes Away

Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar - who played memorable roles in films in over 250 Hindi and 50-odd Marathi films, and was the screen mother to many top stars - passed away here on Sunday. She was 94.

She breathed her last at a private hospital here this evening, said Bollywood sources.

Sulochana - as she was popular in the film industry - was noted for supporting characters to a motherly figure, and endeared herself to the viewers for over six decades.

Some of her memorable early performances as the lead heroine were in Marathi films like 'Sasurvas', 'Vahinichya Bangdiya', 'Meeth Bhakar', 'Sangtye Aika' and 'Dhakti Jai' and many more.

Born on July 30, 1928 at Khadaklat village of Belagavi (now in Karnataka), she made her film debut in 1946.

Among her top Bollywood films was in the Bimal Roy classic, 'Bandini' (1963), which is remembered even today.

Other Hindi films in which she acted include 'Jab Pyar Kisise Hota Hai', 'Duniya', 'Amir Garib',



"Baharon Ke Sapne", "Kati Patang", "Mere Jeevan Saathi", "Pyar Mohabbat", "Duniya", "Johny Mera Naam", "Warrant", "Joshi", "Doli", "Prem Nagar", "Aakraman", "Bhola Bhaia", "Tyaag", "Aashiq Hoon Baharon Ka", "Adhikar", "Nai Roshni", "Aaye Din Bahar Ke", "Aaye Milan Ki Bela", "Ab Dilli Dur Nahin", "Majboor", "Gora Aur Kala", "Devar", "Kahani Kismat Ki", "Talaash" and "Azaad".

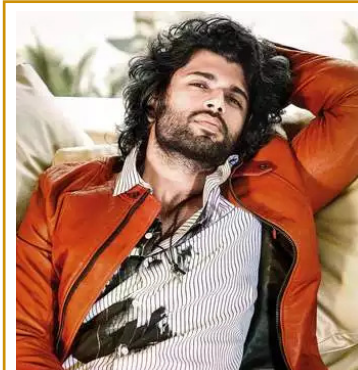
"Over the years she played the on screen mother to many stars including Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna, Rishi Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna, Rajendra Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Nutan, Asha Parekh, Waheeda Rehman, Zeenat Aman, Tanuja, et al.

Sulochana was conferred the Padma Shri in 1999, and the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

The Maharashtra government bestowed the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award', the highest honour of the state.

A familiar resident of Prabhadevi, she was admitted to the Sushrushta Hospital for old-age related problems, where she passed away peacefully on Sunday evening.

Top leaders including CM Eknath Shinde, Dy CM Devendra Fadnis, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Ajit Pawar, NCP President Sharad Pawar.



## HERE'S LOOKING AT WHAT MAKES VIJAY DEVERAKONDA ONE OF INDIA'S MOST DESIRABLE!

BE IT IN FILMS OR AT ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCE, VIJAY HAS ALWAYS DONNED A VERY LOVING PERSONALITY. WHILE WE WONDER HOW HIS ACTOR CAN ALONE CEMENT HIMSELF IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE, HERE ARE THE REASONS FOR THE SAME.

With his lover-boy charm, Vijay Deverakonda has always ruled the hearts of the masses. His screen presence delivers it all, a good physique, a cute smile, the hotness. This is indeed a reason the actor has a distinct fan base among girls who never miss a chance to adore this charming lover boy. Be it in films or at any public appearance, Vijay has always donned a very loving personality. While we wonder how his

actor can alone cement himself in the minds of people, here are the reasons for the same.

Vijay is probably the only actor who has a very sleek and fit body. Be any attire his body posture adapts it all. Moreover, the actor has indeed sweated out a lot in the gym to maintain it. In fact, he took his fitness level a bit notch high to perfect his role in 'Liger'. His well-shaped physique is the reason, he looks so hot on the screen

and in real life too.

Strongest Screen Presence

Every time, no matter how the film is, Vijay has always shined with his attractive screen presence. He owns the screen just like the heroes of the modern age of cinema. The charm, the attitude, the performance - it's all so on point and literally even a glimpse of him on-screen is enough to make the fans go gaga. Well, the nude 'Liger' poster with a bunch of roses is a

pure example to justify the same.

Female fan following

Vijay is a darling for girls. There is no one who rules the hearts of girls around the nation like Vijay does. Be it his films or any social media post, girls never leave a chance to shower their love on the actor. As soon as he posts any picture, girls flood the comment section by dropping heart emojis and writing loving comments for him.

Always up for his fans

Vijay has always done wonders for his fans. Be it fulfilling his promise by sending 100 fans on an all-expenses-paid trip to Manali to distributing free ice cream on his birthday around the cities with his Deverakonda Birthday Truck tradition, to surprising his fans with special gifts on Christmas with DeveraSanta. In addition to this, the actor does a lot for his fans with his own clothing brand



# How does food get contaminated? Unsafe habits that kill over 400K people a year

Unsafe foods, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), contribute to poor health, including impaired growth and development, micro-nutrient deficiencies, non-communicable and infectious diseases, and mental illness. Globally, one in ten people are affected by food-borne diseases each year. Antonina Mutoro, a nutrition researcher at the African Population and Health Research Center, explains what causes food contamination and how we can lower the risk of disease.



Access to safe and nutritious food is a basic human right which many do not enjoy, partly because of food contamination. This is defined as the presence of harmful chemicals and microorganisms in food that can cause illness. According to the WHO, food contamination affects about one in every ten people globally and causes about 420,000 deaths annually. Food contamination can be: physical: foreign objects in food can potentially cause injury or carry disease-causing microorganisms. Pieces of metal, glass and stones can be choking hazards, or cause cuts or damage to teeth. Hair is another physical contaminant.

pests (weevils, cockroaches and rats) - parasites (worms), can cause disease. Chemical: substances like soap residue, pesticide residue and toxins produced by microorganisms such as aflatoxins can lead to poisoning. What are the most common causes of food contamination? The most common cause of food contamination is poor food handling. This includes not washing your hands at the appropriate time - before eating and preparing food, after using the toilet, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Using dirty utensils, not washing fruits and vegetables with clean water, and storing raw and cooked food in the same place can also be harmful. Sick people should not handle food. And you should avoid consuming under-cooked foods, particularly meat. Poor farming practices

can also contaminate food. This includes the heavy use of pesticides and antibiotics, or growing fruits and vegetables using contaminated soil and water. The use of inadequately composted or raw animal manure or sewage is also harmful. Fresh foods can lead to a number of illnesses. In Kenya, for instance, the contamination of meat, fruits and vegetables with human waste is relatively common. This is attributed to the use of contaminated water to wash food. Flies carrying contaminants can also directly transfer faecal matter and bacteria onto plant leaves or fruits. Street foods are another common source of food contamination. These foods are widely consumed in low- and middle-income countries because they're cheap and easily accessible. What are the signs that you've eaten contaminated

food? Biological and chemical substances are the most common food contaminants. They account for more than 200 food-borne illnesses, including

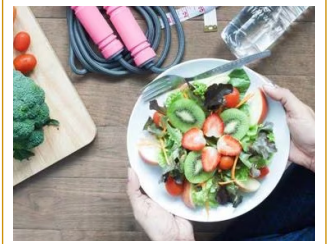
to poor hygiene and sanitation, including a lack of access to safe water and toilets. Additionally, when children are ill, they tend to have poor appetites. This translates to reduced

**ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT WHICH MANY DO NOT ENJOY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF FOOD CONTAMINATION.**

typhoid, cholera and listeriosis. Food-borne illnesses usually present as diarrhoea, vomiting and stomach pains. In severe cases, food-borne illnesses can lead to neurological disorders, organ failure and even death. It's therefore advisable to seek immediate medical attention if you begin to experience symptoms like persistent diarrhoea and vomiting after eating or drinking. Children aged under five are the most vulnerable to food-borne illnesses. They bear 40 per cent of the food-borne disease burden. A child's immune system is still developing and can't fight off infections as effectively as an adult's. In low- and middle-income countries, reduced immunity in children can also occur as a result of malnutrition and frequent exposure to infections due

to poor hygiene and sanitation, including a lack of access to safe water and toilets. Additionally, when children are ill, they tend to have poor appetites. This translates to reduced

## Nutritionist shares the foods you should be having before and after your workout



With this in mind, Hannah Gilbert, Director of Culinary Innovation and Operations at meal delivery service YouFoodz has provided some useful insight into what food will be having before and after your workouts to make the most of it. For foods to eat before a workout, Gilbert, who studied exercise, sports science and nutrition at University of Sydney, said eating before exercise is key to an effective workout.

