

# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## General Bipin Rawat changed J&K narrative: CDS Anil Chauhan

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 17



Remembering late Gen Bipin Rawat on his 65th birth anniversary, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan on Tuesday said Rawat's biggest contribution was to change the narrative of counter-insurgency and counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"General Bipin Rawat was an operational man. His biggest contribution was to change the narrative of counter-insurgency and counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Whatever relative peace we enjoy in Jammu and Kashmir today is fall out of what he

did as Chief of Army Staff (COAS)," said the CDS Chauhan.

On December 8, 2021, General Rawat along with his wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 others lost their lives in a helicopter crash in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.

During his illustrious service,

India's first CDS was conferred with PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM and Padma Vibhushan (posthumously).

He was a visionary leader and a scholar soldier, known for his professionalism, principles, conviction and During his four decades in service, General Rawat had gained vast operational experience in the full spectrum of warfare.

As a brigadier, he led successful counter-terrorism operations in Sopore in J-K and successfully commanded a multinational brigade under United Nations in Democratic Republic of Congo.

As a Major General, he had commanded an Infantry Division along

the Line of Control in North Kashmir.

As a Corps Commander, he oversaw the conduct of hot pursuit of terror groups executed by the Indian Army's Special Forces into Myanmar. This was the beginning of the transformation of India's strategic culture from restraint to assertion.

Later on, as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, he was instrumental in overseeing the surgical strikes against Pakistan-based terrorist groups in PoK.

As Chief of the Army Staff, General Rawat's achievements were remarkable in all spheres of

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## Boost to Self-Reliance PM Modi on approval for capital acquisition of Military hardware worth Rs 70,584 Cr

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 17



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday hailed the approval for proposals worth more than Rs 70,500 crore in the defence sector as a "boost to self-reliance" and said it was a reaffirmation of the faith in Indian talent.

India on Thursday approved the capital acquisition of a plethora of indigenously-developed military hardware, including the indigenous BrahMos missiles, marine diesel engines, artillery gun systems, electronic warfare suits and utility helicopters, at a cost of Rs 70,584 crore as part of a mega procurement plan. All the platforms and weapons

systems are being procured from domestic sources.

Tagging Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's tweet asserting that persistent efforts are being undertaken to ensure self-reliance in the defence sector and proposals worth more than Rs 70,500 crore have been approved, Modi

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## Former minister, former MLA, President JKNPE, JKSSB aspirants call on LG Sinha



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 17

Abdul Ghani Kohli, former minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today.

The former minister apprised the Lt Governor various developmental issues of district Rajouri including road connectivity. He also discussed welfare issues of Gujjar Bakewal community of district Poonch.

Balwant Singh Mankotia, former MLA met Lt Governor and discussed

on promoting cooperatives in district Udhampur, among other local developmental issues of district Udhampur.

Earlier, a delegation led by Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF), also called on the Lt Governor and put forth the public issues and demands of district Anantnag.

Later, a delegation of JKSSB PSI aspirants met Lt Governor and put forth the demand of expediting the selection process of the PSI exam

conducted recently (December 2022) and timely completion of other exams of JKSSB.

Adv. Altaf, Chairman Municipal Council Ganderbal also called on the Lt Governor and projected various developmental issues of Ganderbal area.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the visiting individuals and members of the delegation assured them of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues and demands put forth by them.

## Reserved category employees who fled Kashmir seeking relocation suspend strike

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 17

Reserved Category employees who fled Kashmir following last year's targeted killings of their colleagues announced on Friday the suspension of their 290-day strike seeking relocation away from the Valley.

Reserved Category Employees' Association leader Kuldeep Kumar said the decision to suspend the strike was taken after a 10-member coordination committee held several rounds of talks with the Lt Governor-led administration over the past two weeks.

The decision to suspend the agitation comes a fortnight after Kashmiri

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## Excavator slips into Chenab, operator feared dead

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 17



A moving soil excavator rolled down into Chenab river in Doda on Friday morning causing apprehension about the death of driver.

Quoting an official, that a

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## 'herStart' platform introduced to promote women startups: Dr Jitendra



JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 17

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

Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh informed here today that a newly created "herSTART" platform has been introduced to promote women StartUps and

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## MeT predicts rain in plains, snow on higher reaches of J&K

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 17

Meteorological office on Friday predicted rain, thunderstorm at scattered places in plains while snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours.

Intermittent rain, thunderstorm accompanied by gusty winds at scattered places whereas snowfall is likely over higher reaches from March 18 to March 20, the MeT office said

adding there is no forecast of any heavy rain or snow during the period.

It has also advised the farmers to postpone spraying of orchards during this period.

Currently the weather is cloudy at most places of Kashmir valley, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded

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## Amrit Kaal Budget: Futuristic 2023-24 budget lays special focus on employment generation, women empowerment, social inclusion

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 17



The whopping budget of Rs 1,18,500 crore for Jammu & Kashmir for the financial year 2023-24 has special focus on employment generation, women empowerment and social inclusion.

The total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which, developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore.

"The capital component of the budget has increased substantially. The expected revenue receipts are Rs 1,06,061 crore whereas Revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 77,009 crore, thereby making available revenue surplus for capital expenditure to the tune of Rs 29,052 crore," reads the budget document.

According to a senior official in the J&K administration, the focus of the budget is good governance, strengthening grassroots democracy, promoting sustainable agriculture, facilitating investment and growth, employment generation, accelerated development and inclusive growth, women empowerment

and social inclusion.

"Launch of HIMAYAT 2.0 with renewed focus on employment oriented trades for training and convergence of skill related infrastructure across the departments like Skill Development, Mission Youth, Industries & Commerce, School Education, Agriculture etc is also part of the budget.

As Jammu and Kashmir has returned to the path of peace and progress, the youth are enthusiastic to excel in different fields like their counterparts in rest of India. A massive skill development programme which included introduction of latest streams and technologies at the college level, big industrial setups, start-ups and the exponential growth of small and

medium entrepreneurs as well as self-help groups have been made in the budget today cater to all these aspects to take care of youth aspirations.

The emphasis of the budget is also on strengthening grass-roots democracy with massive flow of funds for all three tiers of Panchayati Raj, with efforts on holistic improvement in infrastructure, roads and water and setting up agro-based small-scale industries to double the income of farmers and other villagers.

The strengthening of rural health care has received a major impetus in this budget to put in requisite equipments, facilities and laboratories in the hospitals.

Moreover, Power sector reforms and augmentation of the distribution network will continue in the budget and the projection of doubling the electricity generation capacity in the coming years is there. Budgetary allocations are there to develop a road network with scores of bridges and tunnels to make the remotest areas accessible. Major HEPs will

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## Govt announces Rs 129.05 cr initiative to reduce fodder deficit, boost livestock sector under HADP

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 17

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing the potential of livestock husbandry to improve the socio-economic conditions of farming communities and boost the overall economic growth of the region, has launched several measures under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledged for its tremendous agricultural potential and production, comprises of mostly small and fragmented landholdings owned by the farmers. Over 70 per cent of the population in the region depends on agriculture and related vocations for their livelihood, either directly or indirectly.

Over the years, livestock husbandry has emerged as a crucial growth engine for sustainable and equitable development, which is vital for uplifting the socio-economic status of farming communities in J&K.

As per Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production

Department, Atal Devo, an Apex committee has unveiled a comprehensive plan under HADP, which amounts to Rs 129.05 crore, to mitigate the fodder shortfall in the UT by 80 per cent. The primary objective of this program is to augment the agricultural and livestock sectors and equip farmers with vital resources such as financial assistance, improved seeds and technical guidance to amplify productivity, profitability, and overall economic progress of the area.

The government is committed to provide all necessary support to farmers to ensure the success of this initiative. It is working closely with various stakeholders, including agricultural universities, research institutes, and industry experts to achieve this goal. Livestock rearing in Jammu and Kashmir incurs a significant cost, with 75 per cent of the input cost attributed to feed and fodder. The region is home to a diverse range of animals including 31.45 lakh bovines, 45 lakh sheep and goats, 73 lakh backyard poultry birds and 2 lakh other animal species. Additionally, around 5 crore commercial broiler birds are being reared in the region.

The annual requirement for green fodder in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 139 lakh metric tons, while the dry fodder requirement is around 58.53 lakh metric tons. Unfortunately, the availability of green and dry fodder is insufficient to meet the demand. In particular, there is a deficit of 40.93 per cent in fodder availability in the region, with a higher deficit of 48.63 per cent in the Kashmir division compared to 32.27 per cent in the Jammu division. Only 4 per cent of the total cultivable land is under fodder production at present.

Each year, Jammu and Kashmir imports a significant amount of animal feed with 9,000 metric tons of feed, 10,000 metric tons of green fodder and 5,000 metric tons of dry fodder being imported. This results in a substantial loss to the exchequer. However, with the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program, the region can potentially create better livelihood opportunities

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## Adopt herbal medicines as proactive measure to fight day-to-day viral infections: Purnima



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: In view of upcoming festive occasion of Ramzan, Muslim United Forum in association with Directorate of Indian System of Medicine (ISM) organized an AYUSH medical camp at Talab Khatikan here, today.

The camp was inaugurated by Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu in presence of President and General Secretary of Muslim United Forum and local Corporator Gopal Gupta. During the medical camp, people of the area

were examined and medicines were also distributed among people. Speaking on the occasion, Purnima Sharma said 'good health is the harbinger of happiness'. She asserted that it is important to create awareness on India's traditional medicines and medical

practices all over the world. She said these herbal medicines are most beneficial supplementary for people.

Highlighting the benefits of Ayurveda in building immunity, she asked everyone to adopt herbal medicines and enhance their body immunity as a part of a proactive measure to fight day to day viral infections.

The senior BJP leader also complemented President of Muslim United Forum for organizing medical camp and promoting AYUSH for the welfare of general public.

She said that there is dire need to organize such camps in rural and far-flung areas so that the people can avail the benefits of herbal medicines.

## Enthusiastic BJP activists are working day and night to strengthen the party: Baru



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: Enthusiastic BJP activists are working day and night to further strengthen the party, said Sanjay Baru. Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior BJP leader and Prabhari District Nowshera said that many regional pseudo leaders are giving big statements, despite being reject-

ed by the common masses of Jammu & Kashmir. Sanjay Kumar Baru was addressing organizational meetings at Nowshera, Seri, Sunderbani, Souli and Taryath during his 2-day tour of District Nowshera. Sanjay Baru also reviewed the ongoing party's "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" in these meetings, which

were attended by BJP Senior Leaders, Mandal President, Shaktikendra Pramukhs and Alp-Vistaraks. District President Neena Sharma, former district President Capt. Som & Capt. Ramesh, district General Secretary Pritam Sharma & Sukhdev Choudhary, Th. Randhir Singh, Municipal commit-

tee Chairman Nowshera Narinder Sharma, and others accompanied Sanjay Baru in different meetings.

While addressing the meetings, Sanjay Kumar Baru said that the leaders and grassroot level workers of Bharatiya Janata Party are working enthusiastically day and night in the masses to further strengthen the Party.

During the meetings, he attacked the leaders of parties like NC and PDP and stated that many regional pseudo leaders are giving big statements, despite being rejected by the common masses of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that they have no moral standing on the issues of J&K as they have befooled the common masses of the erstwhile state for decades together and now that they have lost their faith.

## 'Water Warriors' Shine Bright at World Water Awards Ceremony

HARI NIWAS HOTELS & RESORTS WINS 'BEST WATER MANAGEMENT' AWARD

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: The achievements of the country's top Water Warriors were celebrated on March 16, 2023. They were felicitated under 34 categories of the Water Digest Water Awards 2023 in New Delhi.

More than 200 national and international guests came together at the star-studded gala gathering for the most coveted World Water Awards. The momentous occasion acknowledged the distinguished work carried out by government and private bodies, NGOs, schools & colleges, RWAs, and individuals to treat, recycle, and conserve water.

The chief guest, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, presided over the ceremony. The distinguished Guests of Honour and key dignitaries who attended the grand evening included



BK Sister Shivani from the Brahma Kumaris Spiritual Movement of India, H.E. Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to India and Sri Lanka; Umesh Kumar Sharma, Director, Water Digest, and Anupama Madhok, Sud, Editor & Director, Water Digest. Dr Benno Boer, Programme Specialist and Chief of Section-Natural Sciences, UNESCO gave a special video address.

In the category of "Best Water Management - Hotels", Hari Niwas Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd, a royal heritage legacy, won the award.

The water & waste management in this hotel is being done with a sewerage treatment plant, rain-water harvesting, least use of water in washrooms, installation of water use efficiency systems and through landscaping for

minimising water usage.

Another commendable award in the category of "Best Water Management - School", was won by DPS Public School, Jammu. In the school, before the adoption of required measures, water consumption was 40% higher than the record 4000 L/pupil annually. After applying the suitable measures, the annual consumption has decreased considerably.

## Danish appeals youth to come forward to defeat Pak waged Narco-War

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: Danish Mishra, Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Vice President Jammu and Kashmir has appealed people to come forward and support the movement to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society and defeat the Narco-War perpetrated by Pakistan. Appreciating the

J&K police for the relentless efforts in frustrating evil designs of Pakistan on the terrorism, Danish Mishra said that after biting the dust on terrorism against India especially in Jammu and Kashmir the rogue neighbour has evolved a new strategy of waging Narco war to destroy the youth of this region by luring them towards drugs. The BJYM leader stated that it is time

for the people to jointly fight the drug menace as Pakistan is using all methods to involve our youth in it to cripple our youth who are the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Not only this, Pakistani agencies are rampantly indulging in narcotics smuggling and the huge funds generated from the Narco trade are used for funding terrorist activities against India.

## Principle is to ensure welfare of needy and neglected: BJP

SHAM, PRIYA, MUNISH LISTEN TO PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: BJP workers are working with the chief Principle "To ensure welfare of the needy and neglected", stated senior BJP leaders, while they continue BJP's mission to resolve the issues faced by the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister Sham Choudhary, BJP NEM & former Minister Priya Sethi and BJP All Morcha Incharge Munish Sharma accompanied by BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, listened to the public grievances and took up the same with the concerned department officials for their early solutions at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Numerous individuals and deputations visited the BJP office to meet the party leaders and narrate their woes & problems. The issues presented by com-



mon masses before the senior party leaders were related to PHE, PWD, Rural Development, Revenue, Irrigation & Flood Control, Education, Agriculture etc. A deputation of farmers from Border areas requested for the demarcation and categorization of cultivable lands.

Presented issues were on the spot, taken up with the heads of these departments by Sham Choudhary, Priya Sethi and Munish Sharma telephonically and they

were impressed with immediate solutions.

Sham Choudhary, while listening to the issues stressed that the leaders have tried sincerely to provide the best possible solutions presented by masses in the grievances camps. He said that BJP believes that a society could only be healthy when it ensures the rise of the least (needy and neglected) person of the society.

Priya Sethi, on the occasion, said that BJP holds the

issues faced by the masses in high esteem and believes that they should be promptly taken care of for the realization of a healthy society.

Munish Sharma stated that many of the issues presented today were solved on the spot whereas other issues are impressed for their early solutions.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra conducted the proceedings and diazitized all the issues presented in the grievances camp.

## Dy Mayor visits Bawe Wali Mata temple review Navratri Festival arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: As the Navratri Festival is approaching, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria today visited Bawe Wali Mata temple to review the arrangements ahead of Navratri Festival. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria was accompanied by Corporator Sharda Kumari, JMC Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, JMC Chief Transport Officer Nisar Ahmed & other officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria interacted with the staff of the temple and enquired about the arrangements made for the convenience of the visitors and devotees during the upcoming Navratri festival. He directed the JMC and other concerned officials to ensure that all the arrangements are made well in time to facilitate the visitors and devotees.

Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria also directed the JMC officials to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the area during the Navratri festival and other religious and cultural



events in the city. The Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, on the eve of Navratri festival, announced that the Bawe Wali Mata road from Jammu University to the Mandir will be beautified to give the area a magnificent look. Billawaria said that the entire area will be given a facelift. He also said that special attention will be given to cleanliness and sanitation in the area. Billawaria added that the aim of the project is to make the area more presentable and attractive for devotees, who come from all over the country to visit the temple.

The Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria, inspected the entire temple complex and its surroundings and checked the sanitation arrangements. The Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria assured that all the necessary arrangements for the convenience of the visitors, devotees and for the cleanliness of the area will be made in time. He also said that all the necessary arrangements for the safety and security of the visitors and devotees will be taken care of during the upcoming Navratri festival.

The Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the JMC is committed to ensure that the visitors and devotees enjoy a safe, clean

and hygienic environment at the temple during the Navratri festival. He also said that the JMC is also taking all the necessary steps for the safety and security of the visitors and devotees during the Navratri festival.

The Deputy Mayor urged the citizens to cooperate with the authorities for the successful completion of the arrangements. He concluded by saying that the beautification will be beneficial to all citizens, and will also make the area more attractive for devotees/ tourist destinations. Anush Khajuria, Vivek Patyal, Sumit Bajrang, Sarinder Patyal, Satish Kumar, Sanju Kumar, Raju Kumar were present.

The Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the JMC is committed to ensure that the visitors and devotees enjoy a safe, clean

## Restore old pension scheme for Government Employees of JKUT

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 17: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party JKUT urged honourable Lt governor and union government, to restore the old pension scheme for government employees of JKUT at the earliest. New pension scheme was introduced in 2003 by BJP led NDA government and implemented in 2004. Aim was to reduce the pension bill of government and life expectancy increase factor was also taken into consideration.

Salient point of the new pension scheme was 10 percent contribution of basic pay by the employee and upto 14 percent contribution by the government. After retirement an employee could take out upto 60 percent in lump sum, whereas 40 percent will remain with various pension funds managers, on annuity basis. A complicated process as compared to old pension scheme, where pension was fixed at 50 percent of the



basic pay plus provisions of Dearness allowance, safeguarding against the adverse effects of inflation. New pension scheme has numerous complexities and problems i.e. taxation at the time of withdrawal, no provision of Dearness allowance, account opening restrictions, limited exposure to equity, Lock in period, complexities of choosing best fund manager and so on Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Punjab have already

reverted back to old pension scheme and huge agitation and protest are taking place in large numbers of states, demanding old pension scheme. A huge gap exists between pay and perks between government employees and people working in corporate sectors.

