



# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## India slams Pakistan at UNHRC, warns against spreading propaganda, attempts to foment communal disharmony in India

J NEWS DESK  
SWITZERLAND, MAR 23

India has slammed Pakistan at the United Nations Human Rights Council during its right of reply where it warned Islamabad against spreading propaganda and attempts to foment communal disharmony in India.

The statement comes after Pakistan during the General Debate under Agenda item 4 at the UNHRC spoke about Jammu and Kashmir.

India called on Pakistan to focus on the safety, security and well-being of its minority communities instead of engaging



in "futile propaganda" to create communal disharmony in India, PR Thulasidhass, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Permanent Mission of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"We call on Pakistan to focus on the safety, security and well-being of its minority communities instead of engaging in futile propaganda and attempting to foment communal disharmony in India," PR Thulasidhass

said. Thulasidhass said that Pakistan's delegate referred to Jammu and Kashmir, which was, is and shall always remain integral part of India. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards peace and prosperity along with the rest of India. PR Thulasidhass said that the world does not need lessons from Pakistan on democracy and human rights.

"The delegate of Pakistan referred to Jammu and Kashmir, which was, is and shall forever remain an integral part of India. Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards peace and prosperity along

## Relevance of 'Hard Power' Reaffirmed With Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Army Chief

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 23

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has proved false the assumption of future wars being short and swift, and the relevance of "hard power" stands reaffirmed, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande said and stressed on indigenisation of defence production and technological development.

In his address at the 'HDCCI DEF X TECH INDIA 2023' on Wednesday, he warned about the "legacy of unsettled borders" that India has and highlighted the "grey-zone aggression" concept, saying it is increasingly becoming a preferred strategy for conflict resolu-



tion. "The current Russia-Ukraine conflict provides some very valuable pointers. The relevance of hard power stands reaffirmed with land continuing to be the decisive domain of warfare and notion of victory still being land centric," he said while talking about the lessons learnt from the conflict.

"The suppositions on duration of war I think needs to be reevaluated. Short, swift war which we have been talking of for some time now may prove to be a false assumption and we need to be prepared for a full spectrum conflict even for a prolonged duration," the Army Chief said. He said one of the major takeaways is that India needs to wean away from import dependency. "The pursuit to infuse technology in our war fighting system indeed remains an enduring one," Gen Pande said. Long range precision fires have proved that distances need not necessarily safety or guarantee safety, and air is no longer dominated just by manned

aircraft, he said. "Drones, loiter ammunition, shoulder fired air defence missiles, manned, unmanned systems have democratised the air littoral," the Army Chief said. He also mentioned the sinking of Russian Navy guided missile cruiser Moskva in April last year. "Sinking of Moskva with just two hits of anti ship cruise missiles highlights that even in the maritime domain, weapon platforms are more vulnerable than ever to low cost defence systems," he said. "Technology I believe has also emerged as a new strategic arena of geo-political competition," Gen Pande said. "The conclusion that we can

## Modi govt securing knowledge of India's ancient books, manuscripts through technology: Amit Shah

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said the Narendra Modi Government is securing the knowledge in India's ancient books and manuscripts for the future through technology.

Shah said this after launching a Vedic heritage portal and a virtual museum "Kala Vaibhava" - built by the India Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

"The Modi Government is securing the knowledge of India's ancient books



and manuscripts for the future through technology. In this direction, the Vedic Heritage Portal built by IGNCA, Delhi was inaugurated today. "With this, the younger generation will be able to carry forward the knowledge and tradition

## Police have launched massive war against narco-terrorism in J&K: DGP Dilbagh Singh

J NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAR 23

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Thursday said that police have launched a major war against the narco-terrorism in J&K as more and more youth are falling prey to the drug menace.