Before you work out? "Think of it like you're fuelling up a car so that it's ready to go. Eating at least two hours before exercise can help build your energy and burn more calories," Gilbert says. Eating before exercise is key to an effective workout. "You should eat healthy carbohydrates that are high in fibre as these slowly release energy and lean protein, perfect for a workout. These foods can include whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, whole grain pasta, brown rice, low fat or fat free yoghurt, fruits and vegetables. You should avoid saturated fats and most healthy proteins as these take longer to digest, taking away oxygen and blood from your muscles. The most important thing is to remember to drink plenty of fluids ahead of your workout. This will prevent you from getting dehydrated during your exercise."

What to eat after exercising? Once you've done your workout, it's just as important to get the right amount of protein and carbs to help build your energy back up. "It's recommended to eat a nutritious, high-protein meal or snack within an hour after exercise. Eating after exercise helps your muscles recover and replaces their glycogen stores which is especially important if you're just getting used to working out," Gilbert says. Tired after exercise and workout. Overtraining concept. Exhausted woman lying on floor breathing and resting after heavy cardio training in home gym. Sad fitness athlete. Too much working out. After a workout you need to build your energy back up. (Getty Images/Stockphoto)

If you're not going to eat a meal after your workout, Gilbert suggests definitely considering a snack like bananas, apple with peanut butter and energy bars. "Again, a meal or snack with healthy carbohydrates and protein is beneficial at this point, just like those already mentioned, but also high protein foods like chicken, avocado and eggs. To help with blood sugar and build up energy, try a sports drink or diluted juice," she says. "One way to make sure you get all of the carbs and protein you need to help your fitness goals and support your exercise routine is to begin meal planning. This requires you to plan and cook a batch of a certain recipe so that you can have it over the next few days. This is great if you need an easy lunch to reheat in the office, or looking for a breakfast that is already made in the morning."

# The WHO says we shouldn't bother with artificial sweeteners for weight loss or health. Is sugar better?

This week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) advised that "non-sugar sweeteners should not be used as a means of achieving weight control or reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases" such as diabetes and heart disease.

Artificial sweeteners are either natural compounds or synthesised compounds that taste sweet like sugar - and are up to 400 times sweeter by weight - but provide no or negligible energy. As a comparison, sugar has 17kj (or four calories) per gram, so one teaspoon of sugar would have 85 kilojoules. Several types of artificial sweeteners are used in Australia. Some are synthetic, others are extracted from foods such as monk fruit and the stevia plant.



ly if we can't do a trial because it's unethical or unsafe to give or withhold specific treatments. For body fatness, the randomised controlled trials showed those consuming more artificial sweeteners had slightly lower weight - an average of 0.71kg - than those consuming less or no artificial sweeteners. But the cohort studies found higher intakes of artificial sweeteners were associated with a higher BMI, or body mass index (0.14 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and a 76% increased likelihood of having obesity.

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What's the new advice based on? The WHO has based its recommendation on a systematic review it has conducted. Its objective was to provide evidence-based guidance on the use of artificial sweeteners in weight management and for disease prevention. Weight management is important, given obesity increases the risk of diseases such as diabetes and certain types of cancer, which are the leading cause of death globally. The WHO's systematic review included data from different types of studies, which give us

different information: 50 were randomised controlled trials (when scientists intervene and make changes - in this case to the diet - while keeping everything else constant, to see the impact of that change) 97 were prospective cohort studies (when scientists observe a risk factor in a large group of people over a period of time to see how it impacts an outcome - without intervening or make any changes) 47 were case-control studies (another type of observational study that follows and compares

two groups of otherwise matched people, aside from the risk factor of interest). Randomised controlled trials provide us with causal data, allowing us to say the intervention led to the change we saw. Prospective cohort and case-control only give us associations or links. We can't prove the risk factors led to a change in the outcomes - in this case, weight - because other risk factors that scientists haven't considered could be responsible. But they give great clues about what might be happening, particular-

# Stay on track with these healthy and delicious meal prep ideas for busy lifestyles

Eating healthy can be a challenge when you have a busy lifestyle, but meal-prepping can help. Here are some nutritious meal prep ideas to keep you fueled.

Finding the time and energy to prepare healthy meals every day might be challenging in our hectic life. However, you can take control of your diet and make sure you're providing your body with scrumptious and nourishing meals by making a little advance planning and preparation. With the right meal prep ideas, you can enjoy delicious and nutritious meals throughout the week without breaking the bank. Meal preparation also transforms your week by allowing you to experience a variety of flavours, save time, and make better choices. Whether you're a busy professional, a student, or a parent on the go, these meal prep ideas are sure to make your life easier and more delicious. (Also read: Effective meal planning tips to save money and stay healthy.)



instance. In this manner, you can mix these components in numerous ways to make new meals each day, satisfying your palate.

- 1. Plan your meals Plan out your meals for the coming week to start. Consider your food choices, nutritional requirements, and any objectives you may have, such as weight loss or muscle building.

- 2. Prep ingredients in advance To make cooking during the week a breeze, spend some time preparing the items in advance. Vegetables should be washed, chopped, and proteins should be marinated. To make it simple to prepare meals later, store

- 3. Mix and match Make a variety of elements that can be combined and matched all week long. Prepare a huge quantity of roasted veggies, a few different proteins (chicken, tofu, or fish), and several sauces or dressings to add flavour, for

- 4. Portion control Utilise portioned containers or meal preparation containers with dividers to ensure portion control. By doing this, you may prevent overeating and make sure your meals are balanced. Divide your vegetables, cereals, and proteins into the proper serving sizes, leaving room for healthy fats and sauces. You will have a visible reminder to direct your eating habits and support your goals if you have pre-portioned meals.

- 5. Embrace mason jar salads Enjoying fresh and crisp salads throughout the week is simple and appealing when done in mason jars. Layers of filling components, including grains, proteins, and vegetables, should then be added on top of the dressing at the bottom of the jar. For protection against wilting, save the fragile greens for the top layer. To prepare your salad for consumption, simply shake the container to spread the dressing.
- 6. Freezer-friendly meals Utilize your freezer by making freezer-friendly dishes that can be quickly reheated. Make huge quantities of soups, stews, or casseroles and split them up for freezing. On hectic days when you don't have time to cook, these meals might come in quite handy. You may quickly prepare a wholesome and delectable supper by just defrosting and heating them.
- 7. Smart snacking When planning meals, don't overlook snacks. Prepare healthy, time-saving snacks like pre-portioned nuts cut fruit, or homemade energy balls. When hunger hits, having these snacks on hand will help you make wiser decisions and keep you from reaching for harmful ones. "To sum up, meal planning is essential to conquering the difficulties of a hectic lifestyle and ensuring that you feed your body nutritious foods. You may save time, savour a variety of flavours, and make wise decisions for your health by planning your meals, preparing ingredients ahead of time, and embracing strategies like mix-and-match, portion management, mason jar salads, freezer-friendly dishes, and smart snacking. You can alter your eating patterns, maintain a nourishing diet, and meet your fitness objectives with a little organisation and hard work. Make meal preparation a regular part of your life to reap the rewards of quick, healthy eating," concludes Chef Gauri.