A government job was considered very lucrative, due to the pension combined with dearness allowance and provided a great financial security to the pensioners and their families. Notwithstanding financial burden on state and central government, welfare of its employees and pensioners, remains the prime responsibility of the government.

Earning of government through taxation and other means have also increased correspondingly and gives a great leverage to the government to revert back to old pension scheme. This step will also attract great talent to join government sector, subsequently resulting in efficient governance and administration at all levels.

## Peoples of Dhakikot village of Thakrakot tehsil have been deprived of electricity for years

WAITING FOR JUSTICE FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR LG ADMINISTRATION



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI, MAR 17:** The claims of providing basic facilities to remote areas in Jammu and Kashmir are hollow and baseless while in this advanced age common people's are deprived of basic facilities in Jammu and Kashmir even in this modern age. It is also worth mentioning that the government is making every possible effort to pro-

vide basic facilities to the people's in remote areas, but all possible efforts are failing due to which people are still they are waiting for justice and are helpless. The poor peoples of Prankot Ward No. 7, Panchayat dhakikot of District Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir, have been deprived of facilities like electricity for centuries and live a primitive lifestyle in darkness. He alleged that

the Jammu and Kashmir administration, including the district administration reasi, is not paying attention to the people's of the dhakikot Panchayat Deprived of basic facilities for years. Concerned Sarpanch Shokat Ali said that in the year 2009, an electricity transformer was installed in ward number 7. But unfortunately, the administration have not been able to restore elec-

tricity supply in the area for 13 years, due to which the peoples of the said area is still forced to live in darkness.

He alleged that the top officials of the electricity department and the district administration reasi have been approached several times to restore the power supply in Prankot area, while the peoples are being completely ignored due to poverty.

Peoples of Prankot Ward No. 7 of Dhakikot panchayat of reasi district have demanded justice from the LG administration to restore electricity supply in the area. He demanded that the district administration should be informed and basic facilities should be provided to the peoples of Dhakikot area while completely neglected due to which the people of the area have allegedly been facing hardships for years.

## Booth level worker can reach highest position in BJP: Ashok Koul



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** A Booth level worker in the BJP could reach the highest position in the party's organization, whereas in other parties, all the big posts are reserved for one family only. "Other parties are working on the principles of dynasty and family. Under the previous governments, even basic facilities like electricity, water and roads were out of reach of people due to favouritism and corruption," he said. Gopal Mahajan said that dedicated BJP workers are taking the policies of the party as well as public welfare schemes to every house in the area. He added that the party workers are working on the mission mode.

ers conducted a comprehensive Pravas in the area under Booth nos. 9, 12, 13 Shakti Kendra Shrivnagar Ward no. 19 of Constituency Kathua in organizational District Kathua. Ashok Koul, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) accompanied by DDC Vice-Chairperson Raghunandan, Spokes-person Abhijeet Jasrotia, Panchayat Raj Cell Convenor Shiv Dev

Jamwal, District President Gopal Mahajan, former District President Prem Dogra, Rajesh Mehta, Vishal Parihar, Rahul Dev and other party leaders interacted with beneficiaries, senior party leaders, prominent citizens and leaders of Social Castes belonging to the area. Ashok Koul also addressed organizational meetings of Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan

(booth strengthening campaign) under Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan.

Booth committees and Panna Pramukh of Voter Lists chiefly participated in the meetings. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul said a Booth level worker in the BJP could reach the highest position in the party's organization, whereas in other parties, all the big posts are reserved for one family only. "Other parties are working on the principles of dynasty and family. Under the previous governments, even basic facilities like electricity, water and roads were out of reach of people due to favouritism and corruption," he said. Gopal Mahajan said that dedicated BJP workers are taking the policies of the party as well as public welfare schemes to every house in the area. He added that the party workers are working on the mission mode.

## If voted to power, AP will enhance pension scheme up to Rs 5000: Faqir Nath

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Apni Party Provincial Vice President, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath said that the Party will enhance pension schemes like handicapped, widow pension or old age pension up to Rs 5000 if voted to power.

Addressing a meeting cum joining program here, Faqir Nath said that the Apni Party has adopted a developmental approach which can help to uplift the living standard of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, Sonali, Pallvi, Shivani, Neha, Harmander, Pooja, Sonia, Mona under the leadership of prominent social activist Shivani Mattoo Koul joined Apni Party. The new entrants were welcomed into the party by Faqir Nath and Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavnnet Kour. They hoped that their joining would strengthen the party.



Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, the Ex-MLA said

"The bureaucratic structure has shown its inability to work for the welfare of the people. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the party so that in the upcoming assembly elections, Apni Party gets public support and forms the next Govt."

He said that if the Apni Party forms the next Govt in J&K, they will launch public welfare schemes for all the sections of society without discrimination.

He said that they will enhance the old age pension from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000, will provide 4 cooking gas cylinders to each family under Ujjawala per year and other related schemes.

Meanwhile, Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavnnet Kour also spoke on the occasion and highlighted problems faced by the women due to price rise of essential commodities, petrol, food items and other things.

Pavnnet Kour however assured that they will work

for the women to empower them politically and economically.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include State Secretary, Mohinder Parihar, Provincial Secretary / District Jammu Urban President, Dr Rohit Gupta, District Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Provincial Vice President Youth Wing, Joginder Singh, District President Women Wing Jammu, Ritu Pandita, Jalaj Choudhary, Sheetal Sharma and others.

## Translucia Pioneers First-Of-Its-Kind 'Multiverse Convergence' Solution; 'Metaverse Built for Good' to Reimagine the Future of Human Experiences



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Translucia Metaverse (Translucia), a joint venture between MQDC and T&B Media Global which brings Thailand's most eminent real estate and entertainment conglomerates together has launched a first-of-its-kind 'Multiverse Convergence' solution through its proprietary LightLink Protocol (LightLink). Translucia is aiming to build a comprehensive ecosystem with metaverse elements to create a virtual world worth US\$3 billion. Translucia is present in India in partnership with Sunovatech India, a specialist immersive and Extended Reality Company. Under the partnership, Sunovatech is acting as a production hub for building 3D Assets, Environments and modules of the metaverse. LightLink is the world's first enterprise Layer-2 (L2) blockchain built to accelerate the entry of traditional businesses into Web3. By offering a low cost and easily accessible final to enter multiple third-party metaverses, LightLink enables businesses to move into

Web3 at scale. Through LightLink, metaverses built and owned by different players will be able to connect with each other as well as integrate functionalities. This opens up new avenues for trade, commerce, and collaboration between metaverse owners, furthering opportunities for innovation across the space. Simultaneously, LightLink's 'Multiverse Convergence' solution addresses the endemic fragmentation of the current Web3 ecosystem, allowing end-users to seamlessly connect across the 'Internet Metaverse'. LightLink is currently designed for Ethereum and Polygon and is set to enable interoperability with other prominent blockchains in the near future. Mr. AthidNanthawaroon, Executive Director, Translucia Company Limited, said, "Translucia is the 'Metaverse Accelerator' that the world needs as we move towards a new Internet era. The present metaverse remains both abstract and fragmented; inaccessible to most legacy businesses let alone the average user." "Translucia will integrate various Web3 ecosystems into a single

'Multiverse' that helps metaverse players unify their technologies, workflow, and user experience within one standardized platform. This collaborative intra-industry approach will not only accelerate humanity's transition into hybrid reality but create a more accessible and inclusive Web3 for everyone," said Mr. Athid. Dr. JwanwatAhrivavaromp, CEO and Founder of T&B Media Global and Founder of Translucia, said, "Translucia was founded with the vision to empower people who aspire to be happy. Through our 'Metaverse Built for Good,' we aim to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of the world. Once fully realized, the Translucia Metaverse will be an engine that drives goodness and wellness into a holistic form of prosperity and happiness."

"The technological advancements of Web3 are an opportunity to bridge the digital divide and address inequality. As such, Translucia is excited to build a metaverse built upon LightLink, a proprietary blockchain that addresses issues of throughput, bandwidth limitations and high gas fees. Industry collaboration is essential to this goal, we have laid the groundwork for a scalable metaverse platform and we invite Web3 architects and traditional businesses to join us in co-creating an interconnected metaverse ecosystem that spans across partners and networks," said Dr. Jwanwat.

## NPP protests near Parliament in New Delhi

GOVT JOBS ON SALE IN J&K: HARSH DEV

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** In view of reports of job scams hitting the headlines of various media channels every other day, scores of Panther activists led by Mr. Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and senior NPP leader assembled at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi and started proceeding in groups towards the Parliament.

While raising the Jogan's "Stop sale of govt jobs in J&K", Jammu-Kashmir mein naukri gholalon ki nyayavik juch karao", Jammu-Kashmir mein yanvaan ko jumlay nahin, naukri do", Modi sarkar hai hai, BJP sarkar mardabad, etc, the protesters were whisked away by Delhi police enroute. However, about a dozen workers along with Mr. Singh managed to reach near the Parliament to lodge the protest.

The angry Panthers sought judicial inquiry into all the recruitment scams during the last few years. Addressing the media regarding the much publicised scam in the selection of PSIs, FAAs and JEs in the UT, Mr. Singh said UT of J&K has earned the most dubious notoriety in employment scandals during the last few years.

He said that while the govt failed to fill up the posts in various govt depths in a fair and transparent manner, the culture of fake, backdoor and other paid appointments grew by leaps and bounds. And whereas the recent past witnessed large scale retrenchments, of even the regularly engaged govt employees, the new UT saw the resultant vacancies being put on sale

by the various recruitment bodies through blacklisted agencies, rued Harsh. He said that it was the public outrage and fear of adverse consequences that had forced the govt to rescind the said list wherein crores had been swindled by a corrupt mafia. He endorsed the demand of agitating youth to disengage the APTTECH co. hired for making recruitments in the UT. The irregular selections of Firemen and drivers made in Fire services Deptt through dubious means was also highlighted umpteen times in the media but the helmsmen have chosen to push the matter under the carpet for reasons best known, said Harsh. In another job scam of gargantuan proportions, the J&K Bank made appointments of around 3000 Banking Associates and Clerks through backdoors which too has failed to invite due attention of authorities concerned despite the issue having been highlighted by the erstwhile State Governor Sh. SP Malik.

Alleging the commission of biggest recruitment scandal in BJP-PDP rule, Mr. Singh said that more than 4000 SPOs were engaged in 2017-18 through backdoor without following any procedure and the officers who made such appointments were rewarded with prized postings by the then BJP-PDP govt.

Mr. Singh disclosed that hundreds of backdoor appointments were made in KVIB during the BJP-PDP rule with a few of them reportedly rescinded, as an eyewitness and a widow dressing for the gullible. He said

that several hundreds of backdoor appointments were made in Industries Deptt and its allied corporations during 2015-18 with none to take cognizance despite public outcries. He said that the erstwhile coalition rule witnessed scams wherein hundreds of backdoor appointments in H&ME deptt were made by Chairman of Rogi Kalyan Samitis out of Hospital Development Fund in brazen circumvention of prescribed norms and regularities.

He said that the number of daily wagers swelled to 1,10,000 in 2018 from 62,000 in 2014 as per a reply provided on the floor of Legislative Assembly thereby providing the most glaring example of misuse of authority and patronized corruption during the BJP-PDP rule.

Unfortunately the vigilante organizations too preferred to remain mute spectators in a bid to keep their political masters in good humour. Pointing towards his short stint of three years as Education Minister, Mr. Harsh Dev said that he had made selections of 35000 youth as RET with not a single finger having been raised on the floor of the Assembly or outside. He said that even the National media had reported at the time that a history has been created wherein the transparent functioning of a Minister received all round appreciation across the board from ruling as well as all opposition members without any exception.

Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion included Smt. Ashri Devi (DDC member), Smt. Sudesh Dogra, Mr. Gagan Pratap Singh besides others.

## SSP SD Jamwal deliver lecture on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Prevention of AIDS at GDWC Kathua



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** A Lecture was organized by Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua in Collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Aids Control Society under the banner Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Presidency of G20 on 17.03.2023. The lecture was organized under the Patronage of Dr Savji Behl, esteemed Principal of the College. On this occasion, an informative lecture was delivered by Shivedeep Singh Jamwal, worthy Sr, Superintendent of Police, Kathua on the

theme of "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Prevention of AIDS".

Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Programme Officer of Red Ribbon Club welcomed the guests and invited them for lighting of the Lamp Ceremony. Sh. Shivdeep Singh Jamwal talked about the present status of drug menace in India and in particular, Kathua district. Most addicts are between the age group of 15 and 35, and many are unemployed. He further mentioned how the COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of people and presented unique challenges for people with substance use disorders and in

recovery. Indian Govt has already started a worldwide programmes to eliminate abuse of Drugs from the society and Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment itself disclosed in the report that 272 districts are most affected in India and many programmes are being conducted in all over India to curb drug users and drug peddlers.

On this Occasion esteemed SSP revealed in his lecture that the Police is working in India efficiently and he also disclosed that the district Kathua is much affected because its border is connected with Punjab.

He further suggested the students of the college that they should be vigilant and alert all the times and if anybody comes into their notice they should immediately share information to the nearby Police station or dial on number 100 and he also conveyed them that the police provides services for the identification, treatment, and rehabilitation of addicts through volunteer organizations.

He also emphasized the role of society in curbing drug addiction issue. Dr Arun Dev Singh presented vote of thanks on the occasion. The Faculty members present on this occasion were Prof. Ashwani Khajuria, Prof. Ravinder Kaur, Prof. Pankaj Nandan, Dr. Babita Jamwal, Dr. Naresh Sharma, Prof. Raj Kumari, Prof. Pallavi, Dr. Rajni Khajuria, Dr. Vaishno Devi, Dr. Surekha, Dr. Mukesh, Dr. Varchaskam, Prof. Satish Khajuria, Dr. Usha Kiran, Dr. Ritu Raj, Dr. Anupam and others. A total of 100 students attended the lecture.

## From the Front Page...

**General Bipin...**

military and national security affairs. He followed the Indian Army's motto of 'Service before Self' as a guiding principle throughout his Army career.

As the first CDS, he rallied for organisational and structural reforms to integrate the Armed Forces. Path-breaking transformational initiatives and civil-military synergy will remain his legacy.

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC General Rawat was also the former General Officer Commanding of 19 Infantry Division and commanded the Division in 2012. (Agencies)

**PM Modi...**

said, "A boost to self-reliance in defence, also reaffirming our faith in Indian talent."

In another tweet, the prime minister urged people to visit the Matua Maha Mela 2023, which will be held from March 19 to 25 at Shreedham Thakurnagar, Thakurbari, West Bengal.

"The Matua Maha Mela 2023 is an important event which showcases the vibrant culture of the Matua community. I would urge more people to visit the Mela," he said.

"Humanity will forever be indebted to Shri Shri Harichand Thakur Ji for showing the path of kindness and service," Modi added. (Agencies)

**Reserved category...**

Pandits employed in the Valley under the Prime Minister's package also announced the suspension of their 310-day agitation. A majority of them have already resumed their duties in Kashmir.

Hundreds of Reserved Category employees who hail from Jammu and migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees in the Valley fled to the Union Territory's winter capital last May following the killing of Rajini Bala and Rahul Bhat by terrorists.

While Bhat was shot dead in his office in central Kashmir's Budgam on May 12, schoolteacher Bala was gunned down in south Kashmir's Kulgam on May 31.

"Most of the 3,500 Reserved Category employees have already served in the Valley for over 15 years and we want the government to come out with a transfer policy, along with addressing our security concerns and appropriate accommodation," Kumar said.

He said the organisation decided to suspend the agitation for the time being on the assurance of the administration that all their issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

"The talks with the administration are going on and we are hopeful of a positive outcome. The next course of action depends on the outcome of the dialogue," he said.

**MeT predicts rain...**

a low of 6.6 degree Celsius against 5.5 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 1.9 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national had a low of 4.5 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 0.9 degree above normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam recorded a low of 1.6 degree Celsius on Friday against 0.8 degree Celsius a day ago and it was 1.5 degree above normal for the valley of shepherds in south Kashmir.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.6 degree Celsius, 1.1 degree above normal of 3.5 degree Celsius for the famous picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.5 degree Celsius against 1.5 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 2.8 degree Celsius above normal for the famous ski resort.

Kupwara recorded a low of 4.6 degree Celsius against 3.2 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 1.2 degree Celsius above normal for the frontier Kashmir district, MeT office said

**'herStart' platform...**

to encourage women entrepreneurs. The new platform was recently inaugurated by the President of India, he said.

Addressing the plenary session of the Bharat Startup Summit and Expo 2023 organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister also disclosed that the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also introduced a monthly allowance of Rs 20,000 for up to one year for women-led StartUps...

Dr Jitendra Singh said that entrepreneurship is embedded in India's economy and ethos. From the post-independence era with a handful of family controlled industries, until today when India gave more than 100 unicorns to the world, the Indian StartUp ecosystem has gained significant attention, thus making it one of the most coveted global markets, he said.

The Minister said that future trends show opportunities for StartUps to disrupt and innovate with technologies like block chain, the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning, etc. With the kind of policy reforms that India is headed towards, Startups can play a big role, he added.

Highlighting the increasing presence of women as entrepreneurs, Dr Jitendra Singh said that women-led business enterprises are playing a noticeable role in society by generating employment opportunities in the country, bringing in demographic shifts and inspiring the next generation of women founders. He added that at least 36 unicorns and potential unicorns in India have at least one woman founder or a co-founder. Govt. of India is committed towards creating an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurship through initiatives, schemes, networks and communities and activating partnerships among diverse stakeholders in the StartUp ecosystem.

The Minister said, India is fast becoming a knowledge-based economic growth model and commits to reinvent its advantages as a labour-intensive, capital-intensive, and manufacturing nation.

Highlighting the pivotal role played by Startups during the pandemic, Dr Jitendra Singh said that

when the world was struggling during pandemic, Indian Startups have shifted gears, pivoted and risen to the occasion to adjust to the new normal and have shown some remarkable innovation and growth. "India is building on this momentum and aspiring to be among the top countries globally for digital businesses and Startups", he added.