"Police have busted several drug modules and recovered not just drugs but weapons as well," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function at Kathua, as per news agency. He said police is taking the narco-terrorism cases



jointly with State Investigative Agency (SIA), National Investigating Agency (NTA), and also National Crime Bureau (NCB). "Drug abuse especially the narco-terrorism is the second biggest challenge

after militancy," he said, adding that strict action is being taken against those found involved in the drug abuse. "It has been seen that more and more youth are falling prey to the drugs. "We are

## Congress, NC, PDP uphold 'nepotism', BJP upholds 'Nation first': Rana

J NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAR 23

Opportunist parties like Congress, NC, PDP have always promoted their own family interests and still they uphold 'nepotism' as their first priority, but Bharatiya Janata Party has always upheld its 'Nation first' policy, said

Devender Singh Rana. Former MLA & senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, accompanied by BJP Media Secretary Dr. Paruldeep Mahotra listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party



headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet BJP leaders with their grievances. They narrated their woes and sought

kind intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved. Issues related to the PHE, PDD, road Macadamization, revenue, other issues related to the development and personal issues were presented

## 600 cameras for traffic management to be installed in Jammu, trial begins

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, MAR 23

Total 600 cameras will be installed as a part of the intelligent traffic management and surveillance system to monitor vehicular traffic and its violations here in Jammu and Kashmir.

ITMSS was made operational in the winter capital during its first phase to conduct efficiency trials.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on March 13 inaugurated Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) as a nerve centre of civic operations and traffic management. "Six hundred cameras



are being installed, mostly PTZ cameras and traffic management cameras for monitoring and managing vehicular traffic and recording traffic violations", Jammu Smart city CEO Rahul Yadav said. He said so far cameras have been installed at 37 junctions. "The trials have begun. We are receiving feed of

traffic flow from 33 junctions. They are operational. On 12 junctions, analytics are fully functioning, under which we can detect any traffic violations", Yadav said. Inauguration took place in November 2022, the project will have a chain of 600 cameras mostly pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras watching traffic movement in the city.

The smart system will detect automatic vehicle number plate identification, red light violations, stolen vehicle identification and use of mobile phones while driving among other things, the officials said. "As a leader of masses

## Lt Governor delivers keynote address for Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Memorial Lecture at ITM Gwalior

AGENCIES  
GWALIOR, MAR 23

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha delivered the keynote address for Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Memorial Lecture at ITM, Gwalior today.

Remembering Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, the Lt Governor said, as a freedom fighter, statesman and philosopher, Dr Lohia tirelessly worked for the equality, human dignity and social justice and gave new hope and aspirations to a common man.



and uniring champion of social equality. Dr Lohia's seven revolutions gave a new shape to social, economic and political ideas

and strongly advocated equality between men and women", said the Lt Governor. "Highlighted withdrawal of general consent for CBI probe by many states, a parliamentary committee has said that an existing law governing the federal probe agency has "many limitations" and there is a need to enact a new legislation to define its status, functions and powers.

## Par panel recommends new law to define power, functions of CBI

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 23

Highlighting withdrawal of general consent for CBI probe by many states, a parliamentary committee has said that an existing law governing the federal probe agency has "many limitations" and there is a need to enact a new legislation to define its status, functions and powers. The federal probe agency was established in 1963. It is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, enacted to regulate the

## India will always remember sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru on Martyrs' Day on Thursday. The day is observed to mark their death anniversary.

The three freedom fighters were hanged by the British in 1931 in what is known as the "Lahore conspiracy" case, and their story of sacrifice and valour is considered one of the most inspirational chapters of the Indian freedom movement.



Modi tweeted, "India will always remember the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. These are great who made an unparalleled contribution to our freedom struggle." The prime minister also posted a clip of his earlier addresses lauding the three freedom fighters. (Agencies)

## Efforts on to increase Hydropower potential of Jammu & Kashmir; Two hydropower projects underway

J NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAR 23

Jammu and Kashmir is rich in hydropower potential. So far, only 11,567 MW of potential has been identified, of which only 29 per cent has been tapped.