# How Haryana is conserving groundwater

**KHATTAR GOVT'S CROP DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT**

CHANDIGARH: As water crisis looms large owing to exploitation of ground reserves, state governments are using innovations to preserve the precious resource. Results on the ground show that policy nudge works much better than punitive action. Haryana government's key scheme to save groundwater is one such example.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar-led state government pays the farmers to shift from paddy cultivation to other crops, or even to keep their fields idle (fallow) so it acts as a natural rejuvenator for the soil. In the last two years, officials said over 1.7 lakh acres of paddy cultivated land has shifted to other crops particularly cotton (94,000 acres), while farmers did not plant paddy on 30,000 acres of farm land. Bajra was planted on another 10,000 acres, while vegetables on 21,000 acres. The government has paid over Rs 117 crore as incentive to over one lakh farmers.

The crop diversification scheme 'mera pani, meri viraat', has a potential to turn around the severely impacted areas due to



over-exploitation of groundwater. Known as the food bowl of India, 83 per cent of Haryana's geographical area is cultivable land, of which 64 per cent is irrigated by tube-wells. The annual groundwater withdrawal in Haryana is 137 per cent of its extractable ground water resources. The main reason is six to seven times increase in paddy cultivation in Haryana in the last five decades. Paddy was cultivated over 4.8 lakh acres in 1966-67 whereas it went up to 34.1 lakh acres in 2021-22. Paddy is a water guzzling crop. In the state, between 2004 and 2020, the number of over-exploited blocks have increased from 55 to 85. Comparing the area

under cultivation, since the green revolution of the 1960s, the cultivable area under paddy has grown by over eight times; for wheat it is over three times. The area under bajra, millets and pulses cultivation has gone down sharply, showing the preferred crops by the farmers owing to their better market remuneration. This also explains why the farmers in the state of Haryana and Punjab were on streets against the three reform bills as they feared that once their paddy or wheat will not be procured by the central agencies at the MSP, the benefits that have flowed to them since the green revolution would be taken away. The crop diversification scheme was launched

# Life limps back to normalcy in Manipur, no violence reported in last 24 hours

**State is completely peaceful: Security adviser to state govt**

IMPAL: A day after clashes broke out between the militants and security forces in Imphal, Manipur, life is slowly limping back to normalcy in the state. Security adviser to state government said that the situation is back to "peaceful".

There was no incident of violence in Manipur in the last 24 hours and the state was "completely peaceful", said Kuldip Singh.

Meanwhile, in addition to the 140 arms, as many as 35 more weapons have been surrendered following the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal. Also, a total of 88 bombs were also recovered in Manipur. There was no incident of violence and the situation in Manipur is peaceful, a former DG of the CRPF, told agencies.

CRPF and Army have been patrolling in the buffer zones between Manipur valleys and hills, he added.

After Shah's visit to the violence-hit state and his discussions with the public, civil society organisation representatives and community heads, peace efforts



were initiated. "All are working in close coordination with the administration and helping to restore peace," he said.

Curfew has been lifted in most of the places for 12 hours and life is returning to normal. At least 15 people were injured in fresh violence that broke out in two villages in Manipur's Imphal West district. According to police, suspected 'Kuki' militants armed with sophisticated weapons and bombs attacked the villages.

State police and Manipur Rifles stationed at the two villages—Phayeng and Kangchup Chingkhong—opened fire and retaliated.

Fresh attacks were also reported from parts of Pombikhok in the Bishnupur district.

However, no casualties were reported. Over 90 people have lost their lives in the ethnic clashes that broke out in the state about a month ago. Shah, who was on a four-day visit to the state, also warned of strict action against those found in possession of weapon's during the police's search operations.

A judicial probe headed by a retired high court chief justice was announced by

# Railway ministry seeks CBI probe into Odisha train crash

**THE RAILWAYS HAS RULED OUT DRIVER ERROR AND SYSTEM MALFUNCTION**

The Railway Board has recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into Friday's horrific train crash in Odisha's Balasore which left 275 people dead and 1,175 people injured, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Sunday.

"Keeping in mind all that happened, the information that the administration has, the Railways board has made a recommendation that the investigation be handed over to the CBI," Vaishnav said.

The minister had earlier ruled out driver error and system malfunction, indicating a possible "sabotage" and tampering of the electronic interlocking system behind the accident. He said the "root cause" of the accident and the "criminals" responsible for it have been identified.

"It happened due to a change made in the electronic interlocking and



point machine," Vaishnav told reporters.

The top railway officials in Delhi, while explaining how the point machine and the interlocking system function, also refused to rule out the possibility of outside intervention.

Jaya Verma Sinha, a senior official told the agency.

The accident took place near the Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore at 7 pm when the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express hit behind a goods train and derailed. At least 10-12 of its coaches fell on the adjacent tracks on which Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express was travelling. After a preliminary investigation, the officers have given a clean chit to the driver of the Coromandel Express, stating that he had the green signal to move forward and he was "not over-speeding".

It is called a fail safe system, so it means that even if it fails, all the signals will turn red and all train operations will stop. Now, as the minister said there was a problem with the signalling system. It could be that someone has done some digging without seeing the cables. Running of any machine is prone to failures," he told the news agency.

"It could be a case of tampering or sabotage from within or from outside. We have not ruled anything out," another

# Getting death threats in Dawood Ibrahim's name: Sameer Wankhede

Former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede claimed that he and his family were receiving death threats in the name of gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

Wankhede was booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in alleged bribery probe in drugs-on-cruise case involving actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan.

Earlier also Wankhede had approached Mumbai Police relating to the threats he had been receiving from fake accounts. He told the police that he was receiving death threats through social media in the name of Dawood.

He had asked the police that "Who would be responsible if he or his family were attacked," reported agencies.

Meanwhile according to police officials, an investigation is underway in this matter. Wankhede has been booked by the CBI for allegedly demanding Rs 25 crore as a bribe for framing Aryan Khan in the cruise drugs case.

NCB officials had said that Wankhede had violated the conduct rules by producing conversations with Shah Rukh Khan over his son's arrest.

He was also alleged of trying to scare an NCB official when he took over the case.



# Odisha train crash: Goods train might have derailed first, says Tathagata Roy

ODISHA: Even as the Railways has launched a high-level probe into the horrific train crash in Odisha's Balasore, in which more than 260 people died and around 900 others got injured, a debate on what led to the mishap has already begun on social media platforms.

The accident, involving three trains—Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train—is one of the worst in the country and took place on Friday night near the Bahanaga Bazar



station, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170 km north of Bhubaneswar.

Railway Spokesperson Amitabh Sharma told agencies that the Coromandel Express derailed first, and its 10-12 coaches fell on the line on which the Bengaluru-Howrah Express was travelling, forcing it to jump off the tracks. Some coaches of the Coromandel Express fell on top of a stationary goods train in an adjacent railway track.

However, senior BJP leader and former governor of Meghalaya and Tripura, Tathagata Roy has given a different version of

the accident. Roy, a former engineer at Railways, wrote in a Facebook post that the goods train might have derailed earlier and had listed towards the main line. The Coromandel hit this goods train and listed towards the opposite main line where it was hit by the Yeshwantpur Express, he said.

"I am an ex-Railwayman and was trying to fathom how exactly the terrible accident at Balasore took place. In the meantime some retarded 'secular' morons started yelling why I had not expressed my sorrow," Roy said.

# How Jantar Mantar shaped protests in the Country

**Stern warning is pasted on the road's entry that Sec 144 has been imposed in the area**

For three decades, the air over Jantar Mantar had always lain heavy, borne down by the weight of sullen expectations. But in the one week since this 'desi' Hyde Park was cleared out of protesters, following the wrestlers' protests against Federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh, the heaviness now rings of a desolate emptiness where hope has been stripped barren.

Since that fateful Sunday last week, when the Republic gained a new Parliament just down the road but lost something, perhaps, even more precious along the way, something fundamental has changed on this tiny, curvy stretch of road. The crack-down on wrestlers' protest now resulted in Olympians, who are in search of elusive justice being removed, but, literally a total stamping out of all protesters and demonstrations from 'dissent square', as some have described Jantar Mantar over the course of the last quarter century.

As toured the area on Saturday afternoon, except for some totem banners and call-to-action posters strewn along the 'Dance of democracy' that the area was symbolic of, all these years, seemed like a dream that died. A stern warning



is pasted on the road's entry points at both Ashoka Road as well as Tolstoy Marg (an offshoot from Parliament Street) that link this famous stretch, that Section 144, which prohibits public gathering, has been imposed.