The Minister said that the StartUp India Action Plan of the Government is a very important step for strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country. The action plan is intended to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation in India as an engine for both economic growth and employment generation.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that today India is home to more than 93,000 DPIIT Recognized Startups and 108 Unicorns. Over the past four years, this number has been increasing exponentially, with a whopping 66% Year-on-Year growth in the number of additional unicorns being added every year. While work from home during the pandemic fuelled the growth of digital businesses in India, the incident also resulted in StartUp boom.

"We are gradually transitioning from the age of unicorns to the age of decacorns. As of January 2023, 47 companies world over have achieved the decacorn status. Presently, India has five Startups namely, Flipkart, BYJU's, Nykaa, Swiggy and PhonePe added in the decacorn cohort", the Minister added.

The Minister said that the need of the hour is to forge partnerships with industry and also strengthening of ties between academia and industry to develop cutting edge technologies and products and deliver them in shortest possible time.

"Startups will become sustainable if industry from the very beginning identifies the product and invest matching equity with the Government. Then we only we can realize the vision of Prime Minister for "Samarth" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat". I assure you that funds will not be a constraint under this government to promote the innovation ecosystem in the country", he added.

The Minister further said that the industry members of PHDCCI have a very important role to play in this ecosystem. "I am sure that with the collective efforts of all we are poised to leapfrog from 108 Unicorns as of today to 200 unicorns in another year. I wish all the best to the young entrepreneurs who are present here and also to all my countrymen who are striving to make India the StartUp hub of the world", he concluded.

**Amrit Kaal Budget: Futuristic...**

generate new employment opportunities for locals and change the outlook of rural Jammu and Kashmir.

For Agriculture and horticulture, the focus of only budget is on changing the scenario with the help of agricultural and horticultural experts. Scientific farming with multiple crops, reducing pre and post-harvest losses, financing major and minor farming equipment, and using solar pumps to reduce electricity expenses are the few targeted areas. The projected plan is to develop agro- and horticulture-based associated industries by providing easy finance and technical expertise to double the farmers' income and generate new employment avenues for the rural youth. Doubling milk production, well-coordinated milk collection through cooperatives, and poultry and sheep farming are a few other important sectors getting due attention in the budget.

Rs 900 crore have been provisioned under Holistic Agriculture Development Scheme. And, Rs 120 crore have been provisioned for Crop Insurance Scheme besides Rs 50 crore have been provisioned for establishment of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage.

The focus of the budget is also to develop alternative tourist destinations and religious circuits to ease the stress. Dome trusts, infrastructural development at new tourist places, conservation and beautification of lakes, and new ropeways are a few highlights. Involving women in all these activities and empowering them and local artisans is on the way. Systematically, products and projects are planned to give a major boost to the overall economy of the UT through tourism and related activities. Making pilgrimages safer, improving infrastructure, and developing proper tourism in the vicinity are also projected in this budget.

Similarly, "Rs 60 crore have been kept for new circuits including Mansar, Surinsar and Sufr Circuit and identified Religious Circuits during year 2023-24, Rs 15 crore have been projected for new Ropeways and Promotion of Golf. Besides, Rs 30 crore have been provisioned for the festival promotion, Rs 100 crore for promotion of Cinema/Theatre and Rs 100 crore for Heritage Preservation.

Moreover, Rs 5000 crore have been provisioned for Jal Jeevan Mission. All districts will be covered to ease "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal". Funds are being earmarked for ensuring Quality Assurance. Setting up of Labs and introduction of Service Level Benchmarking System. Rs 500 crore have been provisioned for Jal Jeevan Mission as Union Territory Share.

Third party inspection system will be established within Finance Department for ensuring 100% physical verification of all the projects being implemented in the Union Territory and Solid Waste Management will be ensured in all the towns and Service Level Benchmarking System will be introduced. Also, Rs 200 crore have been provisioned under Swachh Bharat Mission.

Significantly, train connectivity to Kashmir and widening of major portion of the Jammu-Srinagar highway will be achieved in this financial year as adequate budgetary provisions are made for the sector. The aspirations of all regions have been taken into account; there is something for everyone. Enough planning and thought have been applied to create an overall well-planned and futuristic budget that will give impetus to economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Govt announces Rs 129.05 cr...**

for farmers, improving the socio-economic conditions of the people.

The government is encouraging farmers and other

stakeholders to collaborate and work towards developing the agricultural and livestock sector, which would lead to a prosperous and thriving economy. With this goal in mind, a concrete framework has been proposed to maximize fodder production in the region. The framework adopts a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated approach, combining research and effective development processes to increase fodder production.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has significant potential for fodder cultivation. The region has a large rangeland area of 1.19 lakh hectares, which can support livestock-based livelihood systems. Additionally, there are 2.15 lakh hectares of orchards that hold potential for intercropping of fodder crops production, known as the Horti-pastoral system. Field crops, such as paddy, maize, and wheat, are grown over 5 lakh hectares, producing large quantities of residues that serve as dry fodder for winter.

The top fodder/tree leaves, including Willow, Populus, Ailanthus, Mulberry, Apple, and Ulmus, are excellent sources of protein and minerals traditionally fed to livestock during scarcity. The foot hills in the region can be used for fodder production, utilizing promising cultivars of grasses and legumes. Furthermore, various technological options such as cultivable fodder, chaffing of fodder/straws, urea treatment, roughage block, and silage making can be promoted to enhance fodder production.

Fodder production in J&K faces several constraints and challenges, including competition for the area under fodder crops. The preference for food grains and oilseed crops intensifies the competition for the same target areas of cultivation. Additionally, the conversion of agricultural land to horticulture makes such lands permanently unavailable for annual fodder cultivation. Small land holdings in the regions are responsible for less investment in farm lands, low scope of mechanization, and limited options for diversification. Therefore, reserving land for fodder crops in preference to food and cash crops remains a difficult proposition for a common farmer.

Moreover, the region produces around 9.9 lakh tons of food grains, yet there is a deficit of 21.70 per cent, resulting in minimal allocation of land for fodder crop production. The major cereals and oilseeds are preferred over fodder crops to provide for daily dietary calories, and the crops compete for the same land area. Rapid urbanization puts more pressure on land resources and overall constraint on crop production.

The poor varietal profile is also a limitation in fodder production. Within the routinely grown fodder crops like maize, oats, bajra, sorghum, legumes, etc., varieties with high biomass and greater luxuriance are either not available or are limited in number available across the region. Most of the high altitude areas have not been covered under improved varieties, resulting in low overall production. Harsh winters in Kashmir and hot dry summers in Jammu are the basic limitations in expanding crop diversity. Only a few varieties have been released for resilience to abiotic stresses like cold, heat, drought, etc., and more such varieties should be released as part of future strategies.

The availability of quality seed is a severe limitation, which often guides the choice of farmers. Suitable package of practices (PoPs) and technology dissemination are available for only a few fodder crop varieties and need further research in such areas. Spread of invasive weeds, over-grazing, and eventually soil erosion are deteriorating and dwindling the pasture lands. Weeds in grasslands have decreased the herbage output quantity by 20-50 per cent and quality by 10-15 per cent. The alpine and mid-altitude pastures remain without snow cover for most of the time and are mostly under continuous grazing pressure. Open pastures are seldom re-seeded or reclaimed for its soil strata and health. Common weeds like Lanta camera, Stipa, Sambucus, Aconitum, Cincifuga, Adonis, Sibbaldia have assumed notorious proportions, adding to the problem.

The proposed plan aims to address the problem of fodder unavailability in J&K through two approaches: short-term mitigation and medium-term solutions. For the short-term, the plan focuses on increasing the production of fodder and feed through large-scale cultivation, processing, and value addition, with the help of pilot scale demonstrations and technological interventions, supported by capital infusion and incentives. This approach also includes exploring innovative approaches for green fodder production and mass multiplication under hi-tech agriculture.

To achieve these objectives, several activities will be undertaken including establishing demonstration units for large-scale production, introducing new technologies such as hydroponics and vertical farming, promoting commercial cultivation, strengthening existing processing units, capacity building through training programs, and introducing marketing initiatives. By implementing these activities, the short-term objective of mitigating the persistent problem of fodder unavailability can be achieved, leading to increased availability of fodder and feed in J&K.

Over a period of time, SKUAST-Kashmir and SKUAST-Jammu, along with ICAR-IGFRI, have developed various fodder varieties for different crops such as maize, oats, bajra, sorghum, grasses, and legumes like cowpea and alfalfa. More than 12 varieties have been collectively released for these crops.

However, the seed quantity for most of these varieties is insufficient and not available to farmers as per their requirement. Cultivation of non-descript fodder varieties has led to diminishing yields and production. Therefore, an immediate intervention is necessary, which involves multiplying the varietal seeds for one cycle in dedicated seed production plots of farms and farmer's fields. To initiate large-scale fodder production, 1000 tons of oats and 2500 tons of maize seed are required to cover an average of 30% of the area under quality seed.

Feed and fodder deficit is one of the foremost constraints in livestock production. In order to address this challenge, the government has initiated a series of interventions that can potentially reduce fodder deficiency by 20 per cent. The government has proposed several measures that include encouraging startups, fodder entrepreneurship, establishment of fodder

banks, mechanization of fodder production, hydroponic fodder production, and post-harvest management of fodder by providing incentives to farmers.

The government has proposed various beneficiary oriented interventions that are focused to increase fodder production and productivity. One such intervention is the establishment of Fodder Demonstration Plots/ Mini Fodder Banks to educate farmers and visitors about the newly developed fodder technologies. This is expected to yield an additional 5000 tons of dry fodder annually. Another intervention is the distribution of Fodder Seed Kits, in which the government plans to distribute improved varieties of hybrid seed kits to farmers to popularize the latest improved fodder varieties amongst them. This is expected to produce 1.5 lakh tons of quality fodder annually.

To overcome the shortage of quality green fodder and constraints in diverting more land for fodder production, the government proposes the establishment of hydroponic units to grow nutrient-rich green fodder. This intervention is expected to increase annual green fodder production by 17640 MT. The government plans to provide 50 per cent subsidy under the Hay/ Silage Making Units to promote the use of silage and hay mix instead of traditional crop residues which have no nutritive value. It is expected that 60 silage making units shall be established annually.

The JK administration also plans to establish fodder depots in fodder-deficient areas, which will act as a continuous source of fodder that can be accessed by farmers whenever they require additional fodder. This initiative is expected to stabilize fodder rates and generate employment in the fodder sector. To reduce fodder wastage, the government plans to incentivize the use of chaff cutters to make fodder more palatable to animals, which indirectly increases fodder availability for livestock.

Mechanization of fodder harvesting is also proposed, which is expected to cut labor costs and make livestock farming systems more viable. The government plans to provide support for the purchase of 400 Fodder Reaper/ cutter units under the scheme.

These interventions have the potential to address the feed and fodder deficit in the UT and increase livestock productivity. The government believes that the adoption of these initiatives will encourage fodder entrepreneurship and establish sustainable fodder production systems in the UT.

In addition to the aforementioned beneficiary-oriented interventions, the government will also invest in research and development to create nutritionally balanced varieties with reduced anti-nutritional factors. The focus will be on revitalizing and promoting Horti-Silvivo-pastoral systems, including intercropping apple trees with legume crops such as red and white clover, and using shade-tolerant grasses and legume species to improve the production and nutritive value of forage in hort-pastoral systems. Grass-legume mixtures are preferred globally over pure-grass forage stands due to their higher yields of herbage and protein, as well as their balanced nutrition for livestock.

The project will also aim to revitalize Alpine/Subalpine meadows in J&K, which cover an area of nearly 4500 sq. km and provide fodder for approximately 30 lakh sheep and goats during an 8-month grazing season. Successful pilot closures have produced up to 17000 MT of green fodder from 700 closures in a single attempt, satisfying the immediate needs of 11500 beneficiaries. To revitalize pasture lands, the project will use technical and administrative measures such as raising fences and barriers around target sites, forming participatory groups of tribals and farmers, and carrying out rotational grazing and deweeding operations.

Other strategies for improving grassland and pasture lands include removing invasive weeds, introducing improved range legumes and grasses, implementing grazing management and rotational/restricted grazing, using optimum fertilizer/soil & water conservation practices, establishing fodder banks along pastoral communities' migration routes, and cultivating commonly grown tree species with fodder value. The project aims to produce an additional 100,000 MT of green fodder from alpine/subalpine grass lands by developing 20,000 ha of forest land annually.

The key outcomes of the project are promotion of improved varieties of early maturing climate-resilient fodder crops, adoption of hi-tech hydroponics farming models, optimum land use in orchards, improvement of grasslands, human resource development, and an 80% reduction in fodder deficit. In addition 7500 jobs and 800 enterprises shall be created over a period of 5 years.

However, the livestock rearing incurs a significant cost with a large part of the input cost attributed to feed and fodder. With the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program, a roadmap has been formulated to reduce the fodder deficit in the UT by 80 per cent, which would maximize fodder production in the region.

The proposed framework adopts a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated approach, combining research and effective development processes to increase fodder production. Despite several constraints and challenges, including competition for the area under fodder crops, the government is committed to providing all necessary support to farmers to ensure the success of this initiative, which would lead to a prosperous and thriving economy.

**Excavator slips...**

soil excavator (JCB) rolled down into river Chenab at Shiva Dal bridge near Prem Nagar in Doda this morning.

Identifying the driver as Rahul Sharma, son of Sanjay Kumar, a resident of Dharamthal Chenani, the official said that soon after the accident a rescue operation was launched at the site.

Police along with SDRF and civil administration has launched a joint operation, but the operator who drowned has not been located as yet.

"Given the nature of the accident, it is highly unlikely that the driver would be alive", he said adding "We nonetheless are making every possible effort to see if he could be rescued safely."

## DG Command Area Development Jammu visited Budhal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**BUDHAL, MAR 17:** Director General Command Area Development Jammu Sardar Rajinder Singh Tara visited remote block Budhal of Rajouri district. During his visit, Director General met farmers, PRI members and social activists of Budhal and heard their concerns. Addressing the farmers in the meeting, he said that the government is making every possible effort to increase the income of the farmers and all the problems of the farmers are being solved on a priority basis.

He said that the Department of Command Area Development is constructing distributary channels to easily deliver water supply to the farmers' lands, which benefits the



farmers. Director General assured the farmers that they will release more funds for the farmers of Budhal block so that all the distributary channels can be constructed. After the meeting, Director General also inspected the 1.2 Km distributary channels constructed at a cost of 25 lakhs in Kewal area of

Budhal and congratulated the officers of the department for completing the work within the stipulated time. Prominent social Activist and Sarpanch Kewal Muhammad Farooq Inqlabi, Sarpanch Muhammad Shabbir Aflaton, Sarpanch Khalil Ur Rehman, Sarpanch

Liaqat Ali, Parvez Malik, Farooq Baba also participated in the meeting and thanked the Director General Command Area for visiting Budhal. Farooq Inqlabi said that farmers of Budhal are happy and thankful to all the officers of the department for working on priority basis for Budhal block.

## Training on Minimising Pesticide Use & Land use Planning organised

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Continuing the series of Trainings, a training programme on Minimising Pesticide Use & Land use Planning was organised at Conference Hall D C office Reasi, here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture officer Reasi, Harbans Singh stressed on Reducing the indiscriminate use of pesticides keeping in the view adverse effects of pesticides on humans and environment. Regarding Land Use Planning, he said we have to put efforts to maintain soil health by the way of Natural/Organic agriculture. DAO Extension, Rajesh Verma highlighted the Promotion of bioagents, Biopesticides, and safe pesticides for production of quality food. Strat ups for



increasing the production of bio control agents should also be promoted.

During technical session, Head KVK, Banarasi Lal deliberated about Land Use Planning including robust land use policy, educating the farmers on soil health management and action

plan for improving soil health. Agriculture Assistant (Inputs), Sushil Gupta through PPT covered the topics like IPM strategies, Regulatory measures for reduction of pesticide use. Those who participated in the training include District Agriculture

officer, Ravinder Tripathi SMS DL, Amit Sharma, ASCO, Varinder Dogra, and Sub division Agriculture officer Dharmari, Rupinder Pal Singh Bedi, SDAO Reasi, Vinod Khajuria, SMSs, AEOs and other field functionaries.

## Two-day Multidisciplinary National Conference concludes at GDC Thannamandi



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**BUDHAL, MAR 17:** The conference was held from 15th March 2023 to 16th March 2023, with the aim to provide a platform for scientists, academicians, researchers, and professionals to share their research and innovative ideas.

The conference witnessed the presence of eminent personalities from the academic and research fraternity as the Chief Guests, Guests of Honour and Special Guests of the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions.

The Inaugural Session was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Baba Gulshan Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, Prof. Akbar Masood, as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour for the session was Professor Shabir Hussain Shah, retired principal, Higher Education Department JK (UT) whereas Prof. Iqbal Pervaiz, Dean Academic Affairs, Baba Gulshan Shah

University, Rajouri was Honorary Guest. The Special Guest for the session was Prof. (Dr.) Shakeel Ahmed Raina, Retired Principal, Higher Education Department, JK (UT) whereas Prof. (Dr.) Shams Kamal Anjum, Associate Dean & Head, Department of Arabic, Baba Gulshan Shah Badshah University was Key Note Speaker.

The Valedictory Session was presided over by the Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmed, Head, Department of Physics, Govt. PG College Rajouri. The Guest of Honour for the session was Sayed Sahil Ali (KAS), Tehsildar Thannamandi and the Special Guest for the session was Prof. Iqbal Raina from Department of Physics, PG College Rajouri.

Parallel technical sessions were held on both days wherein researchers, academicians and industry experts presented their research work and shared their knowledge and exper-

iences. The sessions were chaired by experts from various fields, who provided excellent feedback and suggestions to the presenters.