According to central statistics, Jammu and Kashmir has a hydroelectric power capacity of 11,567 MW, while the operational capacity so far is 3,360.0 MW or 29 per cent. The capacity under construction is 3,099.5 MW (26.8 per cent).



In response to a question during the current parliamentary session, the government said that two hydropower projects

of 1,390 MW capacity (more than 25 MW) were launched by the Ministry of Power in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three

years. This two hydropower are currently underway and likely to be commissioned by 2026. The 850 MW Riti and 540 MW Kwara hydropower projects were commissioned in 2021 at an estimated cost of Rs 5,281.94 crore and Rs 4,526.12 crore, respectively, on the Chenab river passing through Kishtwar to tap an additional capacity of 1,390 MW, the government said. Power purchase agreements for the sale of power for these projects

are yet to be signed. According to the re-evaluation study conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1978-1987, the hydropower potential in the country is estimated at about 1,45,320 MW (more than 25 MW capacity), the government said. Out of 1,45,320 MW, 42,104.6 MW (29 per cent) has been developed and 15,023.5 MW (10.3 per cent) is under construction. Ladakh is utilizing only 89.0 MW (4.3

per cent) of its potential. The government said. "Highlighted withdrawal of general consent for CBI probe by many states, a parliamentary committee has said that an existing law governing the federal probe agency has "many limitations" and there is a need to enact a new legislation to define its status, functions and powers. The federal probe agency was established in 1963. It is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, enacted to regulate the

functioning of the special police establishment set up in 1941 to investigate cases of bribery and corruption involving purchases and supplies during World War II. The department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice said that according to the provisions of the DSPE Act, the consent of the state government is a prerequisite for any investigation by the CBI and as on date, nine states have withdrawn the general consent.

"The Committee feels that the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act has many limitations and therefore, recommends that there is a need to enact a new law and define the status, functions and powers of the CBI and also lay down safeguards to ensure objectivity and impartiality in its functioning," it said. The panel said that vacant posts in the CBI are not being filled up at the required pace and recommended that "every effort should be made to fill

up vacant posts in the CBI are not being filled up at the required pace and recommended that "every effort should be made to fill



RAMGARH VILLAGE REMEMBERS KARGIL WAR MARTYR

## Manjit demands free of cost education for martyr's children up to higher level, reservation in Govt jobs



JI NEWS SERVICE

**SAMBA, MAR 23:** Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today paid rich tribute to Kargil war martyr, Sopye Gurdeep Singh Soni Ji.

To remember the sacrifice of the martyr, a function in memory of Sopye Gurdeep Singh Soni, Sena Medal was organized at Palota village in Ramgarh in Samba District. On this occasion, both parents of

the martyr soldier of the Indian Army, prominent village who remembered the highest sacrifice of the martyr.

The people also paid their tributes to Shaheed Bhagat Singh Ji, Rajguru Ji and Sukhdev Ji. District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti and others were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, S. Manjit Singh, after offering floral tributes to

the martyrs, said that "It was because of the sacrifice of the martyrs that the enemies were given tough fight in Kargil even as they were in the advantageous position. Our brave-hearts got the occupied hills in Kargil free from the enemies by giving the toughest fight and supreme sacrifices."

He said that the people in Jammu and Kashmir and the country are proud of their brave-hearts who defend the border of the

nation.

"These soldiers and other security forces must be given proper respect in the society. Their families should not feel isolated but the people should come forward to support them," he said and demanded that the Govt should ensure the children and other family members of the martyrs should be provided free of cost education up to higher level, and reservation in employment in the Govt departments.

He said that "We shall help the families of the soldiers and the Govt should also take some measures to support the livelihood of the families of the martyrs."

He said that "The youth should follow the footsteps of the martyrs and freedom fighters and their struggle for freedom of the country should be made compulsory in the school curriculum of the schools."

Meanwhile, other people also spoke on the occasion.