That is ironic in itself since the very fact that made Jantar Mantar, the go-to place for public protests and demonstrations, this tiny sliver of a road was the only area within the high-security zone of Lutyens Delhi that did not have the permanent imposition of Section 144. The zone comprises of Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament, PMO and the North and South Blocks, as well as surrounding areas filled with national and political institutions, constitutional bodies and state Bhawans. The only crowd you find now are hundreds of police and security personnel along with multiple levels of barricades, water

alleges. After fighting in her hometown for long, she and her mother have come to Delhi, as she feels she has a better chance of being heard by being on Jantar Mantar.

"We've cleared out all protesters from this area along with the wrestlers last week," quipped a policeman fanning himself on the footpath, peering around to see if the staff van carrying lunch had arrived or not.

It was in 1993, about five years after thousands of farmers laid siege to Lutyens Delhi in 1988 and shook the then Congress regime to the core (yes, the 2021 farmer protests wasn't the first time when farmers descended on Delhi), that authorities unofficially designated the area around Jantar Mantar, an 18th century sundial and observatory situated between the national capital's Connaught Place (now called Rajiv Chowk) and the Parliament, as the go-to area for holding protests and rallies.

Before that, Boat Club, the open lawn to the left of Rajpath (now re-titled Kartavya Path) was where organisations and institutions headed for protests. Some of the biggest agitations against Indira Gandhi in the run-up to Emergency took place here.

# Book on Sidhu Moosewala's death, its investigation to release on Monday

CHANDIGARH: A new book gives a detailed account of the death and the subsequent investigation into the murder of Punjabi singer-rapper Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu – popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala.

Who Killed Moosewala?, scheduled to release on Monday, is written by journalist-author Jupinderjit Singh. Published by Westland Books, it looks at the events of May 29, 2022, the day the Punjabi hip-hop star was shot by six armed assailants while driving to his aunt's house in a village in Punjab. "While reporting on it (Moosewala's death) I felt that news stories were not going to be enough and I decided to write this book. The

weight of responsibility to stick to the facts pressed upon my soul, especially because the investigation is still ongoing. The toll on me is immeasurable, driven by it all, I persisted, yet by a desire to shed light on the murder that reminds us all of the fragility of life," said the author in a statement. An icon for many, Moosewala had also been a controversial figure. There were allegations that he promoted gun culture and violence, and rumours that he had ties with certain gangs. With his sudden and violent death, the questions about his life became louder -- as also those around his death. "Who had killed Moosewala? was what every-

one wanted to know.

In the gripping and fast-paced book, the author closely follows the investigation into Moosewala's death and also offers us glimpses into the man he was behind the mask of celebrity. Besides the story of the slain singer and those behind his murder, this book is also a rumination on the growing unrest in Punjab.

"Singh's understanding of the case is strong and comprehensive. In this riveting book, backed by meticulous research, Jupinderjit offers up a fascinating portrait of the singer and the Punjab he inhabited," said Sanghamitra Biswas, executive editor at Westland Books.





# James Vince steers Hampshire past Ravi-less, rudderless Sussex

**BOPARA LATE ARRIVAL UNDERMINES VISITORS AS HAMPSHIRE STROLL TO TEN-WICKET SUCCESS**

LONDON: Ravi Bopara's failure to reach the Ageas Bowl in time to lead Sussex in their Vitality Blast tie against Hampshire was followed by a chaotic, and at times utterly delightful, batting display that ultimately cost them a 10-wicket defeat as their inoperative captain watched a little sheepishly from the bench.

Sussex's 144 had been made on a dry, grippy hybrid surface which encouraged imaginings that they were not quite out of the match but Hampshire, the defending champions, strutted to victory with 31 balls to spare - their first-ever 10-wicket victory in this competition. Hampshire go third, but Sussex are second bottom and have lost their last two matches heavily at the start of a period of six games in eight days.

Hampshire's experience is coming to the fore again. Ben McDermott was in robust mood as he made his first half-century in 14 innings and James Vince, who this season has already become the highest



career run-scorer in the Blast, was once again in imperious form. In his unbeaten 71 took 31 balls, the highlights a couple of immense slog-sweeps, and he now level with Derbyshire's Wayne Madsen in the Blast run-scoring table with 351 runs at an average of 175.50. "I didn't think I played all that well," he said, further berating himself for being unrunned out McDermott with a handful of runs needed.

McDermott, who dominated the strike early on, imposed himself with a towering six down the ground off George Garton and then ran the next ball over the ropes. The pair's first fifty stand of the season came off the last ball of the powerplay, but they ended the match with Hampshire's highest first-wicket stand in T20.

his beauty of stroke was achieved in remarkably undemonstrative fashion, as if his sheer elegance animates those who watch him more than it delights himself.

Bopara was caught in a traffic jam on the M27, caused by a serious accident around 4pm which caused the eastbound carriageway to be closed throughout the evening. As Sussex's captain, he might have been expected to get there earlier than most, but he was the only player on time for the game, although there were many late arrivals in the crowd. He passed on the captaincy to Tom Alsop as he sat motionless in traffic.

Paul Farbrace, Sussex's head coach, restricted his comments to Sussex's on-field shortcomings. "There is a lot of inexperience and it is showing," he said. "It is showing in our shot selection and reading of the game. We had glimpses of good cricket and then we had those unbelievably dozy cricket."

# Joe Clarke, Colin Munro set tempo as Bears bested despite Sam Hain 97

**Nottinghamshire claim much-needed win at home of table-topping Bears**

LONDON: Notts Outlaws heaved their staccato Vitality Blast campaign back into forward motion with a spectacular 11-run win over Birmingham Bears at run-soaked Edgbaston.

Notts were put in by the top-of-the-table Bears but piled up an imposing 214 for 3. When two batters in the same innings reach half-centuries with their fifth six, things have not gone well for the opposition - so it was with Joe Clarke, 89 not out off 53 balls, and Colin Munro (87 off 43) as they pummeled the bowlers in a partnership of 122 from 68 balls.

The remarkable Sam Hain then took his Blast run-tally this season to 303 with a superb unbeaten 97 off 52, but the Bears fell just short on 203 for 9. Notts will hope their third win in six games will be the start of a consistent run towards the quarter-finals. The Bears meanwhile, have faltered after a flying start. It has not been the homecoming Birmingham had in mind for Moeen Ali. They



won four out of four before his return, since when they have lost two out of two - evidence, perhaps, of the case of 'never change a winning team'. After choosing to bowl, the Bears soon removed Alex Hales, bowled by Henry Brookes with the ninth ball, but the brisk breakthrough simply opened the door to the onslaught. After a watchful start (Dan Mousley's first two overs cost just five runs), Munro launched an

offensive which silenced the big home crowd. He bashed Glenn Maxwell straight out of the attack with two sixes and two more sailed into the stands from what proved to be Danny Briggs' only over. Maxwell, Briggs and Ed Bernard together bowled three overs for 49.

It was thrilling hitting from Munro who was within sight of his sixth T20 century when he lifted Moeen to long-off in pursuit of his tenth six. That was the signal for Clarke, hitherto content to be the quiet partner, to attack. The former Rapids batter smote a Brookes full toss into the crowd to raise the Outlaws' 200 and the innings closed on 214 with 15 fours and 16 sixes.

# India keep their options open as Oval build-up intensifies

**Sunday's training session gave no possible answers to Bharat vs Kishan and how many spinners India will pick**

Two spinners and three fast bowlers? Or one spinner and four fast men including Shardul Thakur as bowling allrounder? Who should be wicket-keeper - the specialist KS Bharat or the X-factor player Ishan Kishan?

These are among the key questions that have confronted India since they announced their squad for the WTC final. If you were at the Oval on Sunday, two days before the Test billed as the Ultimate Test, you would have struggled to come away with any hints as to what combination India are leaning towards.