The Inaugural Session started with the recitation of Holy Quranic verses by Mohd Yasir, a student of the College, followed by National Anthem by a group of students. The introduction of the conference was given by Prof. Raheela Mushtaq, Head Department of Zoology and Organising Secretary of the Conference. The formal welcome address was given by the principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed. This was followed by the addresses of Key Note Speaker, Special Guest, Honorary Guest, Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest, in his presidential address, highlighted the importance of such conferences in promoting interdisciplinary research and fostering collaboration among researchers. He said that such conferences pro-

vide an excellent platform for researchers, academicians and professionals to discuss recent trends in research and innovation across various disciplines. He appreciated the efforts of the organising team led by the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed in hosting such a grand event. The session ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Tahir Nadeem, Assistant Professor (Applied Mathematics) who was the convener of the Technical Support Committee for this conference.

The Valedictory Session started after lunch on the second day with floral welcome of dignitaries followed by welcome address by the Principal of the College, Dr. Farooq Ahmed. After this, the Special Guest, the Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest presented their addresses. The Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmed, in his presidential address, expressed his satisfaction on the organisation of this conference. He said that this conference provided a platform for researchers, academicians, industry experts etc. to share their research findings, discuss innovative ideas and explore collaborative opportunities. The Valedictory session concluded with the distribution of certificates and mementos to the participants and the organizers of the conference followed by Vote of thanks by Mr. Tahir Nadeem, Assistant Professor (Applied Mathematics).

## Reliance Foundation Drishti marks 20 years of vision welfare for vulnerable communities

LAUNCHES MARATHI BRAILLE NEWSPAPER

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** The holistic vision care programme, Reliance Foundation Drishti, completed two decades of service, marking the milestone with the launch of a Braille newspaper in Marathi. Under the Drishti initiative, over 20,500 free corneal transplants have been performed and vision care provided to over 1.75 lakh people.

"It fills us with joy that Reliance Foundation Drishti has completed 20 years. What started as a dream of bringing light, happiness, and self-sufficiency in the lives of the visually impaired has become a movement today," said Mrs Nita M. Ambani, Founder-Chairperson, Reliance Foundation.

"In the coming decades, we remain committed to doing all that we can to support our visually impaired communities to lead fuller lives of dignity and independence. As another step in this direction, we are delighted to launch the Braille Drishti newspaper in Marathi, in addition to Hindi, to reach a wider audience and have a greater impact."

Initiated in 2003, Reliance Foundation Drishti promotes awareness, protects sight and promotes inclusivity for the visually impaired.



It organises eye screening camps across India and provides spectacles for refractive errors, facilitates cataract removal and corneal transplants to restore or improve vision. The transplants are done in association with the National Association for the Blind, Sankara Eye Foundation and Aravind Eye Care.

Through this initiative, India's only fortnightly international Braille newspaper in Hindi, and now in Marathi, was launched in 2012. Produced in collaboration with the National Association for the Blind, with Shri Swagat Thorat, noted editor and writer as the paper's Chief Editor, the Drishti newspaper covers news and

updates from the world of sports, business, education, current affairs and entertainment. The newspaper also features recipes and reader contributions like poems and articles. At the start of every year, a Braille table calendar is distributed to readers of the paper, which has a readership of 24,000 across 16 countries including India. The newspaper's Marathi Braille edition will now reach more audiences.

To create awareness about eye donation, Drishti internally conducts annual essay writing and art competitions amongst children and grandchildren of Reliance employees.

Gangaram Sadanane, a 24-year-old from Latur in Maharashtra, one of the many people whose vision was restored through Reliance Foundation Drishti, was born with near blindness in both eyes and had to drop out of school. Until he underwent corneal transplant procedures, he was dependent on his mother for his daily activities. He can now see clearly and earns a living by driving an auto rickshaw.

Reliance Foundation Drishti works in close collaboration with organisations like Sunrise Candles to support entrepreneurial efforts of those with visual impairment by procuring products like diyas and other gifting objects from such enterprises to promote inclusivity.

## Gusty winds damage wheat crop in RS Pura

Constitute a special team for survey of damaged crops: Gurdeep Saini

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Rain accompanied with strong winds flattened wheat crop standing in the fields last night in RS Pura area.

Sarpanch of Gandli Panchayat of Block RS Pura and State General Secretary of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, Gurdeep Singh visited various villages of Panchayat along with officials of Agriculture and Revenue Department to take stock of damaged wheat crop due to hailstorm and strong winds. He said that there has been a lot of damage to the wheat crop in the Panchayat, due to which a survey should be done as soon as possible so that the farmers can get compensation for the destroyed crops.

On this occasion, Panchayat Naib Sarpanch Pyare Lal, Panch Pawan Singh, Panch Satya Devi and others accompanied him. On the occasion,



Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini said that the weather has been changing for the last several days and during this time due to strong wind and due to the hailstorm, the wheat crop has suffered a lot and almost all the crops of the Panchayat farmers have been ruined. He said that the worries of the farmers have increased due to the natural calamity and the farmers are

worried about how they will manage their livelihood now.

The Sarpanch urged the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to constitute a special team to survey the damaged crops and prepare a list so that the affected farmers could get proper compensation. Other farmers including Harjinder Singh, Darshan Singh and Nambardar were also present.

## Dr Parneesh for fully exploring tourism potential of Jammu region

ASKS ADMN TO UNDO PARTIALITY, STEP MOTHERLY TREATMENT

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training, BJP, J&K on Thursday made a fervent appeal to the J&K administration to take measures to fully exploit the tourism potential of Jammu region.



taken up the cause of Nathatop, Basohli and Machail as these places have been identified to be developed this year but there are numerous spots in Jammu region having splendid beauty and attractiveness to lure hundreds of tourists but unfortunately the previous regimes with myopic vision never bothered to look at these places because they were allied with the Kashmir phobia that stopped them from

looking beyond. Notably, the government has identified seventy-five offbeat tourist destinations, including Nathatop, Basohli and Machail, for tourism promotion in Jammu and Kashmir this year. While 37 of these offbeat destinations are located in Jammu region, the rest are in Kashmir valley.

Basohli, Baraderi, Dudu, Basantgarh, Darhal, Mandi, Sudh Mahadev, Nathatop are some of the locations selected for the promotion.

Dr Parneesh said that the government has taken a revolutionary step by identifying several offbeat tourist destinations and there is dire need that places falling in Jammu

region should be given special preference as the region is lagging in tourism despite having breathtaking tourist hubs. He said that no doubt that J&K is no less than Switzerland as far as natural beauty is concerned but the lopsided attitude of the successive governments has stopped this paradise on Earth from opening its wings to its maximum capacity. The senior BJP leader appealed to the government to adequate measures by bringing all the tourist destinations on tourism map which can boost the economy of Jammu region and will also help to make Jammu an independent tourist destination.

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 17:** Apni Party Provincial President Jammu ST Wing, Choudhary Shabir Kohli has demanded development in tribal and scheduled caste colonies in Nagrota constituency. Kohli held several meetings in Nagrota constituency and discussed various issues, especially developmental concerns of the people

who claimed that they were being discriminated against with regard to development. "The development is being done at the selective areas and generally, the economically weaker section is being neglected to benefit blue eyed people," he said. He further said that the Apni Party was committed for the equitable development, empowerment of the weaker section and providing employment opportu-

nities. Earlier, the people highlighted their issues. Kohli assured them that their concerns would be highlighted to the concerned authorities for the early redressal of the issues. Prominent among those who attended the meetings include Shair Ali Lodha, Murad Ali Balot, Shah Mohammed, Panch Riyaz, Master Safel Choudhary, Fareed Thikriya, Razaq Kalas and others.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Strengthening security grid in border areas

The Union Government has given a go ahead to the creation of Police Border Posts in all border districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The decision has been taken with the view to ensure that arms, ammunition, explosives, currency and narcotics sent through infiltrators or drones by Pakistan don't manage to cross the border areas. The Posts will act as the second or third line of defence along the borders. Jammu and Kashmir shares International Border and Line of Control with hostile Pakistan which has been pumping in arms, fake currency and narcotics to the Union Territory with ulterior motives. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Jammu and Kashmir Government have come up with a new idea of setting up of the Border Police Posts following drone activities along the borders. Though the drone activities have come down in Jammu and Kashmir during the past few months, yet security agencies seem to be in no mood to be complacent and have increased their vigil in neighbouring State of Punjab. The Police Border Posts have been approved in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu region and Baramulla and Kupwara districts in the Kashmir valley. For this, the government has kept a special provision in the Budget for the next financial year starting from April 1. The step is aimed at further strengthening the Border Grid. It will ensure that no adverse activities by the enemy succeed on the border. Be it infiltration, drone activities, illegal smuggling of weapons, pushing narcotics and currency besides arms, ammunition and explosives. All such activities have to be plugged at any cost. In a majority of the cases, Army and BSF, deployed on LoC and International Border succeed in curbing the illegal activities. However, if infiltrators or Over Ground Workers (OGWs) carrying consignments cross the first line of defence, it has to be ensured that they don't manage to breach border pickets. After smuggling of arms and ammunition from across the border through drones and cross border narcotics, narcotics have emerged as another major challenge for security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir. Army is a frontline force along the Line of control (LoC) in Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Kupwara districts while the Border Security Force mans the International Border in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts. The government has recently activated all the Village Defence Committees (VDCs), now rechristened as Village Defence Groups (VDGs) in the border areas and more such groups could also be set up by the police depending on requirement. The need was felt for the border areas that there should be Police Border Posts to be manned by armed police personnel and will serve as yet another line of defence in the border districts to ensure that terrorists or their OGWs don't succeed in their designs. The government must take the representatives and real stakeholders of border areas on board while setting up police border posts so that an effective security grid is put in place with limited space for lacunas.

# WHY THE BAN ON PLASTIC IS SELF-DEFEATING

'REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE' IS OFTEN PRESCRIBED AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANTRA FOR CURBING PLASTIC PERSISTENCE. THE POINT IS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PLASTIC PROBLEM IN A MANNER THAT CONVERTS THE PROBLEM INTO A GIANT, PROFITABLE OPPORTUNITY THAT CREATES DECENT LIVELIHOODS, PROFITS AND SUSTAINABILITY. THIS, OF COURSE, IS A BIT MORE COMPLEX THAN A SIMPLE, UNENFORCEABLE BAN. BUT IT IS ALSO MORE SUSTAINABLE.

TK ARUN

Do not ban plastic; the costs are too high for society, in particular for the less well-off. Instead, invest heavily in technologies to degrade the plastic not already amenable to biodegradation and deploy these to solve the problem. India has the worker capacity to collect all plastic waste and recycle it or treat it with chemical or biological agents to convert it into simpler compounds such as carbon dioxide, water and methane. India also has the brain power to innovate novel solutions to the problem of plastic persistence in the ecosystem.

Different countries are preparing to ban plastic. Several states and cities in India have already put in place bans on plastic in general or on single-use plastic. These bans basically serve to add to the income stream of protection racketeers, some of them entrenched in the state machinery, who would allow people to carry on with business as usual, occasionally penalising some offenders to demonstrate what would happen to those who refuse to pay the protection fee.

Plastic breaks down into smaller pieces and those small pieces into even smaller pieces, resulting in the end in things called microplastic. When polyester clothes are washed in a machine, very small particles of the material used to make the fibre break off and join the drained water, and these microplastics eventually reach the ocean. Using liquid detergents, rather than powder, reduces the abrasion and breakage of fibre when synthetic clothes are washed.

Reduce, reuse, recycle (RRR) is often prescribed as the most effective mantra for the problem of plastic persistence; some estimates hold that there are more plastic parts accumulated in the ocean than there are fish. Microplastic can enter the food chain and ultimately the human body. The consequences could be quite damaging. The problem is real, but the solution is not to ban plastic. Plastic is useful in ways that are beyond enumeration. From packaging to medical gear, from spectacle lenses to aircraft windowpanes, from strong but light machinery parts to the housing of most elec-



tronics, plastic is the mainstay of modern life.

Consider a street vendor who sells vegetables and fruits, a shopkeeper in less well-off localities who sells a variety of goods, from food to cosmetics, packed in plastic pouches and sachets, household articles used by the poor ranging from footwear and toys to figurines of divinity – plastic is ubiquitous.

It might be argued that not all plastic is proposed to be banned, only single-use plastic is being banned right now. This begs the question, how is this a real solution to the problem of plastic and other so-called forever chemicals?

The answer is a pragmatic shrug of the shoulders: we must begin somewhere and reduce plastic use to the extent we can. This is the kind of pragmatism which results in the ridiculous demand that shoppers should use cloth bags to carry home numerous items of grocery, each one of which is packed in, what else, plastic.

Already, technology exists to make some kinds of plastic biodegradable. Polyolefins, a term used to describe both polyethylene and polypropylene in different forms, can be rendered degradable at speed by adding chemical additives called d2w and d2p, which make polyolefins biodegradable in the presence of oxygen.

These have been in use around the world for around four decades.

But in India, their use is caught up in a tussle over standards and testing. It takes roughly two years to demonstrate biodegradability, whereas companies need faster certification. Another problem is the industry's finding that the standard specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards for breakdown of plastic molecules is faulty; according to them, it excludes the first round breakdown. They want the government to use a standard test that is used in other parts of the world, such as ASTM D6954, till the dispute over the standard is rectified.

These are industry demands that can be entertained without any dire, immediate threat to human health and well-being.

However, d2w biodegradable technology is not suitable for PET, polystyrene, nylon and PVC (polyvinyl chloride). The challenge is to degrade them too. If bacteria can be cultured to eat up oil slicks, there is no reason why plastic, too, should not be amenable to such conversion into naturally occurring compounds.

This is a technical challenge at which the government should throw a lot of money and brain power. India's biotechnology capability is, for the most part, toiling away abroad in labs run by multi-

national companies and foreign governments.

Indian universities and scientific councils should invite some leading biotechnologists of Indian origin back to India, with the promise of autonomy and funding, to develop the solutions the world at large needs in degrading plastic.

Then, there is the task of collecting, sorting, cleaning and making available for processing the millions of tonnes of plastic disposed of in the country.

As it is, it is estimated that about 60 per cent of plastic refuse is collected for recycling in India. India has enough people to do the labour-intensive job. If their remuneration is improved, dipping into a levy that can be imposed on plastic at the raw material stage and utilised for RRR and degradation, it would add to employment and environmental sustainability. Sewage should, of course, be treated for plastic degradation, along with other treatment that sewage is supposed to receive, in any case.

The point is to find solutions to the plastic problem in a manner that converts the problem into a giant, profitable opportunity that creates decent livelihoods, profits and sustainability. This, of course, is a little more complex than a simple, unenforceable ban. But it is also more sustainable.

## No room for grey areas in defence allocations

GP CAPT MURLI MENON (RETI)

The latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report lists India as the world's top arms importer, accounting for 11 per cent of all such international imports between 2018 and 2022.

Saudi Arabia, China, Qatar and Australia are the other four main importers, followed by the US, Pakistan, Egypt, South Korea and Japan. This report, by itself, may not portray a holistic picture of the place defence occupies in the budgetary priorities of these nations or the efforts they are making to reduce their import bill.

President Joe Biden recently unveiled the breakdown of the US defence budget, pegged at around \$842 billion, and in a few years it is expected to touch \$1,000 billion. While the American security interests encompass heavy allocations for research and development, new areas of interest such as the Indo-Pacific Command and new ventures in space and nuclear technologies, India has its own requirements to meet the security challenges, situated as we are in a strategically volatile region, with neighbours none too friendly and just awaiting opportune moments to breach our security over land, sea and air.

The defence budget allocation for

'Reduce, reuse and recycle' is often prescribed as the most effective mantra for curbing plastic persistence. The point is to find solutions to the plastic problem in a manner that converts the problem into a giant, profitable opportunity that creates decent livelihoods, profits and sustainability. This, of course, is a bit more complex than a simple, unenforceable ban. But it is also more sustainable.



2023-24 is Rs 5.94 lakh crore (just \$72.73 billion). The Chinese defence spending for the year is expected to be around \$225 billion, which gives us a comparative mosaic of the world's three leading strategic players. Coming to Indian security imperatives, the need for substantial funding for defence procurements and servicing is reinforced by our overall security scenario. It used to be the opinion of the strategic community that our defence budget should be at least 3 per cent of our GDP. But the global and regional developments of late may call for an upward revision of this ballpark, mainly as shown by

the Ukraine war on one hand and China's attempts to unilaterally alter the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the other. Pakistan being in a deleterious economic predicament as of now, Indian defence planning has to be remodelled much more on the global scenario and India's strategic aspirations in the emerging order.

Increased allocations for pay and allowances and pensions are inescapable. Even the Americans have made a 5 per cent raise in pay in this year's defence budget. India's peculiarities in security management include the low-intensity conflict requirements necessitated by the pre-

vailing counter-insurgency situation, specifically in the North-East and against Maoist elements elsewhere.

These are contingencies which other countries may or may not have to factor in. The need for careful dovetailing of our paramilitary budgeting and defence budgeting cannot be overemphasised. While some aspects such as air power, electronic combat, search & rescue and air defence have to cater to multi-agency environments, the enlarged threat spectrum puts an additional burden on the national exchequer.

Another important aspect in defence budgeting is the provision for non-defence expenses accrued by various headquarters. The US defence budget this year has kept \$44 billion for such expenditure. While our defence budget does have separate allocations for capital outlay, revenue, pensions and defence civilians, the allocations for R&D and other innovative measures need to be increased considerably. The US defence R&D allocation this year is \$145 billion, with \$170 billion separately earmarked for procurements. Besides, another \$60 billion is earmarked for aircraft development. They have a separate head for air

power procurements, unlike in India where aircraft procurements fall under the capital budgets of the three services. Proper code heading of various aspects of budgeting is the key to proper defence management and prioritisation.

The US defence budget has separate allocations for new weapon technologies and new bases coming up in the Philippines and its Pacific posturing against China. The Indian defence budget has several aspects linked to the increased Chinese threat, but we stop short of mentioning this categorically, perhaps for fear of antagonising China. There is also a lack of clarity in our defence allocations for our strategic missile programmes. Calling out such allocations clearly would also have payoffs in terms of psychological operations and cyber war. So, perhaps there is a case for clarity in nominating budgetary heads, such as separate allocations in the US budget for hypersonic weapons and cyber warfare. Comparisons with the US defence budget may not be wholly valid in all respects, but the clarity in nominating allocations for innovative and modern projects is something we could emulate. Also, the presidential system of government in that country

may be amenable to such a proactive approach to budgeting, which our traditional parliamentary democratic setup may not be comfortable with. For example, this year the US has gone in for a pay hike for their servicemen, whereas in India are still agonising over One Rank, One Pension and modalities for its disbursement.