## Three-day MDP for the Dept of Horticulture Planning & Marketing begins at TBS, JU

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** The Business School, University of Jammu organized a three-day Management Development Programme "Training the Trainer" for the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Government of Jammu & Kashmir from March 23 to March 25, 2023. A total of 10 Grading and Marketing officials joined the programme.

The first day of the programme was divided into three sessions. The eminent resource persons Prof. Alka Sharma (TBS, JU), Dr. Anil Bhat (SKUAST, Jammu), Ms. Avantika Bakshi (TBS, JU) enlightened the officials about Marketing of Agricultural Produce, Brand Management for Agricultural and Horticultural Products and Digital Branding with special reference to agricultural produce. Mr. Digvijay Gupta, Joint Director, Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K UT Government was the special guest for the inaugural session.



He was officially welcomed by Professor Vinay Chauhan, Director, The Business School, University of Jammu. While addressing the participants, Professor Vinay Chauhan accentuated the programme's significance and its substantial role in imparting knowledge related to marketing of agricultural produce, brand management and digital branding among others. During his address, Mr. Digvijay Gupta emphasized the promotion of quality research in the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture domain and thanked the vision of Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing,

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Sh. Vikas Sharma (JKAS) for promoting quality training for the officials of the department to upgrade their knowledge and skill sets. He reiterated the need of such programmes every quarter for the officials and all stakeholders.

Professor Neelu Rohmetra, Director, Directorate of Distance Education and Professor of The Business School delivered the keynote address and applauded the efforts of Professor Vinay Chauhan for organizing such a programme for Grading and Marketing officials.

Further, she mentioned the vitality of the educational institutions to train government officials and familiarise them with technical know-how that could enrich their knowledge and experience. Dr. Rachna Mahajan, Associate Professor, The Business School delivered the formal vote of thanks and expressed immense gratitude towards senior faculty members, research scholars, participants and organizers for their valuable support and guidance.

The session was coordinated by Dr. Farah S. Chaudhary, Senior Assistant Professor, The Business School.

## BJP reviews 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' in a meet of senior party leaders

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held a review meeting to discuss ground implementation of the party's 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul chiefly addressed the meeting, while he also sought the reporting for the ground implementation of the 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' from the senior party leaders.

Former BJP President & former Dy. CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former BJP President & former MP (Rajya Sabha) Shamsher Singh Manhas, former BJP President & former MLC Ashok Khajuria, General Secretary Sunil Sharma, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and General Secretary & Incharge of



'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' Dr. Devidar Kumar Manyal (former Minister) also accompanied Ashok Koul.

Incharge of 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' Dr. Devidar Kumar Manyal conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

Former Ministers, former MLAs among other Assembly constituencies Prabhari and Seh-Prabhari participated in the review meeting.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the senior party

leaders, laid the main stress on the mantra 'Booth Jeta, Chunav Jeta' for securing the win of the party in all the forthcoming elections. He said that every party activist must dedicatedly pursue the allotted works as Jammu & Kashmir progresses into the 'Election year'.

Ashok Koul sought the reporting for the ground implementation of the 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' from the senior party leaders. He prompted them to share the details

of the Booths covered directly by the senior party leaders. He also inquired with them about the booths covered by the party whole-timers. He said that the whole exercise initiated on March 10th has entered into the completion phase and asked them to complete and submit their reports. During his address, Ashok Koul also shared the details about the forthcoming party programmes, which will be held from 4th April till 14th April.

## Unprecedented development going on in every nook & corner of J&K UT: Kavinder

INAUGURATES WHOLESALE FRUIT SHOP AT NARWAL MANDI



JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has asserted that people are witnessing unprecedented development in every nook and corner of the Union Territory today, adding that BJP stands fully committed to fulfill the pressing demands of the people at the earliest.

The former Deputy Chief Minister was speaking after dedicating newly constructed lanes to the people of Jawahar Nagar, Ward No. 2 Cantonment Area here today. Bharat

Bhushan, Vice Chairman Cantonment Board; Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, Gurdayal Singh and Ajay Sharma accompanied the former Deputy Chief Minister.