Two young men, good friends, both in their 20s, were in focus during India's first training session in London after almost a week in Arundel where the squad assembled in batches, with players joining at different times while the IPL concluded. Shubman Gill and Kishan share a close bond off the field, and are not shy to rib each other with friendly banter. Gill needed Kishan as soon as he noticed the left-hander attempting to sweep a few times, albeit not convincingly. Kishan acknowledged that it was "not my shot."

Kishan, who is yet to make his Test debut, had two long batting sessions lasting close to three-quarters of an hour overall, but didn't practise his keeping. He also had a potential scare late in his second stint, taking a hit to his left forearm while trying to push at a delivery from left-arm quick Aniket Choudhary, one of India's back-up bowlers.

Kishan instantly dropped his bat and walked out to get his forearm iced and wrapped. It didn't appear to be a serious injury, as Kishan carried two bats comfortably in the hand of his injured arm post-training.

# UAE opt to bat; West Indies hand debuts to Drakes and Hodge

**For the hosts, 19-year-old batter Ali Naseer received his maiden ODI cap**

UAE won the toss and chose to bat against West Indies in the first ODI series, in Sharjah on a hot Sunday afternoon. Captain Muhammad Wasem said at the toss that he felt it would be easy to put up a total.

West Indies had two debutants: spin-bowling allrounder Kaveem Hodge and fast-bowling all-rounder Dominic Drakes. Drakes has played ten Tests for West Indies and comes with an experience of 25 List-A games. Hodge is relatively more experienced, having featured in 47 List-A matches. For UAE, 19-year-old



left-hand batter Ali Naseer made his ODI debut. This is West Indies' first outing under new white-ball coach Daren Sammy. UAE: 1 Muhammad Wasem (capt), 2 Aaryansh Sharma (wk), 3 Virritya Aravind, 4 Rameez Shahzad, 5 Asif Khan, 6 Rohan Mustafa, 7 Ali Naseer, 8 Aayan Afzal Khan, 9 Karthik Meiyappan, 10 Junaid Siddique, 11 Zahoor Khan. West Indies: 1 Johnson Charles, 2 Brandon King, 3 Shanarath Brooks, 4 Shai Hope (capt), 5 Keacy Carty, 6 Kaveem Hodge, 7 Roston Chase, 8 Kemaro Paul, 9 Yannic Cariah, 10 Odean Smith, 11 Dominic Drakes.

# Litton to captain Bangladesh in Afghanistan Test, in Shakib's absence

DHAKA: Litton Das will lead the Bangladesh side in the one-off Test against Afghanistan starting on June 14. He takes charge after Shakib Al Hasan's finger injury ruled him out for at least six weeks during the ODI series in Chelmsford last month. Litton will lead a 15-man squad that includes uncapped players Shahadat Hossain and Musfik Hasan.

The visitors are set to arrive on June 10. The home squad gathered for a training camp at the Shere Bangla National Stadium, the Test venue, on Sunday. Taskin Ahmed, who was

**UNCAPPED MUSFIK HASAN AND SHAHADAT HOSSAIN EARN TEST CALL-UPS**



ruled out of the Ireland Test due to a side strain, comes back to the squad. Zakir Hasan also makes his return after missing the Ireland Test in April. He suffered a thumb injury after being picked in the ODI squad for the first time in March. His return means no place for Shadman Islam, while Shakib and Rejaur Rahman Raja are also out

from the previous squad. Shahadat was a member of the Bangladesh side that won the Under-19 World Cup in 2020, after which he sparkled in domestic competitions.

A middle-order batter, he recently made two half-centuries in as many unofficial Tests against West Indies A.

Fast bowler Musfik burst onto the scene with a 25-wicket season, averaging 15.92, in the 2022-23 National Cricket League. He took 8 for 73 against Dhaka Division, only the third eight-wicket haul in domestic first-class cricket in Bangladesh.

# Sunrisers sunk as Blaze secure first place in race to Finals Day

**NAT SCIVER-BRUNT DOMINANT WITH BAT AND BALL IN CRUSHING WIN**

LONDON: The Blaze maintained their 100% record in the Charlotte Edwards Cup as a crushing defeat of Sunrisers saw them clinch a direct route to the final at Worcester next Saturday with England's Nat Sciver-Brunt starring with bat and ball at a sun-drenched Trent Bridge.

Sciver-Brunt smashed 58 from 30 balls and took 2 for 16 as winless Sunrisers were bowled out for 114 in reply to the Blaze's 198 for 6, giving the east Midlands side a bonus-point victory to make their position as group leaders unassailable, meaning they avoid the semi-final eliminator at Finals Day.

England team-mates Sarah Glenn, with 43 not out from 29 balls and two wickets for just nine runs from her leg breaks, and Tammy Beaumont (41 from 30) delivered as well, with overseas player Nadine de Klerk boosting her tally to 13 as the competition's leading wicket-taker, the South African taking 2 for 10 from three overs, strike bowler Sophie Munro grabbing 2 for 18.

Eva Gray, Kate Cockpack and Abitha Maqsood picked up two wickets each for the Sunrisers, for whom



England Under-19 captain Grace Scivens top-scored with 20.

Opting to bat first, the Blaze lost Sarah Bryce - Friday's matchwinner against Northern Diamonds with 67 from 43 balls - for effectively a first-ball duck after she inside-edged Gray on to her stumps, having watched two leg-side deliveries called as wides.

Otherwise, the powerplay could hardly have been more one-sided as Beaumont and Sciver-Brunt peppered a fully-extended Trent Bridge boundary as first on the card in a double-header

A fine over from Cockpack then changed the tone of the innings as the right-arm seamer had Beaumont leg before sweeping and dismissed Marie Kelly by the same method as the right-hander swung across the line for a second-ball duck. It took three lean overs before Glenn rediscovered the tempo with three boundaries in the same Jo Gardner over as the Blaze moved to 149 for 4 from 15.

Maqsood picked up a second wicket as George Boyce (was stumped but Glenn, who survived difficult chances on 29 and 40 on the way a career-best score in this format, added 35 in 21 balls with de Klerk before the South African top-edged Gray to mid-off, helping Blaze post the third-highest total in the competition this season.

It put Sunrisers under scoreboard pressure from the start and though 46 runs in the powerplay was respectable they came at a cost of three important wickets as Mady Villiers clipped Glenn's legspin straight to mid-off, Alice Macleod was pinned in front by Sciver-Brunt and South African Dane Van Niekerk top-edged to cover in the same over.



# 3 day business workshop on 'Homestay Capacity Building' concludes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 4: The three day business workshop on 'Homestay Capacity Building' organized by the Directorate of Tourism for interested stakeholders and intending local entrepreneurs, concluded here today at TRC Jammu.

The first of its kind workshop intended to sensitize the participants regarding various aspects of Homestay Business and skill enhancement of participating stakeholders in this regard.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Secretary, Tourism, Jammu, Abid Rashed Shah, and was also graced by MD and CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash. The workshop witnessed various capacity building training modules, brainstorming sessions along with detailed informative presentations by experts from J&K Bank, Gramen Bank, Make My Trip and faculty members from Jammu University besides detailed presentations by senior officers of Tourism Department.

The participants were acquainted with different aspects of Homestay Registration Process with the Tourism Department, schemes of J&K Bank, formal aspects of functional operations

**BOOSTING RURAL TOURISM ENTERPRISES SHALL HAVE MULTIPLIER EFFECT ON J&K'S ECONOMY: SECRETARY TOURISM**

for Homestays, guidelines and procedural aspects involved therein. A field exposure visit was also organized for all the participants on the second day of the workshop in which the participating delegates were taken to Hotel visits for formal interaction and on field exposure of the Hospitality sector. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary stressed upon the need to organize more such workshops and exposure interactions for the interested Homestay stakeholders. He appealed the participants to keep themselves updated about technological advancements and sustainable practices, focus on socio-cultural tourism aspects and take benefit from various government schemes. He assured that the Tourism Department shall provide all assistance to all interested stakeholders and youth volunteers for establishing their own Homestay enterprises.