Assessing India's defence requirements vis-à-vis its development priorities in terms of budgeting is the key challenge for our financial planners. Innovative measures to find the monies for meeting defence requirements, more so in the backdrop of Atmanirbharta, should be the order of the day. Also needed are appropriate constitutional reforms to meet the funding challenges, be it for new projects such as Agni-Path/MMRCA (Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) or for finding the monies through suitable private-public partnerships. The rapid degree of obsolescence in defence technology would necessitate timely adaptation and import of technology till our indigenous capabilities in manpower, training, manufacturing and public-private partnership reach global standards in cutting-edge fields.



## 'TWITTER SHOULD INVENT A VIRTUAL SLAP': SONALI KULKARNI'S 'WOMEN ARE LAZY' COMMENT DRAWS FLAK ONLINE

Sonali Kulkarni's recent comments on modern Indian women have earned her internet wrath and even some compliments. A section of Twitter users is furious after Sonali Kulkarni's recent comments at an event. In a recent interview, Sonali spoke at length about modern Indian women and how they wish for a well-earning, settled husband while giving no input in the household's finances. She even went so far as to call women 'lazy'.

"Bharat mein bahut saari ladkiyan aisi hain (in India a lot of women are just lazy)," she said. "They want a boyfriend or husband, who earns well, owns a house, and gets regular increments. But, in the middle of this, women forget to make a stand for themselves. Women don't know what will they do." She added, "I urge everyone to

bringing up such women in your houses that are able and can earn for themselves. Who can say that yes, we want a new fridge in the house, you pay for half of it, I will pay the other half," she said in her interview with Bhupendra Singh Raathore.

Twitter is divided in its reaction to her statement. While many men are praising her for saying the 'truth', many women have criticised her myopic perspective on the issue. "Twitter should invent virtual slap. Ladkiyaan aaisi nahi hoti, half of the families in India don't raise their daughters to build careers, they educate them so they get good husband and they condition girls to believe marriage will be the biggest moment of their lives not their careers," wrote one.

Another said, "The need for male validation is embarrassing."

**Shah Rukh Khan is impressed with Rani Mukerji's performance, 'my Rani shines as only a queen can'**



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is all praise for his close friend Rani Mukerji's performance in her latest release 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway'. In the film, Rani essays the role of a mother battling the state for her kids. The film is based on Sagarika Chakaraborty's book 'The Journey of a Mother'. Helmed by Ashima Chibber, Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' also stars Neena Gupta, Jim Sarbh and Anirban Bhattacharya among others.

The film hit the theatres on Friday. Sagarika Chatterjee is a woman who stood up against the government of Norway to fight for the right to be reunited with her children after they were taken away from her and placed in foster care and were told that they will not be returned until the age of 18. SRK watched the film and also gave a shout-out to Rani. Taking to Twitter, he wrote, "What a tremendous effort by the whole team of Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway. My Rani shines in the central role as only a Queen can. Director Ashima, shows a human struggle with such sensitivity. Jim, @AnirbanSpeakeath, #Namit, #SaumyaMukherjee, #BalajiGauri all shine. A must watch." SRK and Rani have been friends for a long time now. The duo have worked together in several films such as 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham', 'Chalte Chalte', 'Paheli', 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' and 'Veer Zaraa' among others.

## ASHWINI KASAR DONS KHAKHEE FOR A SHOW, SAYS, 'I'M EXCITED TO PLAY A COP'

After playing social reformer Savitribai Phule in Savitri Jyoti, Ashwini Kasar has locked her next project, wherein she will play a cop. Actor Ashwini Kasar will soon be seen picking up a laathi and donning a khaki uniform on TV as she is set to play a cop for the first time.

After essaying the role of social reformer Savitribai Phule in Savitri Jyoti, she has signed her next – a crime thriller, titled Karana Karunya Mafi Nah.

Here, she will be seen playing

the role of an Assistant Police Commissioner (ACP). "This is a different experience. I have not played anything remotely similar to it," exclaims the actor, adding, "To play a police officer is going to be very challenging, as it will require a lot of hard work, both intellectually and physically. However, I am excited and I hope to do justice to the role." Ask how she is preparing for the role and the 33-year-old shares, "I am watching inter-

views of police officers to understand their conduct." She also hopes that her background in law will help her build a convincing character.

Kasar is looking at other female cops for inspiration and is impressed with the work done by ACP Sanjukta Parashar, who is also known as the Iron Lady of Assam. Calling her "very inspiring", the actor says she considers herself lucky as she has got the "opportunity to play diverse characters", she signs off.



## Ananya Panday dances with dad to 'Saat Samundar Paar'



It was a visual treat to see actress Ananya Panday dance with her father Chunky Panday on the song 'Saat Samundar Paar' at her cousin Almana Panday's wedding held here on Thursday.

A video shared on Ananya's fan page, showed Ananya dressed in a powder blue and white saree dancing with Chunky, who sported a parrot green blazer paired with white pants. They were also joined by Ananya's cousin brother Ahaan, who looked dapper in a black suit.

The song 'Saat Samundar Paar' is from Chunky's 1992 film 'Vishwatma' directed by Rajiv Rai. It also stars Sunny Deol, Naseeruddin Shah and Divya Bharti among many others.

The film follows Prabhat, an honest police officer, being sent to Kenya by the Indian Government to capture the dreaded crime lord Ajgar Jurrat and bring an end to his illegal businesses.

On the work front, Ananya will next be seen in Vikramaditya Motwane's untitled cyber crime-thriller, Farhan Akhtar's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' and 'Dream Girl 2'.

## Kareena Kapoor says she loves taking care of her house, asks son Taimur to help lay the table for guests

Kareena Kapoor revealed that she enjoys doing basic chores around the house and even asks her young son Taimur Ali Khan to help out when guests come over.

Kareena Kapoor launched the fourth season of her talk show 'What Women Want' on Friday. Promoting the series, the actor also spoke about her personal and professional life as well. While she is a successful and in-demand actor, Kareena revealed that she is extremely hands-on in managing her home and even involves her children in household tasks. (Also read: Saif Ali Khan poses for Kareena Kapoor as Taimur and Jeh focus on a giraffe in new pic from Africa)

She revealed that it was important to her and her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan, to lead by example. The actor shared that she knows her children, six-year-old Taimur Ali Khan and two-year-old Jehangir Ali Khan, are watching what they are doing. Therefore, it was important for her to balance both her work and the family.

Speaking to Film Companion, Kareena told interviewer Sneha



Menon Desai, "I love multitasking. I love being an actor, a star, a housewife. I love handling the home. If I'm having people over, I like the fact that I'll clean the table probably on my own. I'll say, also karo, kaise karo (do this, do that). I get into all of that. That's so much a part of me."

She added, "I'm passionate and I like to keep doing something. If the grandparents or someone is coming over, they'll also help. I'll tell Tim [Taimur], come on, help lay the table. They have to see yourselves cooking and come to the kitchen. Everyone's hanging together, listening to music."

## Taylor Swift drops four new songs ahead of her Eras Tour



Taylor Swift took to her Instagram Stories to announce that she is releasing four new songs ahead of her Eras Tour. The US leg of her tour begins on March 17.

Ahead of her long-awaited The Eras Tour, Taylor Swift is giving her fans new reasons to cheer. The singer took to her Instagram Stories to reveal that she will drop four previously unreleased songs at midnight ET / 9 p.m. PT, on the eve of the first night of her Eras Tour.

Taylor took to her Instagram Stories and wrote: "In celebration of The Eras Tour I'm releasing 4 previously unreleased songs tonight at midnight 9 (clock and smile emoji) Eyes Open (Taylor's Version), Safe & Sound (ft. Joy Williams and John Paul White) (Taylor's Version), If This Was a Movie (Taylor's Version) and All of the Girls You Loved Before." The four tracks are re-recordings of the singer's contributions to the soundtrack to 2012's The Hunger Games which are Eyes Open and Safe & Sound which features Joy Williams and John Paul White. Meanwhile, All of the Girls You Loved Before is an unreleased track which was considered for Taylor Swift's 2019 album Lover. The song was leaked in February this year, after which it went viral on TikTok when numerous fans requested the singer for its official release.

The release of these four songs coincide with the beginning of her Eras Tour at State Farm Stadium today on March 17, where she will perform again on the next day. The Eras Tour will also include additional performances from Phoebe Bridgers, Paramore, Haim, MUNA, Gracie Abrams, and Gayle.

The singer recently posted pictures of herself rehearsing for The Eras Tour, where she was seen practicing on stage. The singer posted a couple of pictures where she can be seen singing on an empty stage rehearsing by herself. She captioned the post saying, "In my Eras era (nails emotion)".

## Ranbir Kapoor says he has no ego, is first to say sorry to Alia: 'When a couple fights sometimes...'

RANBIR KAPOOR APPEARED IN COUSIN KAREENA KAPOOR'S TALK SHOW WHAT WOMEN WANT, WHERE HE OPENED UP ABOUT HIS MARRIAGE TO ALIA BHATT.

Ranbir Kapoor was the first guest in the fourth season of cousin Kareena Kapoor's show, 'What Women Want', on YouTube. In the show, Ranbir talks about a bunch of topics confidently, from marrying Alia Bhatt to welcoming their daughter Raha Kapoor.

In the show, Kareena asks Ranbir about his relationship with actor-wife Alia Bhatt. She

asks, "Stay up and fight with Alia or sleep over it?" Responding to this question, Ranbir instantly replies, "I am the sleep over it kind of a guy. Let's just sleep over it and pick it up in the morning because by then see... kya hota he ki (what happens is) when a couple fights sometimes to hurt the other person lot of things are said for effect and you don't really mean it and the other

person thinks that you are coming from a place of something so that person takes those 3-4 words and it stays with that person and then you have to clarify it... So it always comes in the heat of the moment so I always believe that if there is a fight I can just kind of take some space."

Kareena then responds to Ranbir's answer and asks, "How are you so sensible?" and

alleges that he has come with his answers prepared from before the show. To this Ranbir says that he didn't even know what questions she will ask and says he still needs to complete his answer. He then says, "I think space is great and also Alia is somebody... she's a lawyer so if she feels that she's wronged she will not let go until she makes her point clear. And I am the guy who has no

ego. I don't have self-respect also. I am very happy saying sorry even if I am in the right or wrong but I like that space. I like the concept of space."

Ranbir married Alia last year in April. They welcomed their daughter Raha Kapoor in November 2022. They recently celebrated their first Holi as husband and wife, and as parents. Ranbir Kapoor is currently basking in the success of his



latest outing, Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar. The film released on March 8 and also starred Shraddha Kapoor.

# 7 Ayurvedic superfood that you can have every day - follow list and get fit!

**A**yurvedic superfoods: Superfoods refer broadly to those food items which are packed with nutrients and have minimum calories. So who won't want to have them? While there has been criticism that the term was coined for marketing purposes to influence certain food trends and sell products, nevertheless, many of these items are known to have shown great health benefits, in exchange of adding minimal calories. The great thing is that you don't have to depend on expensive, imported food items, there are a bunch of Indian superfoods - easily available - that you can rely on.

Ayurveda expert Dr Rekha Radhamony took to Instagram recently to share a post on 7 Ayurvedic superfoods that can be eaten daily. In the post, she mentions that certain Ayurvedic foods are "universally good for everyone every day". She mentions these 7 superfoods:

Amla  
Pomegranate  
Ghee  
Moong Dal  
Honey  
Black raisins  
Tender radish  
So let's find out the health benefits of these



## superfoods:

**Amla:** Loaded with Vitamin C, amla or Indian gooseberry is known for its anti-ageing and immunity-boosting properties. So incorporate more of these in your diet.

**Pomegranate:** Rich in fibre, vitamins, and

minerals, pomegranates have many health benefits. It boosts immunity, helps in fighting Type-2 diabetes, and keeps blood pressure in check.

**Ghee:** When they insisted that we should have ghee, our grandmas were right!

Studies have proved that adding ghee to your meals reduces the glycemic index of food. Nutritionists like Rujuta Diwekar - best known for helping Kareena Kapoor Khan achieve her admirable figure - swears by ghee.

**Moong dal:** Packed with iron, potassium, and magnesium, moong dal is a very popular Indian superfood. Being fibre rich, it helps in digestion. Some studies have shown that this dal improves glucose tolerance as it has a low glycemic index and is therefore good for diabetic patients. It's also good for the heart and improves blood circulation.

**Honey:** Honey has numerous health benefits. Raw honey is a rich source of antioxidants called polyphenols. Having a spoonful daily can have many health benefits. Make sure to buy good quality, organic honey.

**Black raisins:** Packed with Vitamins, dietary fibers, and minerals, black raisins are good for anxious patients, help in eliminating harmful toxins from the body and even improve heart health.

**Tender radish:** Rich in antioxidants and minerals like calcium and potassium, radish is known to help in lowering heart diseases and high blood pressure.

## Does high-protein grilled chicken help you lose weight?



**K**eeping a track of weight is very important but do that weekly. If you want to lose weight, losing about 5 to 10 per cent of your current weight over six months is recommended. However, do not stress if there are minor shifts week after week. It could be due to the volume of water.

**Should I drink water before meals to lose weight faster?**  
Drinking water is important for hydration. Although some individuals attempting weight loss drink water before meals to kill hunger pangs, there is a lack of research data supporting this practice. There are certain conditions where excess water intake is contraindicated like kidney disease and cardiac failure.

**Can I have all the grilled chicken I want and still lose weight?**

No. Undoubtedly, grilled chicken is an excellent source of protein, low in fat and is nutrient dense. An 85 gm portion of skinless, boneless chicken breast yields just 102 calories. A high-protein diet is very effective in weight loss, both in the short and long-term. But portion control is very important. Moderation is the key for a healthy weight loss.

**Should I skip dinner if I have a heavy lunch?**  
No. When you skip dinner, it increases the period of fasting and has been associated with lower energy levels and nutrient deficiencies. It is going to have negative effects on the body leading to weight gain. Besides, if you make radical changes in your diet, you are more likely to hit the refrigerator at odd hours and undo all the good.

**Should I plan every meal for weight loss?**  
Absolutely yes.

## Stubborn Vitamin D Levels? People Swear By This Supplement To Reach Sufficiency

**M**ost of the U.S. population (i.e., 93% to 100%) is failing to consume even small amounts of vitamin D on a daily basis. Thanks to this startling fact, a shocking number of Americans are living with suboptimal vitamin D levels: 41% of U.S. adults are insufficient, and a whopping 29% are straight-up deficient.

What's more, many vitamin D supplements aren't actually effective at raising vitamin D levels thanks to three main factors:

1. They feature vitamin D2 instead of D3 (the superior form).

2. They don't include a dietary fat or encourage people to take their vitamin D with a meal or snack that includes healthy fats (to enhance absorption and optimize bioavailability).

3. As a result, many people supplement with vitamin D for years without moving the needle on their vitamin D levels. If you're struggling to achieve and/or sustain healthy vitamin D status [which leading functional medicine experts agree is a 25(OH)D test result of 50 ng/ml or higher], mind-bogglingly vitamin D3 potency+ might be able to help you out. The result? A truly effective daily supplement that helps people reach and maintain vitamin D sufficiency so they're able to support the body's many D-critical functions—including healthy immune and inflammatory responses, sexual pleasure, oral health, mood support, and muscle function, to name a few.\*

# NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT EATING OMEGA-3S CAN SIGNIFICANTLY BOOST COGNITION—EVEN IN YOUNG PEOPLE

**I**f I was tasked with naming the nutritional equivalent of the 1980s "brat pack," I would probably list protein, fiber, an array of vitamins, and—finally—the illustrious Molly Ringwald of the group, omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3s are multifaceted team players that improve everything from your skin health to your brain function. And according to a recent study, they're just like Ringwald herself in that they're absolutely timeless.

A new study published in the journal *Neurology* found that—whether you have 16 candles on your cake or more—it's worth doubling down on your fatty fish—and general omega-3-rich food—consumption. "Most studies looking at omega-3 fatty acids and brain health have been focused on infants and children or older adults with dementia, so the fact that this study shows that omega-3 fats benefit your brain throughout the life cycle is significant. It shows that it's smart to get them in your diet early and throughout all stages of life," says registered dietitian Anne Danahy, RDN, founder of Craving Something Healthy.

Let's get into the nitty-gritty: In



this study, middle-aged people whose blood contained more omega-3s—or polyunsaturated fatty acids characterized by the presence of a double bond—showed larger brain volumes and

performed better on reasoning and logic tests compared to those with lower omega-3 levels. "What's more, the results showed benefits with just a little bit of omega-3 consumption. You don't

need to eat huge quantities of fish or take high doses of a supplement to get the benefits," says Danahy.

While society tends to conflate brain-targeting diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia with old age, preventing—or slowing—these diseases actually begins at an early age.

"We usually associate cognitive decline with older adults and Alzheimer's or dementia, but cognitive decline happens slowly, and you might not fully realize the signs until it's too late. It's important to do all you can to support your brain while you are younger, which will help reduce the risk of problems when you're older," says Danahy.

Eating your omega-3s is one simple, everyday way to look after the organ upstairs.

In short: No matter how old you are, it's important to make sure you're consuming your daily recommended intake of omega-3s (about 1,100 mg for women and 1,600 mg for men). Scroll down for the top three food sources of omega-3s and how much you need to eat to hit your quota (because, seriously, you can eyeball milligrams these

days?)

1. **Oily, fatty fish**  
"Oily fish like salmon, sardines, anchovies, herring, and mackerel are tops for omega-3 content, but even lean white fish like cod or tilapia count. If you don't eat fish, it may be worth taking an omega-3 supplement to help protect your aging brain," says Danahy. A three-ounce serving of wild salmon contains about 887 milligrams of omega-3s, while a two-ounce serving of sardines contains about 556 milligrams.