The senior BJP leader asserted that the Union Government is paying focussed attention to Jammu and Kashmir and is determined to carry out developmental activities in every nook and corner of the Union Territory. He said that the Modi led Govt at the Centre has prioritized the overall development of all the areas without any rural-urban or other discrimination with main focus on roads which

ensure the smooth supply of basic essentials as well as other commodities for the ease of living of the people.

Kavinder said that whenever a demand is brought to our notice by the people or we notice that there is any urgent requirement in any area, the party leaders and workers take immediate initiatives to get the demand fulfilled and grievance addressed in the least possible time. He complimented Bharat Bhushan, Vice Chairman Cantonment Board for addressing the concerns of the general public. He asked people of the Cantonment area that if they have any issue related

to any development work they must approach Bharat Bhushan for early redressal of their issues.

Expressing serious concern over the issue raised by the local shopkeepers, Kavinder assured that the blacktopping work in the Satwari Bazaar will commence soon in the general interest of shopkeepers of the area. He said that the governments at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir stand fully committed to ensure basic amenities in all the areas.

Meanwhile, the former Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated a wholesale fruit shop at Narwal Mandi in presence of prominent people and traders of the area. He complimented the proprietor of the shop for helping the government in a big way to address the problem of unemployment by providing employment to the local youth of Jammu region.

The senior BJP leader exhorted upon youth to avail the benefits of the central sponsored scheme to become job creators instead of job seekers. He said that the Prime Minister has initiated several schemes with an aim to foster entrepreneurship in the country with special focus on youth.

## Rajni Bala kick-start blacktopping work of road at Mohallah Dhok in Jammu North Assembly segment

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Corporator Rajni Bala today kick-started blacktopping of lanes at Mohallah Dhok, Ward No. 60 near Lower Roop Nagar falling in Jammu North Assembly segment. The aforesaid work was started with an estimated cost of Rs 35 lakhs through the executing agency Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Addressing the gathering, Rajni Bala said it was a long pending demand of the people of the area which was fulfilled today. She said that being the people's representative it is her bounden duty to ensure that projects facilitating the life of the people of the Ward are executed whenever needed. She assured the people that she would leave no stone unturned in transforming Ward No. 60, making it a model ward. She assured that every possible initiative which could



help in making their lives comfortable will be taken up on priority so that the basic demands of the public could be met.

The Councillor has also asked the executing agency to complete the same work on a fast track basis so that the people may not face any inconvenience. She also laid stress upon the officials to maintain quality

of work in the area.

Later, the senior Congress leader also interacted with people of the area and listened to their issues which included irregular water supply and upgradation of lanes and drains in their area. She gave a patient hearing to their grievances and assured to get all these addressed by approaching

the concerned authorities at the earliest.

Rajni Bala asserted that Congress being a more than 70 years old party and committed to address people's issues on priority especially those pertaining to basic amenities is the only solution to get rid of the miseries surmounting them.

## BJP pays floral tributes to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru

JI NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir, led by the BJP District Jammu President Pramod Kapahi paid floral tributes to Shaheed e Azam Bhagat Singh ji, Sukhdev and Rajguru at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, BJP office, Kachi Chawni.

J&K BJP President Ravinder said, "I respectfully bow down and salute the immortal brave martyrs of Mother India. Sardar Bhagat Singh ji, Rajguru ji and Sukhdev ji on their 'Sacrifice Day'. The young generation of India will always continue to draw inspiration from these great revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives with smiles on their face for the freedom of the country".



While paying floral tributes to the three brave freedom fighters, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, Pramod Kapahi threw light on their life instances. These three brave sons of Bharat Mata are the source of inspiration for the youth of India, he said.