Secretary hoped that boosting rural tourism enterprises shall have multiplier effect on overall economy of J&K and shall usher in an era of self reliance and growth. He reiterated the immense tourism potential in Jammu region and its cultural richness which provides for great

opportunity to all stakeholders to invest their resources in the Hospitality Sector.

While addressing the participants, Baldev Prakash assured that the J&K bank is committed to support all budding enterprises and shall afford all assistance to the young entrepreneurs especially interested Homestay stakeholders. ZDirector LEAD, Manish Ahluwalia, also appealed all participants to keep working in their endeavour to establish and run Homestays and boost the rural economy along with generation of self employment opportunities. He highlighted the need for continued engagement and collaboration to attract tourists from different parts of the country in Jammu region. He emphasized the importance of creating tourism cooperatives to foster collective efforts in developing a robust tourism ecosystem in the region.

Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai, highlighted the tourism potential of Jammu region vis-à-vis Rural Tourism, Heritage Tourism, Experiential Tourism and Leisure Tourism. He also highlighted the role of tourism in fostering cultural exchange and building bridges between com-

munities in the modern day context.

In her detailed presentation on Procedural aspects and legal framework for Registration of Homestays with the Department of Tourism, Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, sensitized the participants about various procedural aspects of Homestay Registration Policy of Tourism Department. She also elaborated various significant guidelines and mandates for Homestay Proprietors and presented it under the tagline of "Pronevo Aao Sadhe Bedhe" signifying the significance of guests in Dogri Culture. The 3 day

workshop concluded with certificate distribution, felicitation of esteemed guests and volunteers.

Among others present during the workshop were Amanjeet Singh, Special Secretary, Tourism Department, Sachin Dev, Additional Secretary Tourism, CA Rajeev Gupta, Board Member and Secretary LEAD, Dr. Umesh Shan, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism (Publicity) Jammu, Neha Mahajan, Deputy Director Tourism (Planning), Anil Sharma, Deputy Director Tourism (M&W), GM JKTDCC Sham Abrol and other officials of tourism department.

# Budgam MTB cycling championship concludes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 04: The 3rd edition of the Open Mountain Terrain Biking (MTB) cycling championship was held at Syodabad Ompora, Budgam, where around 90 cyclists participated. In the senior category, Parvaiz Hussain secured the first position, while Waheed Ahmed and Jehangir Ahanger secured the second and third positions, respectively.

In the youth boys category, Ikhlak Hussain of Khelo India cycling centre Budgam finished first, followed by Tajamal Rashid, Imdad Ali from the same centre who secured second and third positions, respectively.

In the sub-junior boys category, Azan Ali of Khelo India cycling centre Budgam, Arsalan of Khelo India cycling centre Budgam, and Mansoor Majeed secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively.

In the kids' category, Aleena Tahir of RP school HMD, Mohammad Mekail of Selvitor International School Shadipora and Mohamad Zaidan of Doon International School secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively. The Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull presided over the function as the chief guest on the closing ceremony, she alongwith Mohammad Akbar Khan, Member Sports Council, distributed the prizes among the winners. Speaking on the occasion, Nuzhat Gull highlighted the importance of cycling and participation in games and sports among the youth, assuring the cyclists that the Sports Council would take every possible step to build modern cycling tracks and walkways in all the districts of J&K. Nuzhat Gull applauded the role of cyclist Mohammad Akbar Khan playing an important role in inspiring and creating a favourable atmosphere for this sport in the district.

In another sports event, the fifth edition of the Vermul cup cricket match was held at Jhelum Stadium Janbazpora Baramulla.

# Thousands of devotees throng Sudhmahadev mela Day 2

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 04: Thousands of devotees and visitors thronged to Sudh Mahadev temple to seek the blessing of Lord Shiva amidst colourful festivity around the Mela site on Sunday.

During the second day of three day folk fair, the devotees first bathe in the Beenisangam which flows out from top of the Dhar Shivgarh and is considered an abode of innumerable saints. The devotees took in the holy spring (Pap Nashni bowl) situated just at the entrance of the temple, about which it is said that a holy dip in this spring shuns all evils. District administration has made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Mela like uninterrupted power, safe drinking water, sanitation, medicare.

# Director Rural Sanitation visits B'la; takes stock of different SBM (G) Assets

**Directs Officers to ensure saturation of all SBM-G Verticals for achieving ODF+ Status by 15th August**

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUNE 04: In order to scale up efforts towards achieving complete saturation in rural hygiene and cleanliness, Director Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh today paid visit to Baramulla and took appraisal of different projects being executed under the centrally sponsored Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G).

At the outset, the Director took inspection of the land patch at Palhallan Pattan that has been identified for the construction of Plastic Waste Management Unit. He also inspected the Solid Waste Management Shed at Palhallan which has been completed under the SBM. Similarly, the Director also inspected several other SBM verticals including Community

Sanitary Complexes (CSC), Segregation Sheds, compost pits, soak pits etc being constructed at different locations of the district wherein he emphasised to accelerate the pace of work so that such projects are completed well within the stipulated timeframe.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Baramulla, Gulzar Ahmad Khan briefed the director about the pace and position of all SBM Verticals besides presenting a brief sketch of activities and measures that are being carried out to achieve complete Sanitation of rural areas.

After taking the holistic review of all works, Charandeep Singh emphasised the officers to work in tandem with prominent stakeholders of the society so that all the underlined



The Director held an interactive session with the PRIs at Tangmar during which they apprised the chair of their issues and demands related to the sanitation of rural areas.

Some PRIs also demanded community sanitary complexes based on the persistent demand of the public. The Director had a patient hearing during which he urged them to play a proactive role for achieving complete sanitation of villages. He added that PRIs constitute vital stakeholders of society and they can easily motivate masses for adopting hygienic practices. Moreover, the Director urged people to play their part and cooperate with the administration so that the ambition and mission of 'clean and green villages' is realized in letter and spirit.

He added that sustainability of behavioral change is the pre-requisite for achieving ODF+ status, the declaration of which is said to be made on 15th of August this year during celebration of 75 years of independence in line with the ambitious Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

On the occasion, the ACP Baramulla highlighted the range of activities being carried out in the

district and said that our focus largely remained on enthusing hygienic behaviours among the people by providing different interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste. Gulzar Ahmad further said that proper functionality of all verticals of SBM is being reinforced for ensuring saturation in all villages that will definitely pave the way for declaration of villages as ODF plus Model within the given time line. Later,

# Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation organises Blood Donation Camp at Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 04: In a remarkable display of unity and compassion, Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation today organised a blood donation camp here at Sant Nirankari Bhawan. The event, inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, witnessed the presence of Rev. Saint B.P. Singh Ji, Zonal Incharge, UDH-Zone, 1-A, JKUT, Dr. Im, Head of Blood Transfusion, and the members of the foundation. The camp received overwhelming support from the community, with numerous followers generously donating blood. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the blood donation camp. His presence and active participation further encouraged the donors and members of the foundation. Expressing his appreciation, Deputy Commissioner Kundal said, "I am deeply grateful to all the blood donors and members of the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation for their selfless contribution. Together, we have made a significant impact by donating 76 units of blood, potentially saving many lives."

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner took the time to interact with the members of the foundation and the blood donors, expressing his gratitude for their noble act. He commended their commitment to serving the community and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in promoting the spirit of compassion and humanity. Rev. Saint B.P. Singh Ji highlighted the importance of blood donation, stating, "The message of our Satguru Mata Ji is 'Blood should flow in the veins, not in drains.' When we donate blood, we do not consider whose body it will go into; it is a social work that reflects human values. Blood donation is not just a social factor but a divine quality of humanity, reflecting the spirit of contribution." Satguru Mata Ji further emphasised, "Blood donation is a beautiful gesture of selfless service where the well-being of the world is the only concern. In such acts, the feeling does not arise in our hearts that only our relatives or our family are important; the whole world becomes our family."

# OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, PADMA SHRI PADMA SACHDEV GOVT. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, GANDHI NAGAR, JAMMU (A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF CLUSTER UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU) (NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A')

Principal: Minu Mahajan, NO: WCG/110, Date: 21-06-2023

## SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from the firms dealing in the line of service and repair of different types of Air Conditioners installed in the premises of this college. The quotation should reach the office of the undersigned within five (5) days from the date of publication in the newspaper during working hours:-

S.No	Description	Quantity
1	Window Air Conditioner (AC)	04
2	Split Air Conditioner (AC)	25
3	Duct Type Air Conditioner (AC)	06
	Total	

### Terms and Conditions

The representatives of the firm before submitting their quotations may inspect the above mentioned items installed in the college premises, after getting permission from us/

- The quotation should be given on Firm's letter head, giving full address, GST Number, telephone number, mobile number, email address etc.
- The successful quotation shall have to execute the job in the college premises immediately from the date of issue of formal order.
- The service and repair work of ACs should be to the full satisfaction of the concerned officer/section
- The GST bill in triplicate be send to the department for making payment after the service and repair of Air Conditioners.
- The Principal reserves the right to cancel, amend or withdraw the quotation at any stage without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIP/J-2594/23

SD/  
PRINCIPAL, PADMA SHRI PADMA SACHDEV  
GOVT. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN,  
GANDHI NAGAR, JAMMU

# 2 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Thathri

DODA, JUNE 04: District Mineral Officer (DMO) Sunil Manhas and Station House Officer (SHO) Thathri Anil Katoch in a coordinated operation seized two heavy vehicles transporting illegal minerals. The operation took place at Phagsoo, where a truck with registration number JK06-2651 and another vehicle with registration number JK14C-6319 were apprehended.

These vehicles were caught red-handed while in the act of transporting illicit mineral muck.

During the operation, DMO Doda issued a stern warning to the drivers of the seized vehicles, cautioning them against engaging in any further illegal mining activities. They warned of severe consequences to those violating the Minerals Act.

# UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, JAL SHAKTI (IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, JAMMU. e-mail : jenfjammu@gmail.com

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 06of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UNION TERRITORY, e-tenders (in two cover system) Cover-I containing CDR and prequalification and Cover-II containing price Bid are invited on percentage basis per specifications in BOQ from approved PWD contractors having up to date GST Clearance certificate.

S.No	Name of work	Amount of Work (In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Cost of Tender documents	Class of contractor
1	Maintenance work including works to be executed at vulnerable spots in various local Nallah in block Bishnah, Arnia, Suchetgarh and R.S Pura	11.50	23000.00	500.00	A,B,C&D
2	Maintenance work including petty works to be executed at vulnerable spot in various local nallah in block satwari, Miranshalba, and Nagrota (Sandhi) upto March 2024	14.00	28000.00	1000.00	A,B,C&D

- Date of Publishing of Tender Notice: 01-06-2023(8.00 am)
- Date of downloading Tender documents start: 01-06-2023(8.00 am)
- Bid submission start date: 01-06-2023 (8.00 am)
- Bid submission end date: 06-06-2023 (4.00 pm)
- Date and time of Bid opening: 09-06-2023 (12.30 pm)
- The complete bidding process will be online.

7) The tender shall be received on-line or before 08-06-2023 upto 04:00 PM. The Bids will be opened online on the same website [www.kjtenders.gov.in](http://www.kjtenders.gov.in) at above mentioned time and date at the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Jammu on 09-06-2023 or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority.

8) Bids must be accompanied by bid cost of documents as mentioned in the above table in the form as specified in the bidding documents. The Cost of Tender should be paid through Challan simply remitting into Treasury under MH: 0702 and uploading treasury Challan receipt along with Tender shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Jammu payable at Jammu. (Note: The fee on account of downloaded bidding documents shall be acceptable in form of Treasury Challan under MH: 0702. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work/ NIT No. on the particular Challan. The Treasury Challan before date of publishing of e-NIT shall not be accepted).

9) The bids of the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids and the tender shall be applicable for the financial year 2023-24.

10) A separate job order for the work to be executed shall be issued on the allotted/ approved rates of the bidder. Further in case of urgency/ emergency at site, work can also be got executed through the contractors who has participated in the bidding process on the allotted rates of lowest bidder.

11) Quantities of work may increase or decrease. The contractor will have to execute the work as per site conditions / specifications as per the directions of the site Engineer. Any item not covered in the BOQ shall be paid as per SSR 2022 according to his quoted rates i.e overall appreciation/ depreciation for the said work.

DIP/J-2602/23

SD/  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION  
JAMMU



# India has grown manifold in last 9 yrs: Jugal Kishore

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu today with Prabhari J&K Ashish Sood, General Secretary ORG. Ashok Kaul today attended retreat ceremony at Octoroi post Suchetgarh as chief guest. He also attended Sanjukt Morcha Sammellan in Vijaypur Constituency and Suchetgarh Constituency along with Former Ministers Chander Parkash Ganga & Sham Choudhary, Former MLC Vibodh Gupta, CS Org. Indereet Sharma, DDC Shilpa Dubey, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Vidhya Mottan, BDC Yogeshwar Singh, Tarseem Singh, Sarpanches and Panches.

In continuation with the Nationwide week celebration of 9 years of Modi Govt, Sanjukt Morcha Sammellan of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held at various locations and Jugal Kishore Sharma MP attended them in Vijaypur & Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency as the Chief Guest in which 42 morchas



presidents of both assembly constituencies were present.

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma maintained that BJP Government led by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji at the Centre has done tremendous work to ensure that every section of the society gets its due share. He said that India has grown many folds in last nine years. He said that peace and progress is the mission of the BJP-led Government at the Centre. He said that Retreat Ceremony at Octoroi post set an

example of peace at the Border which was always propagated as a big issue by previous Governments. He said that Nation has learned a new slogan 'Modi hai to Mumkin hai' and the way the development is being carried out. Sooner than later all the dreams of the people of J&K will be realised without discrimination, prejudice, or loop sidedness. He said that 9 years of the Modi Government are truly dedicated to the economic growth, welfare and service to the nation.

Chander Prakash Ganga Former Minister said the revolutionary steps taken by the Modi-led dispensation including the Abrogation of Article 370 made it possible for the people to avail all the benefits which were already available to their counterparts in other parts of the country.

Sham Choudhary Former Minister said that borders were always ignored by the means of development by previous governments and always remains disturbed. He said that in due

course of 9 years minimum cease fire violations are observed and peace is maintained at Border. He said that number of development works have been done at the border and now mode of living has been changed. He said that borders are also moving towards the development.

Jugal Kishore Sharma and Ashish Sood also visited house of Paramveer Chakra Sardar Bana Singh and facilitated him under Sampark Se Smarthan Abhiyaan.

District President Border BJP Sunil Dutt, Prabhari Rajinder Chib, Munish Khajuria, BJP Senior Leader Sh. Jai Ram Sharma, Mohan Thapa, Sunil Prajapati, Harbajan Singh Pamm, Natha Ram, Sham Lal, Chairman MC Bari Brahmana Bachan Lal, Chairman MC Vijaypur Ganesh Sharma, MC RS Pura Satpal Pappi, Amit Dubey, Raman Salathia, Mandal Presidents Atresh Dutt, Ajay Kumar, Giridhari Lal, Ghar Singh, Krishan Choudhary, Rinku Choudhary.

# Civil Work completed on 180 bedded additional building of DH Rajouri

DC CALLS FOR SPEEDY COMPLETION OF FURNISHING PART

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUNE 04: To review the progress of work on the 180-bedded additional building, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kunal today visited District Hospital at Kheora.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress and quality of the work. He was informed that the civil work on the building has been completed, while the sanitation and electrical works are pending.

The DC asked the concerned officers to expedite the pending work at the earliest so that the building can be handed over to the Health Department and put to use for benefit of the public.

Meanwhile, the DC also inspected the blood bank and directed the staff to start the component facilities to improve the blood transfusion services in the region.

The DC emphasized that the completion of the pending work of the additional building will greatly benefit the people of Rajouri and surrounding areas.

The DC's visit to the District Hospital bears testament to the government's commitment to improve healthcare facilities in the region. The administration is taking all necessary steps to ensure that the people of Rajouri have access to quality healthcare services.