2. **Flaxseeds**  
The fatty acids in these teeny, tiny seeds are the reason they've been linked to helping protect against cardiovascular disease. Per the Mayo Clinic, one to two tablespoons of flax seeds per day is the nutritional sweet spot, and you should consider grinding or crushing them (or just buying flax meal), so your body can actually make use of those omega-3s.

3. **Chia seeds**  
You'll get a powerful combo of omega-3s and fiber with chia seeds. Two tablespoons of these babies contain a whopping 4.2 grams of omega-3s, so you can add them to your smoothie and know you're set for the day.

# WHY WE NEED TO FOCUS ON NUTRITION, NOT HUNGER

**E**very October, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) is released. It generally creates an uproar, and with good reason. But this time it has gone overboard. The fountainhead is a 16-year-old German and Irish organisation, which measures and ranks countries on a hunger index at the global, regional, and national levels, but not at the sub-national level where some Indian states fare better. The GHI's stated aim is to reduce hunger around the world. But its methodology focuses disproportionately on less than five-year-olds.

In common parlance, hunger and nutrition are two different things. Hunger is associated with food scarcity and starvation. It produces images of emaciated people holding empty food bowls. GHI uses childhood mortality and nutrition indicators. But its preamble states "communities, civil society organisations, small producers, farmers, and indigenous groups... shape how access to nutritious food is governed." This suggests that GHI sees hunger as a food production challenge when, according to the FAO, India is the world's largest producer and consumer of grain and the largest producer

of milk; when the per capita intake of grain, vegetables and milk has increased manifold. It is, therefore, contentious and unacceptable to club India with countries facing serious food shortages, which is what GHI has done.

The sensational use of the word hunger is abhorrent given the facts. But there is no denying that in India, nutrition, particularly child nutrition, continues to be a problem. Unlike the GHI, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) does a good job of providing comparative state-level data, including the main pointers that determine health and nutrition. NFHS provides estimates of underweight, (low weight for age), stunting (low height for age) and wasting (low weight for height). These conditions affect preschool children (those less than 6 years of age) disproportionately and compromise a child's physical and mental development while also increasing the vulnerability to infections. Moreover, undernourished mothers (attributable to social and cultural practices) give birth to low-birth-weight babies that remain susceptible to infections, transporting their handicaps into childhood and adolescence.

The jury is divided on the causes and solutions. Leela Visaria, a noted sociologist, links the nutritional status of young children with the post-neonatal phase when children suffer from acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases. Sanitation and hygiene require much more work, she says. The Director of the Nutrition Foundation of India Prema Kamachandran says, "the Body Mass Index test is the best way of identifying both thin and overweight kids and the ongoing Poshan Abhiyaan envisages this." Professor V Subramanian at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health writes, "there is a need to declutter the current approaches to child undernutrition by keeping it simple. I advise against a disproportionate focus on anthropometry (body measurements); instead, the need is to have a direct engagement with actual diet and food intake."

The irony is that issues related to nutrition and their solutions, although they appear simple and cheap, need delving into individual homes. The first child nutrition challenge relates to breastfeeding. The WHO and UNICEF recommend that breastfeeding should be initiated within the first hour of birth and infants should be exclusively

breastfed for the first six months. According to NFHS 5, in India, the percentage improvement of children who were exclusively breastfed when under six months, rose from 55 per cent in NFHS 4 to 64 per cent in NFHS 5. That is progress, but it is not enough. By not being breastfed, an infant is denied the benefits of acquiring antibodies against infections, allergies and even protection against several chronic conditions. NFHS 5 says that only 42 per cent of infants are breastfed within one hour of birth, which is the recommended norm. Interestingly, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra, Manipur, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana score above 70 per cent whereas the ones below 50 per cent include Bihar, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The others are in between.

The second issue relates to young child feeding practices.

At root are widespread practices like not introducing semi-solid food after six months, prolonging breastfeeding well beyond the recommended six months and giving food lacking in nutritional diversity. NFHS 5 shows that the improvement has been marginal over the last two reports and sur-

prisingly, states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Assam, UP and Gujarat are at the tail end.

The feedback from a 40-year-old NGO CHETNA (with whom the writer is associated), which works for women's and children's health and nutrition across three states (Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan) is revealing. The NGO echoes the findings on breastfeeding and young children's feeding practices, not through surveys, but by observing what goes on within the homes. Young children are allowed to run around while eating, exposing the food to flies, dust and heat.

The NGO also found that children are weaned on watery liquid from cooked grain when they need energy and nutrition-dense food to develop.

Even one teaspoon of ghee or oil added to semi-solid dal or khichri can provide adequate protein and calories. But mothers are ignorant of this. Equally, diversity in diet is important. Families start kitchen gardens and some even rear poultry once they are taught how nutrition can be improved.

The third issue is the outcome of poor nutrition. According to NFHS 5, the percentage of stunted, wasted and

underweight children is 36 per cent, 19 per cent and 32 per cent respectively. It is worrisome that states like Bihar, UP and Jharkhand have fallen from their own levels five years ago.

Overall, there has been an eight percentage point increase in children suffering from anaemia—from 59 per cent in NFHS 4 to 67 per cent in NFHS 5. This has a lot to do with the mistaken belief that manufactured snacks are "good food". Anecdotally, there are reports that households in Dharavi, Asia's largest slum, spend up to Rs 30 per day on packaged snacks like chips, papad and other over-salted edibles. Parents allow the child to sleep on an undernourished (virtually empty) stomach.

CHETNA found the same phenomenon in urban slums and in villages and lamented that the same Rs 5 spent on manufactured snacks would be better spent on buying one egg.

Almost one dozen nutrition programmes have been under implementation since 1975. Several more have been added of late, but most beneficiaries of these food distribution programmes are kids attending anganwadis or schools, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating mothers.



# Capacity building program on "Women safety & security" held in Srinagar

DC SRINAGAR STRESSES ON ADDRESSING GAPS TO CREATE GENDER EQUITABLE AND CHILD CENTRED POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: To address the gaps in action for women and children with the objective to create gender equitable and child centred environment, a daylong capacity building programme on "Women safety & security" for the functionaries of Mission Shakti/ Mission Vatsalya, Mission Poshan and Special Cell for Women and Children was today held here in the Auditorium of SKIMS, JVC, Bemina.

The programme was held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav PRAN 4 UNITY (unity in diversity).

During the programme, the functionaries of Mission Shakti/ Mission Vatsalya, Mission



Poshan and Special Cell for Women and Children were sensitised about the programme and were given training by the Resource persons.

District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad who is also Nodal Officer of Mission Shakti presided over the function and highlighted the objectives of the programme in his introductory

speech.

On the occasion, Resource persons including Secretary SDA, Dr Mantasha Binti Rashid, Deputy Advocate General J&K High Court, Advocate Mubashir Malik, Assistant Professor IUST, Dr Shazana Andrabi and Centre Administrator One Stop Centre Bandipora, Ms Ishrat Ayoub delivered their lectures on the

topic.

Speaking about the daylong programme, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar highlighted the importance of Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya an Umbrella Schemes of Ministry of Women & Child Development.

The DC said the scheme is aimed at empowerment and pro-

tection of women and children and ensuring their wholesome development in a safe and secure environment. He said the scheme is crucial for sustainable and equitable development of the society and for achieving transformational economic and social changes.

The DC further said the Government is giving focused attention to ensure well-nourished and cheerful children and confident, self-reliant women by providing them with an environment which is accessible, affordable, reliable and free from all forms of discrimination and violence.

He further said the prime objective of the scheme is to address gaps in measures taken for women and children to create gender equitable and child centred policies and programmes.

## Training on 'Minimising Pesticide Use & Land use Planning' organised

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, MARCH 17: A training programme on 'Minimising Pesticide Use & Land Use Planning' was organised at Conference Hall of DC Office today.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh stressed on reducing the indiscriminate use of pesticides keeping in view adverse effects on humans and environment. Regarding land use planning, he said efforts must be made to maintain soil health through natural/organic agriculture.

DAO Extension, Rajesh Verma highlighted the promotion of bioagents, biopesticides and safe pesticides for quality food production. Start-ups for increasing bio control agent production should also be promoted, he said.

During a technical session, Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banarasi Lal deliberated about land use planning including robust land use policy and educating farmers on soil health management. Agriculture Assistant (Inputs) Sushil Gupta covered topics like IPM strategies and regulatory measures for pesticide reduction through PPT.

Participants of the event included District Agriculture Officer, Ravinder Tripathi; SMS DL, Amit Sharma; ASCO, Varinder Dogra; Subdivision Agriculture Officer Dharmari, Rupinder Pal Singh Bedi; SDAO Reasi, Vinod Khajuria, SMS, AEOs and other field functionaries.

## Kishtwar: Animal breeders participate in awareness camp at Kandni

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MARCH 17: Under the District Training cum Demonstration programme, an Awareness Camp was organised today by the Department of Animal Husbandry at Kandni area of Drabshalla block.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr Sanjay Kumar Sen was the main campaigner of the event. He was accompanied by Dr Mukesh Kumar (VAS), Dr Mohammad Umair (VAS) and other staff from concerned veterinary centres.

CAHO Kishtwar educated locals about schemes like IDS and IPDP and encouraged educated unemployed youths to take advantage of these schemes to generate livelihoods for themselves and others.

The public was also informed about benefits of Artificial Insemination (Frozen semen Technology) and Sex Sorted Semen (SSS) scheme for genetic upgradation of local cattle breed. They were told about availability of Sex Sorted Frozen Semen technology in nearby Veterinary Centres for Artificial Insemination.

To boost local milk production, farmers were given free medicines, mineral mixtures, calcium supplements and dewormers in addition to vaccination and general treatment. They were also educated about beneficial schemes like KCC and Livestock Insurance.

The public representatives appreciated efforts put forth by the department in uplifting socio-economic status of locals and asked for full co-operation to achieve benefits extended under different schemes by the Department. They requested that such free camps be conducted in future as well.

## DC Baramulla chairs SFCAC Committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MARCH 17: A meeting of the Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) was held today at Baramulla under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

172 application forms were screened by the committee, among which 59 files were rejected. 113 eligible cases were further screened for approving the cases under the allotted quota of 58. The DC directed the SFCAC Committee members to ensure that the files are approved as per the prioritization set by the guidelines issued by the Government. She directed that Field Reports shall be prepared by the agencies of the Mission Vatsalya regarding the cases.

Meanwhile, the DC directed the Committee members that the Case files in favour of the students should be completed at an earliest, so that the Sponsorship amount is released to the students at an earliest.

The Member Secretary SFCAC Committee, DSWO Baramulla briefed the meeting that the case files need scrupulous and prioritization of the SFCAC committee. It was informed that the cases are sponsored for a period of 3 years.

## DC Kupwara hoists National Flag at newly constructed Flag Post at DC Office lawns

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: The District Administration Kupwara today organised an impressive function at DC Office in connection with National Flag raising ceremony on newly constructed Flag Post at DC Office lawns.

The National Flag was hoisted by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatraya in presence of SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas.

The Deputy Commissioner took salute on the parade presented by contingents of CRPF, J&K Police and Police Band.

The ADCD Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; ACR Kupwara Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, all district and sectoral officers were present at the occasion.

On the occasion, the DC said that the National Flag 12x18 feet size was hoisted at the height of 55 feet in the Lawns of Administrative Complex (DC Office) Kupwara. He said this is the part of celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebration of 75 years of Independence.

Dr Sagar said that the National Flag energizes people to achieve their goals. He said the National Flag is also hoisted at various big establishments in the district including at Public Park Langate which is hoisted at 108 feet height.

## DDC Vice chairman Kupwara visits KGBV Potushai Lolab

INSPECTS ONGOING WORK; INTERACTS WITH GIRL STUDENTS

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: The Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir today visited KGBV Potushai Lolab to inspect the ongoing work of construction of the boundary wall of the institution.

The Vice Chairman DDC was accompanied by ZEO Sogam, Ali Mohammad and ZEPO Sogam, Fayaz Ahmad Wani.

The Vice Chairman DDC interacted with Girl students and staff and listened to their grievances.

KGBV Warden, Mymoona Khanam and students briefed the Vice Chairman about the prevailing scenario of the KGBV Potushai and demanded clean drinking water for the hostel and toilet facility for KGBV where 50 girl students are enrolled for boarding and lodging facilities.

Haji Farooq took the issue of shortage of drinking water with



Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti department Kupwara who assured that water supply connection will be provided to KGBV on priority basis. Regarding lack of toilet and wash-room facility, the Vice Chairman asked ACP Kupwara to get wash-room/toilet facility constructed under SBM for girl students and staff on priority.

The Vice Chairman DDC also

inspected the work of construction of boundary wall for KGBV which is under progress with a cost of Rs 18.00 lakhs under Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

He asked the Executive Engineer concerned to speed up the pace of work so that it is completed within stipulated time and girl students and female staff of KGBV feel safe and secure.

## Divisional Commissioner reviews progress of Jammu e-buses project

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to review progress of electric buses project of Jammu Smart City Mission in which CEO Rahul Yadav gave a detailed overview on progress made on the project so far. Divisional Commissioner asked Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi to clear bottlenecks and hand over land to Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) for establishment of charging stations for electric buses. He directed other departments to expedite completion of necessary work related to the project and asked officials of JSCL and TATA motors to start construction work of bus depot at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu. Instructing JSCL to depute team for inspection of prototype model of electric-buses, Divisional Commissioner directed officials of TATA motors to ensure delivery in stipulated time frame. "Buses should be delivered by mid-April and operationalised at earliest," he directed officials. In the meeting, three-hour discussions were also held on the routes and fair of electric buses. Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir government is procuring a fleet of 200 electric buses, 100 each for capital cities of the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by CEO Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) Rahul Yadav; Vice Chairperson of JDA Pankaj Magotra; Additional CEO JSCL Rakesh Gupta; ACG from Deputy Commissioner Office Manisha; Director Technical JSCL S L Kapoor; General Manager (Finance) JSCL & nodal officer for e-buses project J&K Ashish Anand; Dy GM Gurmeet Singh.

## 3 Days workshop on 'Household Income Expenditure survey' & 'Employment/ Labour Force Survey' held

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K organised a three days workshop on surveys, viz. 'Household Income Expenditure Survey' and 'Employment Labour Force Survey' under 'Support for Statistical

Strengthening' from 16th to 18th of March, 2023 at Directorate of Economics Statistics, Bemina Srinagar. The workshop was inaugurated by Director General, Regional Director (E&S) Kashmir, Athar Hussain Qadri. Kashmir Director, E&S Kashmir in his address highlighted the importance of the surveys vis-a-

vis the role of Directorate for collecting the data on the designed surveys. He impressed upon all the field functionaries for collecting reliable and coherent data that will pave the way for making Government policies.

He also briefed them about the survey and encouraged them to take full benefit of training so that

quality data could be obtained. The instant surveys will focus on obtaining the data on unemployment, income expenditure scenarios as the basis for effective socio-economic policy formulation so as to position the developmental efforts in more pragmatic and people oriented directions. Ashiq Hussain, Joint Director

(Surveys DES) also highlighted the importance of the surveys.

The training is being imparted by Mohammad Ismail Bangroo, Assistant Director (Survey) DES; Musadiq Khan, Assistant Director (Statistical Training School Srinagar) and Tahseen Mustafa, Senior Statistical Officer, NSO, FOD Jammu.

## Director School Education Jammu stresses on foundational studies during Udhampur visit

INSPECTS CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT GHSS CHANUNTA



J1 NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 17: Director School Education Jammu, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma, accompanied by Joint Director School Education Udhampur-Reasi, Dharendra Sharma and other officials, visited District Udhampur at Block Chanunta to inspect various ongoing projects.

The team first visited

Director School Education Jammu also inaugurated Kindergarten in the premises of Government Middle School Patli, GMS Bhugterian, GMS Chanunta, GMS Nagrota and GMS Sansoo. The officers stressed on the importance of KG classes as it is the foundation of learning according to NEP 2020.

The concerned officers also visited HSS Garhi where they inspected the remodelling of the school infrastructure which was under construction at a cost of Rs 8 crore. The team also made administrative inspections in various other schools including MDM and examination centres. They were highly satisfied with the implementation of self-defence training and school safety and security on the ground.

## Two days state level MDP concludes at GMC B'la

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MARCH 17: A Valedictory function of two days state level Management Development Programme (MDP) for Doctors/ Nursing Professionals, Tutors of Nursing Colleges from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts concluded at GMC Baramulla.

The programme was organized by Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA), India in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla the function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar as chief guest.

Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Dr (Prof) Ifat Hussain; Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yousuf Rather; Chief Medical officer Baramulla, Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik; Medical Superintendent Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu, Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla, Doctors, Nurses besides a large number of participants including students were present in the function.

Topics discussed during the two days

programme included Medical Negligence, Communication & Soft Skills, Role of Nursing in Prevention of Hospital Infection, Ethical & Legal Issues related to Nursing Management in Hospitals, Challenges in Management Clinical Services (Accident and Emergency Services Operation Theater), HR & Conflict Management, Disaster Management Role of Nursing Staff, Skilled Based Methods of Teaching and Learning & Bridging the Theory and Clinical Gap, Quality Assurance in nursing. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish advised the doctors and nurses to adopt the humble approach while dealing with the patients. She said that the development of trust enables the patient to comply with the doctor's guidance, which consequently results in improvement of health. Dr Sehrish emphasized the importance of MDP programmes as it trains the doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff to deal with the patients. Other speakers also highlighted the importance of organizing the programme and expressed hope that the programme will benefit the Nursing Professionals and Tutors to a large extent in all the relevant matters.

OPENING OF ZOJILA ROAD

## Only Light Goods Vehicles to be allowed from Tomorrow: Div Com Kashmir

ALSO REVIEWS READINESS OF TRANSIT ACCOMMODATION WANDHAMA

JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MARCH 17: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited District Ganderbal where he convened a meeting of officers at VC room, DC Office Ganderbal for managing opening/closure of the Zojila Pass.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyamir, SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, SSP Traffic Rural, ADC Ganderbal, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, ACR, ARTO Ganderbal, officials from MeT/BRO, besides the meeting was also attended by Div Com Ladakh, DC Kargil, SSP Kargil, and officials from Vijayak through Video Conferencing.