Jaideep Sambyal, Rajesh Gupta, Kuldeep Kandhari, Brijesh Gupta, Keshav Chopra, Atul Bakshi, Raman Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Parveen Keri, Raman Sharma, Chaman Lal, Ashok Salgotra, Savita Anand and others paid tributes on the occasion.



## Purnima assures adequate facilities in Ramadan

URGES TO FOCUS ON LESSONS EMBEDDED IN HOLY FASTING



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Purnima Sharma Advocate, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor Jammu has assured the members of Muslim Community of adequate facilities during the holy month of Ramzan that commences tomorrow.

She gave this assurance while addressing the workers of BJP's Scheduled Tribe (ST) Morcha during a meeting convened by her in connection with the upcoming

Ramzan here today.

The meeting was conducted with aim to ensure all the facilities from the District Administration for the welfare of members of Muslim brethren including the members of ST Morcha.

Though the Administration has made elaborate arrangements especially for the Muslim brethren, yet more efforts will be initiated to ensure that during the fasting month the community members do not face any hassles whether it is availability of the essential commodities or even the basic

necessities like power and water supply during all these days of fasting.

The former Dy Mayor said that with the commencement of the holy Ramzan month it is high time for the people to focus on the lessons embedded in the holy fasting that are required to be followed not only by the Muslims but by others too because every religion teaches humanitarian principles and emulating the teachings of all religious cults is the essence of secularism in India which is known for tolerance and composite culture.

The BJP Spokesperson also discussed the upcoming programmes with ST Morcha leaders and laid stress upon them to work for strengthening the base of the Party.

She asked them to make people aware about the key achievements of the Government at the Centre.

Purnima Sharma asserted that Ramadan fasting teaches to practice piety, self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, tolerance, justice and empathy for the less privileged people in the society there is a need for the people to reflect on these lessons in their day to day life.

She said that Ramadan is a month of holy festivity for all the Indians irrespective of caste, creed, colour or religion as the nation has a multi-religious composition and every festival finds participation of people belonging to all communities that finally culminates with Eid-ul-Fitr. She conveyed her Ramadan greetings to the people in general and Muslim brethren in particular.

The BJP Spokesperson also discussed the upcoming programmes with ST Morcha leaders and laid stress upon them to work for strengthening the base of the Party.

She asked them to make people aware about the key achievements of the Government at the Centre.

## Buyers across 30 countries participates in India Fashion Tex

'J&K PAVILION REMAINS MAJOR ATTRACTION'



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Buyers for more than 30 countries participated in 3rd edition of India Fashion Tex 2023-Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM), which was successfully concluded.

The Tex was jointly organized by the Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) and Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL).

The three day fashion exhibition was attended by more than 1000 buyers across 30 countries including Australia, US, EU, Scandinavia, UK, Australia, Japan, Middle East, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. There were more than 100 exhibitors buying houses from India and international brands. There was an increase in the number of footfalls compared to the last two editions, as the fashion exhibition witnessed more than 3500 visitors across three days.

Special emphasis has been given to Jammu and Kashmir exhibitors for promoting Pashmina shawls and scarves. The event showcased an extensive range of woollen merchandise including Yarn & fabrics apparel, clothing knitwear, hosiery goods, pashmina shawls or stoles, Scarves, mufflers, blankets, carpets, blazers and home textiles crafted by Indian weavers and artisans.

The exhibitors from J&K showcased unique and world-famous Handloom products including GI tagged products like Kani Shawls, Stoles, Pashmina shawls, chain stitch, silk carpets etc of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meet provided opportunities to network and create business leads with potential clients, understand actual requirements, quality, new fashion trends in international markets so that they can compete and excel at global level. The event witnessed Business meetings with overseas buyers/Sourcing agents/buying houses, Launch of new products, and exclusive Fashion Show. J&K's products, especially Pashmina and Kani shawls were major attractions in the fashion show. During the event a drive for onboarding on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for the participating exhibitors from J&K was also organised by JKITPO and ONDC.