Among others who accompanied the DC during the visit were Principal GMC Rajouri, Dr. Amarjeet Singh; MS DH, Dr. Mehmood Bajar; EXEN PWD (R&B) Rajouri, Tasdaq Hussain and EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma.

## AGHAR JITTO MELA- REMEMBERING REVOLUTIONARY FARMER SAINT

# DIPR Reasi organises scintillating cultural programme on Day 2

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE: Every year in the month of June Baba Jitto Mela, a cultural fair is organised to pay tributes to a great and revolutionary farmer Baba Jitto, who fought against the feudal system in the area and laid down his life to promote social justice.

On the second day of the mela, thousands of visitors from J&K, HP, Punjab, Haryana and other parts of India congregate to pay obeisance to the Jitto Mal Samadhi. DDC Chairman Saraf Singh Nag was the chief guest on



the second day of the historic mela. Addressing a huge gathering, Saraf Singh Nag threw light on the life and sacrifice of Baba Jitto who laid his life to fight

oppression by landlords. He welcomed the devotees who have thronged the shrine of Baba Jitto and his daughter 'Bua Kudi'.

He said district administration

Reasi has made elaborate arrangements and special awareness stalls to educate farmers and the general public about the new initiatives taken specifically for their benefit. The purpose of this mela is to promote the region's rich tradition and cultural heritage. He said that DIPR organised a wonderful programme and such types of events should be held on regular intervals as these act as a communication channel to pass on cultural heritage to coming generations and spread awareness about the government sponsored schemes. The three

day long annual event to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Jitto & Bua Kudi is witnessing a huge congregation of people from different parts of northern India. Earlier, a scintillating Cultural program was organised by the Department of Information and Public Relation, Reasi in association with Baba Jitto Mela Committee. Several culture troupes performed to name a few were Neha Noor and party, Ashok Hans and Party, Pintu and party, Devika band troupe and other local artists from Reasi & Udhampur.

# DC Srinagar chairs District Export Promotion Committee Meeting

WE HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH FEWER IMPORTS AND MORE EXPORTS: DC SRINAGAR



J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: With an aim to enhance the Export of Goods from Srinagar District to boost the local Economy, a meeting of District Export Promotion Committee was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here today at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Mohsina Irshad, Chief Agriculture Officer, Monohar Lal, Lead District Manager, Abdul Majid, Area Marketing Officer, Horticulture, besides Representatives from JKPTPO and Craft Development Institute.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal about the measures under-

taken for boosting exports of various products which are being produced or manufactured in the District. A comprehensive discussion on the subject was held wherein various issues pertaining to the finalization of the District Export Action Plan were discussed.

The DC also took a thorough assessment of the Export activities being carried out under different sectors in the District. He was given feedback through a PowerPoint presentation about the range of products that are produced in the District having demand in national and international markets and can prove key to make Srinagar an Export Hub under One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. He stressed on taking measures for providing support required by the local industry in boosting their manufacturing and exports with impetus on supporting the

industry from the production stage to the exporting stage.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on finalization of the products with export potential and the Committee finalized 3 products viz Silk Carpet, Pashmina and Papier-Maché under District Export Action Plan for Export.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also asked for detailed project proposal for establishing a District Export Hub to give a fillip to the Export volume with adequate market linkage to the industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, IT solutions, data management etc under one umbrella, besides strengthen support at embassy level to facilitate exporters and importers.

The DC stressed on institutionalization of Export system in Srinagar District and further asked the Officers to hold interactions with concerned entrepreneurs/Exporters of Silk Carpet related to ODOP initiative in order to get feedback to incorporate interventions in the District Export Action Plan.

He also emphasized that the District Export Plan must also address the challenges for exports of such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports.

# Director Fisheries conducts extensive tour of Kulgam

INSPECTS DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF FISHERIES SECTOR; KICK-STARTS TROUT SEED DISTRIBUTION



J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 04: Director Fisheries, Mohammad Ferooz Dar today conducted an extensive tour of Kulgam and inspected developmental activities of the Fisheries sector in the district.

During the tour, the Director visited various fish farms in the Government sector and also took stock of projects completed under beneficiary oriented schemes in the Private sector. Later, he also kick started the distribution of Trout seed at Trout Hatchery Chancer. Director was apprised that Trout seed of improved variety produced at Trout Hatchery Chancer shall be supplied to farmers to have better harvest within the short span of time.

The Director also visited Trout Hatchery Panzath in District Anantnag. He also visited Trout Fish Farming Project Kokernag and expressed satisfaction on the production of Trout seed at the mother unit.

He directed the officers to supply seed to the farmers in a time bound manner so that growing season can be exploited efficiently for attaining better growth and production. Director Fisheries was accompanied by Joint Director Fisheries (South), Chief Project Officer Kokernag, Principal Fisheries Training Institute Kokernag and Assistant Director Fisheries District Kulgam.

# Forest officials seize Bhoot Keshi Herb on J&K- Himachal Border in Bhalasha area

J I NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, JUNE 04: A team of Forest Department has seized about 4 Quintal (400 kg) of semidry Minor Forest Produce Bhoot Keshi, a rare medicinal plant found in the high altitude of the Himalayan region in remote area of Bhalasha touching the border of neighboring Himachal Pradesh state.

The led by Range Officer Suresh Janwal comprising officials from the Forest and Forest Protection Force, acted promptly on a tip-off and conducted a raid. The team traversed the difficult terrain of Kahi Kandalwal and Jijed Talai located on the remote J&K and HP border. After a strenuous trek, the team seized the huge quantity of Bhoot Keshi, a rare medicinal plant.

Scientifically known as Sclimium vaginatum, the root of the Bhoot Keshi plant is used to treat high blood pressure, sleeping disorders, and other ailments.

Range Officer Suresh Janwal reiterated the crucial responsibility of forest officials to prevent any illegal activity in the forest area and emphasized that appropriate action would be taken. The seizure of the Minor Forest Produce is a significant step towards protecting the precious flora of the region.

A damage No. 3 /2023-24 and Damage Case No. 4 of 2023-24 dated 29-05-2023 has been registered, and an investigation has been initiated. The efforts of the team also served as a warning to those who engage in illegal activities that they will face strict action if caught.

The Bhoot Keshi plant has been a prized possession of the indigenous communities in the Himalayan region for its medicinal properties. However, the rarity of the plant has led to illegal harvesting and smuggling, which poses a significant threat to its survival.

The forest officials' seizure of the Bhoot Keshi plant is a testament to their dedication to preserving the region's unique flora and fauna.

# GDC Surankote NSS Unit visits City Forest Poonch as part of Int'l Workshop on Environment Protection

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUNE 04: The NSS unit of Government Degree College Surankote today embarked on a field trip to City Forest Poonch as part of the ongoing five day international workshop on Environment Protection, under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The event was inaugurated by the College Principal, Prof Dr.

Rani Mughal, who flagged off the enthusiastic students.

The City Forest Poonch is a remarkable man-made forest that owes its flourishing existence to the late Mohammed Bashir Mughal sahib, a retired DFO and former President of Pir Panjal Environment and Eco Development Society, Jammu & Kashmir. The forest is a testament to late officer's dedication and commitment to preserving

the environment. His efforts have resulted in a thriving ecosystem that provides numerous benefits to the local community, including improved air quality, increased biodiversity, and a natural habitat for wildlife.

During the enlightening tour, the students gained invaluable insights into the crucial role of forests in safeguarding our environment. The officials at Poonch City Forest highlighted various

government schemes aimed at raising awareness about environmental protection. The students were accompanied by NSS officer Prof. Khaleeq Qazi, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Syed Ovais, and Head of the Department of Political Science, Prof. Fatima Bi. The students absorbed knowledge while enjoying a memorable day in nature's embrace. The visit to

City Forest Poonch marked a significant milestone in the ongoing international workshop on Environment Protection, leaving a lasting impact on all participants. The NSS unit of Government Degree College Surankote is committed to creating awareness about environmental protection and encourages students to take an active role in safeguarding our environment.