At the outset, all the issues concerning the road opening were discussed thereabout including condition of road, snow clearance, and it was decided that the road will only be open for the LGVs (Light Goods Vehicles) (One-Way), and

no passenger/tourist vehicle shall be allowed.

The road opening date was decided to be 18th March, 2023 from Sonamarg to Kargil and cut off timing for vehicles to cross Sonamarg will be 6.00 am in the morning and from Meenamarg, Kargil the cut-off timing shall be 8.30 am. Besides, it was decided that traffic will be allowed only on alternate days.

It was also decided in the meeting that on Fridays no traffic will be allowed, and road will be closed for maintenance purposes.

Div Com Kashmir directed the concerned to follow the already framed SOPs in like manner. He also directed the officials from MeT for the advance forecast of the weather, and asked the Traffic dept for issuing the same weather advisories on time. The BRO authorities were also directed to give road clearance on time so that traffic will cross the road before the avalanche prone timing.

Regarding the availability of machinery

on Zojila road stretch, Mechanical engineering department was directed to provide one recovery van, and CEO SDA was directed to provide accommodation centre in case of any emergency enroute the Sonamarg Sonamarg Ruri Road.

Regarding the deployment of SDRF Personnel, the SSP Ganderbal informed the Div Com Kashmir that the SDRF Platoon already stationed at Gundul will be shifted to Sonamarg.

The Div Com also directed the concerned for operationalization of the weighing bridge at Sonmarg and ensuring that the weight of the vehicles bound to Ladakh has been done positively well before one day.

He also directed for establishing the Joint Control Room of Traffic/ Civil/ Police/MED.

Div Com Kargil impressed upon the concerned that people should be made aware about the fact that the road will only be thrown open for the LCV (light goods vehicle) and no passenger/tourist

vehicle shall be allowed. He also asked the concerned to issue a circular for carrying chains on vehicles mandatory.

Earlier, Div com Kashmir visited Transit Accommodation Wandhama and reviewed the readiness of the apartments being constructed for the Kashmiri Migrant employees.

On the occasion he was informed that 4 out of 12 apartments are ready having 16 flats each, and 4 out of the remaining 8 will be completed by June, 2023.

Div Com Kashmir enquired about the progress on other works including water facilities, electricity, waste disposal, landscaping, inner roads, fencing, transport, and other allied facilities.

Regarding waste disposal Div com was informed by DC Ganderbal that the waste disposal will be handled by the Municipal Council Ganderbal, besides, a proper plan has been framed for the transport facility near the transit accommodation.

The Div Com was accompanied by DC Ganderbal, SSP Ganderbal, Ex. En R&B, ACD Ganderbal, ACP Ganderbal and others.

## 3 Days CBP for elected Women Members of ULBs & SMC concludes at J&K-IMPARD Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: A three days Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Elected Women Members of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Kashmir and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) under the Programme 'She is a Change Maker' of the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi concluded today at J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), here.

The CBP is part of the training series to be conducted for all elected women members of Panchayat Raj Institutions, District Development Council Members, Block Development Council Members and Village Panchayat Members.

The series is being fully sponsored by the National Commission for Women to foster Gender Responsive Governance in the system.

On the occasion, the elected members were trained by learned resource persons on different important areas of intervention for the overall empowerment of women.

The programme specially focused on the role of councilors of Urban Local Bodies and Corporators of Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the quality education and empowerment of women in J&K through well designed policies and programmes.

Different sessions were conducted for the capacity building of these women representatives including Leadership Qualities, Communication Skills, Sustainable Development, Role of Police and other Institutions in the Protections of the Rights of Women and Various Schemes and Interventions of the State and Central Government for empowerment of Women in J&K.

The programme was conducted by the Centre for Social Justice of the Institute.

## Orientation/Training Program on 'Farm Mechanization & Automation' under HADP held

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: The Joint Director Apiculture and Mushroom Kashmir, Tabasum Naaz today inaugurated an orientation cum training programme on Farm Mechanization and Automation under holistic development of agriculture programme (HADP) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here.

Addressing the participants, JD highlighted the importance of agriculture mechanization. She said for the development of the agriculture sector the UT government has approved a multi-crore project to boost farm mechanization and automation. She said the project is aimed to increase production, productivity and to attract more and more educated youth towards the agriculture sector.

The JD asked the officers of the allied departments to work in coordination so that the desired results under different projects could be achieved in a comprehensive and time bound manner. She asked the officers to ensure that the farmers are made aware of the schemes and programmes of the government for the promotion of farm mechanization and automation in the UT of J&K.

Senior Scientist KVK, District Agriculture Officer, officers of Agriculture and allied departments were present in the programme.

## Surinder village of Bandipora witnesses White Revolution

DC HANDS-OVER 30 COWS &amp; MILK VAN AMONG PROGRESSIVE FARMERS

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, MARCH 17: The Department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora today held a Mega Event at Veterinary Complex Bandipora to distribute cows to farmers of Surinder village to earn livelihood.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad officially handed over 30 cows to 15 beneficiaries of Surinder village.

The beneficiaries were identified randomly through draw of lots and were provided units at subsidised rates under TSP. The eligible beneficiaries were also provided with Chaff Cutters, Deworming Kits and Mineral Supplements. Meanwhile Progressive Dairy Farmers and entrepreneurs were also given training and awareness regarding management of animals on scientific practices.

The event was also attended by CEO LDBK, Dr Mohd Yunus, Joint Director Planning, Imtiaz Ahmad;



CAHO Bandipora and other District and Block Officials and all three tier representatives of Panchayati Raj viz DDC, BDC and other panchayat representatives. The DC started the event by handing over two cows units to the fifteen selected beneficiaries of Surinder area.

He then handed over the keys of the Milk Van to the IDDS beneficiary. He also inaugurated the Animal Shelter Shed for treatment and shel-

ter of Stray Animals.

Dr Owais later attended the Mega training cum awareness programme organised for the progressive dairy farmers and entrepreneurs.

CAHO Bandipora briefed the gathering about the Mandate and overall achievements of the department. BVO Bandipora gave a detailed lecture on management practices to be followed for profitable Dairying from these units.

## Ramban: Training programmes on tailoring, mushroom cultivation by RSETI conclude

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: The training programmes for mushroom cultivation and tailoring under Entrepreneurship Development Programme organised by State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban concluded today.

During the training programme trainees learnt different skills including commercial mushroom cultivation, harvesting and preparation of value added products such as pickle, powder and papad. They also learnt cultivation of button mushroom, oyster and milky mushroom.

Similarly, in women's tailoring course, trainees were taught various aspects of the trade.

Branch Head Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ramban Mubeeb-Ur-Rehman was chief guest at valedictory function with Assistant Manager J&K Bank Maitra, Junaid Ali as guest of honour. They gave certificates to pass out candidates and interacted with trainees making them aware about different government schemes of Banks for Self Employment.

Director of Rural Self Employment Training Institute Ramban Bikramjit Singh interacted with trainees and advised them about benefits of various self employment schemes of the Government. At the end of the program Senior Faculty Amrik Singh Raju concluded with a vote of thanks.

## Dr VK Saraswat tours Pahalgam, Chandwari

JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MARCH 17: Member NITI Aayog, Dr V K Saraswat today conducted a comprehensive tour of Pahalgam and adjacent areas to review the measures being taken to increase tourist footfall to the world famous tourist resort.

The visiting dignitary held a threadbare discussion with senior officials including Chief

Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Syed Sajad Qadri, SDM Pahalgam, Syed Nasser Ahmad, SE R&B, SE Jal Shakti, DD Fisheries and AD Tourism regarding the tourist footfall in the area, amenities available to the tourists, lodging capacity, attractions, developments being undertaken for tourism and with regard to SANJY 2023.

The renowned scientist said

that Pahalgam is famous for its meadows and as a grazing ground for sheep. He said that while wool production is on the rise in the UT, focus must also be laid on setting up wool processing facilities which will help the herdsherds fetch better prices and also add jobs to the economy.

CEO PDA gave a brief overview of the area, the role of Pahalgam Development Authority, initiatives taken by

the Tourism department for increasing footfall and the return of film crews to the resort.

He said that adventure tourism is the focus area to attract high value tourism to the area which will boost development.

He also informed the dignitary that while skiing attracted a good number of tourists to the area, the department will also be starting paragliding. He said a

lot of tourists visit Pahalgam for rafting also.

The visiting dignitary later also visited Betaab Valley and Chandanwari areas and took stock of the facilities developed for tourists and in connection with SANJY 2023.

The dignitary was accompanied by CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgam, Tehsildar Pahalgam, SDPO Pahalgam, AD Tourism among others.

## Arrangements for ensuing Ramadan-ul-Mubarak reviewed at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, MARCH 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers of various departments to take stock of arrangements put in place to provide hassle-free services to people during the holy month of Ramadan. On the occasion, a threadbare discussion with regard to various necessities was held, wherein the DC emphasized upon the concerned officers to ensure that every arrangement is made well in advance so that people may not face any inconvenience during the month of Ramadan.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of all requisite and essential commodities to the people at prescribed rates.

He also instructed to



intensify market checking and conduct of special drives to ensure availability of quality products.

Dr Bilal instructed officers of KPDCI to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Iftar and Sehri time besides the concerned from Jal Shakti were instructed to provide smooth supply of drinking water to people especially at the given times.

He also asked to press the tanker service in areas where ever required. The DC also instructed EOs of all Municipal Committees to carry out intensive sanitation drives. Besides, PDD and Municipal authorities were instructed to make all

the street lights functional and repair high mast lights which are defunct.

ARTO was instructed to start special transport services during the month of Ramadan. All the officers were stressed to work in a coordinated and synergized manner to provide better services to people throughout this month.

ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rafter, ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, SDM-Noorabad Bashir Ul Hassan ACR Mir Imtiaz-ul-Aziz, Tehsildars, CAO, DSHO, Dy.SP, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, EOs and other officers, besides, Civil society members, Traders, Auqaf members also attended the meeting.

## ARTO Pulwama intensifies Vehicle checking drive

RS. 64K FINE IMPOSED ON VIOLATIONS THROUGH E-CHALLANS, 04 VEHICLES ISSUED SHOW CAUSE NOTICES

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, MARCH 17: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Pulwama, Muazzam Ali today conducted a vehicle checking drive to streamline vehicular movement in the district. During the drive, more than 50 vehicles were challaned and revenue of Rs. 64000 was realised from offenders under various sections of Motor Vehicles Act, whereas documents of 15 vehicles were impounded and 27 vehicles were black listed.

Besides, 04 vehicles indulged in dangerous driving were issued show cause notices for suspension of route permits.

Meanwhile, illegal parking from the main bazaar to the new District Hospital was also cleared to decongest the area for smooth traffic movement.

While sensitizing the drivers regarding traffic rules, ARTO said that violation of traffic rules leads to road accidents and fatalities. He said adherence to regulations can avert road accidents

besides making commutation hassle free.

He added that road safety is not only an individual responsibility but a collective as well. He said that issues like rash-driving, use of mobile phones, considering seat belts as a burden, and un-mindful use of beams during night can only be set right by behavioral changes and positive attitude. He said mindful and responsive driving leads to peace and creates a capital of values and fraternity in society.

All said that the MVD department has embarked on a mission to have a paradigm shift in driving sense among the commuters in the district besides creating good governance practices in J&K, UT. The ARTO warned the drivers to strictly adhere to the traffic rules to avoid any action from the department. He maintained that checking of vehicles shall continue in coming days also.

The ARTO was accompanied by Inspectors and other officials from Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Pulwama.

## Food Safety Department intensifies Market Checking across Budgam

RS. 30K FINE IMPOSED ON FOOD OUTLETS FOR FSSAI VIOLATION

JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, MARCH 17: A market checking squad led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Yameen Ul Nabi who is also Designated Officer, FSSAI Budgam has been from last one week on daily basis conducting rigorous market checking of various restaurants, fast food outlets, tea stalls and ethnic street food makers in the district. During inspection, Food Safety Department imposed Rs 30000 as fine on 27 erring food business operators under various provisions of Food Safety Regulations 2011 for running businesses in insanitary conditions.

On the occasion, the team cautioned erring food business operators not to indulge in violations of food safety regulations and insanitary conditions which are against public health failing which a hefty compound will be imposed upon them in future.

The Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Budgam stressed on sale of safe and quality food items. He said that the drive is being carried out to ensure all Food Safety Standards are practiced in letter and spirit, and such drives will continue across Budgam in future as well.

## DC Doda reviews delivery of the health services

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MARCH 17: In order to review the healthcare scenario of the district, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan chaired a meeting of senior health functionaries at DC Office Complex today. The DC took a detailed review of achievements under various health schemes and the functioning of health institutions. CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar briefed the chair about the functioning of the health department. The DC laid stress on rationalisation of staff working under NHM and maintaining monthly work done by health staff. Regarding an increase in institutional deliveries at block level, he directed BMOs to utilise ASHA's services to motivate pregnant ladies for institutional and safe delivery. Regarding attachment of health staff, he strictly directed all concerned not to attach any staff without prior approval from competent authority.

## 2-Day National Workshop on 'Gender Audits: Crafting an Ecosystem of Equality' held at GCoE Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Govt. College of Education (GCoE) M A Road Srinagar today started a two day National Workshop on 'Gender Audits: Crafting an Ecosystem of Equality' in collaboration with WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace), New Delhi.

The inaugural session started with ceremonial burning of the incense Paganum (Isband) by the chief guest, Prof. (Dr.) Yasmee Ashai, Director Colleges, UT of J&K and guests from WISCOMP, Delhi in the college auditorium. A melodious prayer was recited by a group of students of the college.

The Director Colleges, UT of J&K highlighted the importance of this workshop in the contemporary scenario. She emphasized the need for a change in mindset of the society towards Gender Sensitization.

Prof. (Dr.) Yasmee stressed that Gender Audits are needed in all Higher Education Institutions be it All Women Institutions or the Mixed Gender Institutions.

Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath delivered the keynote address where she emphasized upon women led development and G-20. She also lauded the transformation of college over the past several years in terms of



quality, energy, spirit, etc. She made a mention of the outcome of the Justice Verma Committee that pertained to the Nirbhaya case of Delhi in 2012 and termed it as a Magna Carta of Women's Rights in South Asia. Integrity of body, mind and spirit and dignity are the two principles of Justice Verma Report, she emphasized.

Earlier, Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz in her welcome address highlighted the achievements of the institutions and the need of Gender Harmony in Higher Education Institutions.

Programme Coordinator, Prof. Rubenna Jabben gave the backdrop

of the workshop in which she highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasized that gender equality pertains to both men and women, and women need to be championed and involved in decision making to make the outcomes of the decisions more fruitful.

She also highlighted that Gender Audits have an important role in budgetary allocations.

Later, the guests were felicitated with mementos. At the end of the session, the National Anthem was rendered by the whole audience.

The programme shall culminate on 18th of March, 2023.

## Market checking intensified ahead of Ramadan-Ul-Mubarak across Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MARCH 17: In view of the ensuing holy month of Ramadan, advance market checking was carried out in various areas of Ganderbal.

Tehsiladar Gund conducted a thorough market checking in Gund market during which the erring shopkeepers were fined and the rotten fruits and vegetables were destroyed on spot.

The shopkeepers and food outlets were also advised to maintain proper hygiene in and around their business premises.

The Department of FCS&CA along with the teams from Legal Metrology, Food Safety Department here also inspected various shops and other eateries at Beethama, Tawheed Chowk, and Gousia Market areas.

The entire operation was led by FCS&CA Ganderbal, to check the display of rate lists, sale of substandard materials, use of domestic LPG cylinders at various meat and other shops along with eateries and other business outlets etc.

Market checking was also conducted in the main Market Tulmullah area under the supervision of Tehsiladar Tulmullah.

During these market checkings, traders and shopkeepers were given awareness of keeping quality food products available in the market at fair and fixed rates. They were also counselled on spot as to how to maintain the standard of good quality products, weights and measures and fresh fruits/vegetables at their point of sale.

Shopkeepers/traders were asked to display rate lists besides maintain checks and balances, failing which the enforcement agency shall have no alternative than to invoke penal provisions against defaulter traders and shopkeepers.

## NMBA: Kupwara Administration organises Awareness programme at Tangdar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: A meeting under the banner of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was held today at Dak Bunglow Tangdar, with the objective to eradicate drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders including Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, SHO Tangdar, Assistant Professor GDC Tangdar, sarpanchs, teachers, Officials of DHEW and parents who are all committed to building a drug-free India.

During the meeting, participants discussed various strategies to combat drug abuse in their respective communities.

Speaking on the occasion Tehsil Social Welfare Officer made the gathering aware about the negative effects of substance abuse, including its impact on physical and mental health and also discussed the government's initiatives to address the problem.

SHO Tangdar emphasized the importance of law enforcement in preventing the Drug abuse and discussed the role of police in intercepting drug trafficking. He also emphasized the need for community involvement in tackling drug abuse.

The sarpanchs shared their experiences of dealing with drug-related issues and discussed the challenges they face in implementing drug prevention programs in their villages. The parents shared their concerns about their children's exposure to drugs and discussed the role of parents in preventing drug abuse.

## DDC Kishtwar approves Annual Credit Plan 2023-24 for district

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MARCH 17: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav held a meeting to review the district's financial progress. They discussed how to help people get loans and financial aid from government schemes. The DDC asked banks to focus on lending money for education, women development and farming.

During the meeting, DC Kishtwar approved a plan for lending money in 2023-24 with a target of Rs 323.88 crore for the district. After the meeting, DDC Kishtwar reviewed the performance of SBI RSEI and advised them to train young people in hospitality and tourism.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kishtwar, Sham Lal; Lead District Manager, Pankaj Kumar; DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed; CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik; DBM NABARD Nikhil Sharma, representatives of RSEI Kishtwar various banks, District Coordinators, other heads of various Government Departments and sponsoring agencies.