Speaking on the occasion, Romesh Khajuria, Chairman, Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council said that we have witnessed an overwhelming response from more than 1000 international buyers, and have also received enquiries for the export orders this itself is a positive step for the Indian textile industry.

"Further we will learn from this and hold a successful next edition with new ideas and continued support from all our partners," he said.

The main attraction for India Fashion Tex-23 was the dazzling fashion show which showcased various woolen Indian and western apparels and merchandise including - Pashmina shawls, stoles, scarves, mufflers, kurtis, blazers and caps crafted by Indian weavers and artisans. These apparels were displayed by beautiful Indian and international models which were presented by Indian exhibitors including Jubina, Surbhi Shawls, Sood Sons, Exude, Mahalaxmi and Aangan Doree and more.

## Dr Manohar pays rich floral tributes to Martyr SPO Balbir Singh

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**BILLAWAR, MAR 23:** Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today paid rich floral tributes to Martyred SPO Balbir Singh at Kohaj in Billawar constituency who got martyrdom on 17/10/2004. Prominent among those who paid tributes to martyr include Rajinder Verma Sarpanch, Karan Singh Ex Sarpanch, Raj Kumar Senior Leader, Badhri Nath, Romal Singh Rangleel Singh Makhnu, Sunil Singh Padwal, Ch Mahmood, Joginder Singh, Master, Romal Singh, Karan Singh, Ayoub Khan, Kartar Singh, Shankar Singh, Vijay Verma, Karnal Singh, Isher Dass Sangara besides others. Officers and officials of the District Police family members of the martyr, civil society members and respectable persons of Billawar constituency and its adjoining areas remained present during the event and paid their tribute to the martyr.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar highlighted the bravery and valour of the martyr and advised the youth to choose these martyrs as their role model. "Although the cops work under a lot of pressure, often their sin-



cerity goes unrecognized and unacknowledged," he said. He said remembering the service of the martyred policemen was the responsibility of every citizen of the country. He called upon the policemen to rededicate themselves for their noble responsibilities. He demanded government to give utmost priority to the welfare of members of the martyred families.

Dr Manohar observed that the Jammu and Kashmir Police is doing a commendable job in ensuring law and order and maintaining peaceful environment in the region. "Jammu and

Kashmir being one of the oldest forces of the nation has faced all the challenges very boldly and they have ensured peaceful environment in the region," he said.

He stressed the importance of greater synergy between Police and Civil Administration to provide hassle-free services to the people and help the Government to realize the dream of development in Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that the Police and Paramilitary forces have remained on the forefront to ensure smooth conduct of activities like Panchayat elections, BDC

polls. Dr Manohar said, besides ensuring law and order in the region, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has a greater role to play in implementing the fruitful welfare schemes and programmes of the Government with utmost devotion and dedication in an accelerated manner. Urging the Police Department to ensure that people's grievances are addressed on priority, he said that "People-friendly Policing" will yield the greatest results in ensuring the law and order, peace and tranquility in the region.

## Tony, Kundal appeal people to disseminate politics of communal hatred

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative, Engagement and Minority Affairs, and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh today laid stress upon the people to disseminate politics of communal hatred spread by the Bharatiya Janata Party across the country.

Tony was speaking after paying glowing tributes to Shaheed Azam Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru the great patriots who laid down their lives for the freedom of India from British yoke on their Martyrdom Day. Chairman ST, SC OBC Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir and former minister was also present.

Tony attended various programmes to commemorate the Martyrdom Day of freedom fighters at Rani Talab Digiana organized by Ghar Singh. While, another program at Langer Colony in Kunjwani area



was organised by Mandeep Choudhary and Rakesh Kundal and the similar programme was organized at Bishnah by Prem Dogra and Deepak Kumar.

Tony said normal lamps are lit with help of oil or Desi Ghee but the lamp of martyrs is lit with blood. He said that the true tribute to the martyrdom of freedom fighters would be a India without communal hatred, a literate India, a developed India, a India with job opportunities, a India without hunger

deaths, a India with happy farmers.