## Kishtwar: Training Programme to Promote Flower Cultivation organised

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MARCH 17: The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare organised an awareness cum training Programme in collaboration with CSIR-India Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu here today. A large number of farmers and local PRI representatives participated in the programme, which was organised on the direction of District Development Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The objective was to commercialise flower cultivation for the first time in the district. Seeds and corms of flowers like marigold and gladiolus were distributed among interested farmers free of cost. Dr. Shahid Rasool gave detailed deliberations about the scope and importance of large-scale flower cultivation for economic upliftment.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik also stressed on diversification of flower cultivation by adopting an integrated farming approach. Various SHGs of NRLM were also covered under the programme. KVH Head, district officers and sub-divisional level officers were present on the occasion.

## Arrangements for ensuing holy month of Ramadan, Navroz & Navratris festivals reviewed at Budgam

ADD STRESSES ON AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, SALE OF QUALITY FOOD ITEMS

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, MARCH 17: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADD) Budgam, Dr. Akramullah Tak today convened a meeting of officers to review and finalize the arrangements for ensuing holy month of Ramadan, Navroz and Navratris festivals in the district.

In order to provide basic necessities to the general public during the holy month, the ADDC directed the department of PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the month, particularly during Sehri and Ifitari times.

The ADDC said that the PHE department should make proactive arrangements for hassle free supply of drinking water in all areas of the district. Similarly, he directed the department of FCS&CA to ensure adequate supply of essentials. The ADDC said that in order to stop illegal profiteering, hoarding of essentials in the market by micro-traders, special squads would be constituted. He said that joint market teams shall ensure sale of standard food items and implementation of official rates in letter and spirit across all markets of the district.

EOs of Municipalities were directed to conduct sanitation drives in double shifts to ensure proper cleanliness in all areas, besides instructions were given that all defunct street lights be restored on war footing in all areas.

## Online Applications invited for Trainers for Hajj-2023

OPENING DATE FOR FILLING ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS 17-03-2023 & LAST DATE IS 27-03-2023



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Online Applications are invited from the desiring Muslim Govt. Employees (Permanent) of the Jammu & Kashmir for imparting Orientation/ Training to the Pilgrims of Hajj-2023.

The applicants (Male/Female) must be between the age-group of 25-60 years as on 27-03-2023. (i.e. those who will complete 25 years of age on 27-03-2023 and would complete 60 years of age on 27-03-2023) They must have performed one Hajj preferably during the years 2018 or 2019 or 2022. And have given vaccination of two (2) doses of approved vaccine for Covid-19. Apart from this, the

applicants must be fully conversant and fluent in English/ Urdu/ Hindi/ local language/ dialects and computer literate besides being efficient enough to receive/transmit latest information/messages through email/ WhatsApp and other available sources of e-Media. They must possess thorough knowledge of the logistics and rituals of Hajj & Umrah. The applicants must be mentally and physically fit capable of addressing/ giving lectures to relatively large gatherings and in a position to spare time for imparting training.

Any applicant having Criminal prosecution pending against him/her shall not apply. The desiring applicants can apply Online through Hajj Committee of India website <https://hajjcommittee.gov.in>. The applicants are advised to upload the requisite documents at the time of filling up of Online Application Forms. Opening date & time for filling Online Applications is 17-03-2023 at 11:00 hours whereas the last date / time is 27-03-2023 at 23:59 hours. Aspirants are requested to go through the Circular No. 5 dated: 17-03-2022 (available at <https://hajjcommittee.gov.in>) issued by Hajj Committee of India, Mumbai.

All desiring candidates fulfilling the stipulated eligibility criteria are required to submit hard copy of the online filled-in application form duly complete in all respects, along with copy of Aadhaar, proof of having performed Hajj and Covid Vaccination Certificate through the concerned Controlling Officer to the Executive Officer, J&K Hajj Committee, Srinagar up to 30-03-2023.

## Mission Youth: 3-day training programme on drug abuse begins at Ramban



J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: Deputy Commissioner, Musarrat Islam inaugurated a three-day training programme on early detection of drug abuse and post-detection management at Conference Hall Maitra, Ramban. The programme was part of the ongoing Revitalisation of Youth Clubs under Mission Youth.

The Capacity Building Programme trained Youth Club Volunteers, ASHA and Anganwadi Workers on tackling drug abuse, early detection of addiction, counselling youth and de-addiction. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamal Zaidi, BMO Ukhral, Dr. Mohd Iqbal, counsellors and psychologists delivered lectures with Power

Point Presentations and interacted with trainees on the occasion.

The Social Welfare Department Ramban organised the programme under District Social Welfare Officer Rahul Gupta's supervision by involving Education, Health and other departments. DSWO presented a welcome address highlighting issues associated with drug abuse in Assistant Director Employment & Counselling Centre, Dr. Sushant Mahajan's presence.

Experts spoke on physical or psychological signs of early detection; steps to prevent drug misuse in children and teenagers; types of drug abuse rehabilitations. Deputy Commissioner stated that

drug abuse affects individuals, families and communities. He emphasised tackling it from multiple perspectives including deterrence, treatment and enforcement. The District Administration Ramban is committed to creating a drug-free environment in the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of creating awareness and spreading knowledge to prevent drug abuse and promote sustainable livelihood. He added that the government is committed to supporting them under Mission Youth Programme. He appreciated collaborating departments' efforts and said training sessions' experience will help work more effectively in curbing this menace.

## Nowshera Forest Division creates NavGrah Vatika and Nakshatra Van at Meenka Mahadev Temple

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MARCH 17: A large function was organised by Nowshera Forest Division to inaugurate newly created Nav Grah Vatika and Nakshatra Van in the premises of Meenka Mahadev temple in Changi Kangrial Panchayat of Sunderbani Subdivision. DDC Sunderbani Rajinder Sharma was the Chief guest on the occasion.

Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri was a special guest and Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera Neelima Shah was the guest of honour.

The function was also attended by PRI members along with a large number of devotees and general public to see the first-of-its-kind creation conceptualised by Forest

Department.

Vivek Verma spoke at the event and said that in Hindu scriptures, all Gods and Goddesses are connected to plants. The nine planets that are thought to affect a person's life are also linked to plants. Navgrah Vatika is a garden of nine trees, bushes and grasses representing nine planets. These trees are planted in a particular direction to get the benefit of nine planets or grah so named Nav Grah Vatika. Similarly, Nakshatra Van has 27 divisions in which plants and trees linked to Nakshatras are planted in a circular manner.

The DDC Sunderbani appreciated the unique concept of Nowshera Forest Division to conserve nature and ecology on religious lines by involving religious sentiments of local people. He

emphasised the importance of clean and green environment for overall well-being of mankind.

Neelima Shah explained in detail about historical as well as religious importance of plants in Nakshatra Van as well as NavGrah Vatika. She said such activities develop cordial relations between general public and Forest Department which will help in better conservation and protection of natural forest. Range Forest Officer Sunderbani, Rakesh Verma expressed his gratitude to those whose attendance made the event a grand success. He added that these types of entry point activities will help develop coordination between the Forest Department and local people, which will in turn help in better conservation and protection of forests.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT**  
 OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL  
 IRRIGATION DIVISION, JAMMU

Phone: 0191-2577745, Email: [jjc.aamjidm@gmail.com](mailto:jjc.aamjidm@gmail.com)

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**ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
 e-NIT No. MID/JC-NIT/2022-23/137 Dated: 16-03-2023

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Routine maintenance of pumping machinery and other allied works at LIS Kaskoot and Routine maintenance of pumping machinery and other allied works at LIS Zanthal.	Complete job as per Scope of Work	2% of the quoted value	Rs 200.00	10 Days	180 Days from date of opening of price bid	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu.

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of L1. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms Routine maintenance of pumping machinery and other allied works at LIS Kaskoot and Routine maintenance of pumping machinery and other allied works at LIS Zanthal. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'I' - Tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit, following of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance of terms and conditions of the tender and Cover 'II' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

- The tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website <http://www.jkscndcrs.gov.in/infom> 16-03-2023 (06:00PM)
- Submission of online bids: 18-03-2023 (10:00AM) to 23-03-2023 (02:00 PM).
- Opening of online bids: 24-03-2023 (2:00 PM)

Sd/-  
 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
 MECHANICAL IRRIGATION  
 DIVISION  
 JAMMU  
 DHP/J-1677922

## Advisor Bhatnagar chairs AGMs of SCST&BC Corporation

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired 26th to 43rd Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, (SCST&BC) Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda; Managing Director SC, ST and BC Corporation, representatives from finance, Planning, shareholders of the Corporation and other concerned departments both in person and through video confer-

### REVIEWS PERFORMANCE, FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE



encing.

During the AGM, Advisor held detailed deliberation on financial position of the Corporation and also reviewed various aspects related to overall growth of the corporation.

The AGM which was held after a gap of eight years took

some significant decisions for improving the overall health of the corporation.

The AGM adopted the accounts of the corporation which were pending till date since a very long time.

Advisor Bhatnagar, who is also the Chairman of

Corporation, advised the management of Corporation to hold the AGMs on timely and regular basis so that the corporation can work effectively and reach to its zenith for which it has been established.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also reviewed the performance and functioning of the SCST&BC Corporation.

Addressing the officers, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that the SC, ST, BC Corporation has been able to make a significant difference in the lives of the marginalized communities by providing them with financial assistance for education, hous-

ing, and entrepreneurship. He asked the management of corporation to facilitate the people of marginalized communities especially the youth so that the desired objectives of corporation are achieved.

Advisor, during the meeting, also identified several areas for improvement, including the need for better outreach and awareness programs to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are aware of the schemes and their eligibility criteria. He also stressed on effective management of corporation, streamlining its loan approval process and addressing the issues of delayed disbursement and procedural complexities.

## Secretary reviews implementation of National AIDS Control Program



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhopinder Kumar today reviewed implementation of National AIDS Control Programme by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in the region.

Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society, informed that National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), MOH&FW, Government of India, has mandated JKACS for implementation of National AIDS control programme in J&K.

He gave a detailed presentation on various aspects of working of JKACS besides holding discussion on annual action Plans and measures for containment of AIDS in the Union Territory.

It was apprised that J&K AIDS Control Society has recently conducted PMPSE (Programmatic Mapping and Population Size Estimation) in the UT for identifying and mapping the High Risk Group (FSW, MSM, TG and IDU) popula-

tion. Secretary appreciated J&K AIDS Control Society for securing 3rd Position at national level, in research component for identifying new hotspots of high risk group population. He emphasized that although, the adult HIV prevalence in the UT of J&K is very low, efforts should be continued for proper awareness besides screening and testing of population especially among High Risk Group. Further, it must be ensured that all the HIV patients are brought under treatment through Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART), he added.

Bhopinder stressed upon the need for exploring the possibilities of providing free ration to the HIV patients for which J&K AIDS Control Society was asked to make a proposal for taking up the matter with the appropriate forum. Among other officers of Health & Medical Education Department, the meeting was attended by Director Finance, Additional Secretary, Health and Joint Director Planning.

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Bhopinder Kumar reviews progress on development works in B&J hospital, Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhopinder Kumar, today reviewed progress on developmental works being executed in the Bone and Joint Hospital Jammu besides discussing strategy for early operationalization of the hospital. A detailed presentation was made by the Principal, GMC Jammu, delineating physical and financial progress on works in Bone & Joint Hospital, Jammu besides Action Plan for operationalisation of the hospital.

Secretary emphasized that the OPDs, Indoor Services, Physiotherapy Services and Elective Surgical Services should be made operational in the Hospital by first week of May-2023.

He said that early operationalisation of Bone and Joint Hospital, shall cater to a large number of patients who move outside the UT for orthopedic and trauma related treatments.

Further, other facilities shall be gradually developed over a period of time in a phased manner for making it a "State of Art Institute", he added.

Instructions were also issued to the concerned to make all adequate provisioning for radiology and other Diagnostic Services and operational aspects of the hospital.

## Secretary Tourism holds introductory meeting with tourism stakeholders of Kashmir

### LISTS STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION, TOURIST FEEDBACK, IDEA EXCHANGE AS WAY FORWARD TO SCALE UP THE TOURISM SECTOR



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today chaired a marathon introductory meeting with representatives of various segments of the tourism sector of Kashmir valley at TRC, here today.

This was the first such interaction of Dr. Abid Rasheed after assuming charge of the Tourism Department recently. During the interaction, representatives of all segments of tourism trade including Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association, Hoteliers Club, KHARA, KHAROF, NITTA, PILTOF, TAHI, DTOK,

ADTOL, TAAI, shikara unions, representatives of tourism stakeholders from Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg, travel bodies including TAAK, TASK and other such organization working in the tourism trade were present.

Interacting with the stakeholders, the Secretary Tourism underscored the need for upscaling the standards of the tourism industry of Kashmir, given its reach and scope. He said J&K is world famous for its hospitality and the tourism products offered.

Managing Director, JKTD, Mingsha Sheerpa; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb and other officers were present on the occasion.

synergy attained between the Department and the tourism players, the Secretary Tourism assured all support to them in addressing their genuine issues and grievances. He said he believes that constant and structured consultations on issues are the way to work out solutions and enhance the standards of the tourism sector. He also laid stress on taking tourist feedback and idea exchange between the stakeholders and the Department which he termed was critical to the further growth of the sector in an environment of global competition.

In their remarks, the representatives of tourism stakeholders hailed the taking over of Dr. Abid Rasheed as the Tourism Secretary hoping that many of their issues would get resolved through his prompt, innovative and on ground interventions as seen in his previous assignments in the Government.

Managing Director, JKTD, Mingsha Sheerpa; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Fazlul Haseeb and other officers were present on the occasion.

### Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Exchange Road, Rehari, New Plot and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 18 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to BSF, Pindi, Aldehar, Baba Chamliyal, Suhagpur, Kotlajabowal, Part of Armia, Trewa and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 18 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Satwari, Nai Basti, Ashok Nagar, Shastri Nagar and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 18 from 10 am to 2 pm.

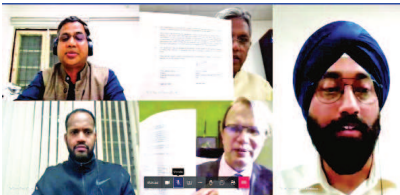
Similarly, the power supply to JJO Reliance Office, Part of Greater Kailash shall remain affected on March 18 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Parts of District Rajouri and Poonch shall remain affected on March 18 from 8 am to 2 pm.

## IIM Jammu inks a pact with Estonian Business School, Estonia for Academic & Research Exchange

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the internationally renowned Estonian Business School for Academic and Research Exchange. The MoU was signed by Director IIM Jammu, Prof BS Sahay and Rector Estonian Business School, Prof Meelis Kitsing, in the presence of Dean Academics, Prof Jabir Ali; Chairperson of International Relations, Dr Sarbjit Singh and Co-Chairperson of International



Relations at IIM Jammu, Dr Somu Gorai.

The MoU signing began with a welcome by Dr Sarbjit Singh followed by an overview of IIM

Jammu by Prof Jabir Ali and an overview of Estonian Business School by Prof Meelis Kitsing.

During the MoU signing ceremony, Prof BS Sahay, expressed

his optimism about the collaboration with Estonian Business School.

He said that it is a positive step towards absorbing best practices in research and teaching from top business schools worldwide.

Prof Meelis Kitsing, Rector of Estonian Business School also spoke at the event and gave an overview of his institution. He mentioned that collaboration between both institutes will help develop competence in key areas ranging from development of educational and training programmes to long-range planning and institutional development.

## Prabhari officers of top ranking Panchayats in Aspirational Panchayat index to be felicitated: Chief Secretary

### REVIEWS VARIOUS SOCIAL SECURITY & BENEFICIARY-ORIENTED SCHEMES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the overall progress on different schemes being executed across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Home Department, R.K. Goyal; Principal Secretary, PWD, Shailendra Kumar; various Administrative Secretaries, Special DG CID, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners of all districts and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

While reviewing the Aspirational Panchayats programme, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the deputy com-



missioners to utilise this scheme effectively so as to transform the most backward panchayats of their districts into model panchayats. He highlighted that the work and achievements of Prabhari of each panchayat will be reflected through this scheme.

The Chief Secretary also announced that in coming Aspirational Panchayats ranking index, which will be released

soon, the Prabhari whose Panchayat will achieve top ranking in the index will be felicitated. He delved on the DCs to work with full spirit and will so that their respective districts can score good on the index.

While reviewing the progress on Jal Jeevan Mission, Dr Mehta observed that there has been substantial improvement on the progress of this prestigious project.

He delved upon the DCs to complete the project in all aspects by 15th August in their respective districts.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare the list of deliverables to be achieved in the next financial year.

He highlighted that the introduction of deliverables has sig-

nificantly improved the growth trajectory of each district and therefore it should be made a regular affair in planning from now onwards.

Dr. Mehta also enjoined upon the DCs to prepare district plans as per the deliverables framed so that the developmental work is carried out without any wastage of resources and effective utilisation of funds is being made.

While reviewing progress on other social sector schemes, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the DCs to saturate the different employment schemes in their districts effectively so that the youth can take due advantages of them. He also asked them to establish required infrastructure at the Industrial Estates so that the industrialists who are willing to set up their ventures here are properly facilitated.

## Mushaira and folk music event held at Court Complex Mendhar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MARCH 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKACL), under the guidance of its Secretary Bharat Singh and with the support of Bar Association Court Complex Mendhar, successfully organised a composite Mushaira and folk music programme at the Court Complex Mendhar.

The event was presided over by Zulfiqar Naqvi, a noted writer and poet who is also Principal of Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Mendhar. The President of Bar Association Adv Sardar Javid Khan was present as Guest of Honour.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr Alamdar Adam from JKACL Rajouri/Poonch. During his speech he

emphasised the importance of literary and cultural activities in society, especially for younger generations.

Zulfiqar Naqvi appreciated JKACL's efforts in organising quality programmes and thanked its Secretary for providing funds to conduct cultural and literary activities in Poonch Region. He also praised JKACL Rajouri/Poonch for their work.

Poets who participated in the Mushaira included ZA Naqvi, Adv Sardar Javid Khan, Ayaz Ahmad Safi, Hafiz ul Rehman Saif, Miss Zahida Khanam, Dr Amir Jafri and Adv Basharat Khan among others. Pardeep Khanna & Party also performed at the event which was attended by a large audience. The proceedings were conducted by Pardeep Khanna.