The senior AAP leader said the martyrdom of brave-hearts reminds the crucial need of working towards peace and striving for shaping a better future for humanity. The biggest tribute to the great heroes is to create a world where in people live in peace and harmony. At the same time, the civilized nations had to stand united for defeating the scourge of terror and violence that has emerged a biggest chal-

lenge to the global community.

Yashpal Kundal said India will never forget their courage and sacrifices. He said the indebted nation has all along been bowing their heads with respect and deep esteem for the sacrifices made by these freedom fighters.

Kundal appealed to the youth of J&K to arise to the situation to uphold the dignity of the State and its residents without fear of oppression, depression or suppression.

## Rs. 250 cr Mega Mall just beginning of FDI in J&K: Danish

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Danish Mishra, Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Vice President Jammu and Kashmir, while welcoming the beginning of a new era of foreign investments in Jammu and Kashmir, has asserted that such investments are going to lay the foundation for a stronger Jammu and Kashmir with a more prosperous future for the people of this Union Territory. He said that laying the foundation stone of a mega-mall in Srinagar district by the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is the first direct foreign investment project in the UT and it involves construction cost of Rs. 250 crore.

of the Govt's mega investment plan for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that focuses on unprecedented Industrial investment to ensure economic growth of J&K and its people.

Asserting that all credit for such initiatives goes to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that the PM has already performed the groundbreaking ceremony for projects worth Rs. 38,000 crore.

The BJYM leader stated that the coming up of Mall of Srinagar will definitely transform this UT by boosting infrastructure, employment generation and ease of living.

jobs besides the local entrepreneurs will get an opportunity to showcase their products for sale in this prestigious Mall of J&K which is expected to witness a heavy footfall of buyers including the tourists after its completion.

Danish Mishra said that registering phenomenal growth in different sectors

and in terms of knowledge, physical and digital connectivity Jammu and Kashmir has performed exceptionally well during the past three years.

The BJYM leader asserted this in itself proves the success story of J&K under the stewardship of LG Administration with full support of the Union Govt led by PM Modi.

## DC Kulgam reviews physical & financial achievements under District Capex in RRD

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM, MARCH 23:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers of Rural Development Department to take the stock of physical and financial achievements made under District Capex, Area Development Fund.

The meeting was attended by JDP Zahid Sajad, ACD Mohammad Imran Khan, Exen REW, BDOs and other officers.

## BJP indulged in vindictive politics: Uday

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** J&K Pradesh Youth Congress today staged a vigorous protest against the conviction of AICC leader and MP Rahul Gandhi by the Surat District Court over his 'Modi surname' remark.

Led by Uday Chib, President JKPYC, the protesters assembled under the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and raised slogans against the BJP government at the centre. The Youth Congress protesters displayed placards like "We are Gandhi .... Not Savarkar."

Talking to reporters, Uday Chib said that Rahul Gandhi was being punished for speaking the truth and raising his voice against the 'dictator'. He said that the law of the country gives Rahul Gandhi an opportunity to appeal so he will exercise this right and that they're



not afraid. Uday said that Rahul Gandhi is being repeatedly attacked by the people in power and constitutional institutions are being misused. "The whole country is watching, Rahul Gandhi always said the same thing, we are Gandhi. We are not Savarkar. We are no longer afraid of Modi and his government. The history of

Congress till Gandhi has been of austerity and sacrifice", he said.

Ajaz Choudhary, Secretary IYC said "The way Rahul Gandhi has been convicted and sentenced to two years in jail and falsely implicated. This has happened due to pressure from the Centre."

Ajaz Lakotra NSUI State President said "We have

full faith in the judiciary and legal rights. Congress workers from all over the country are standing in support of Rahul Gandhi and his ideology."

Prominent among those who joined the protest include Sahil Singh Langhe, Anurudh Sawhney, Happy Randhawa, Jhonny and Sunil Singh.



# Union Agriculture Minister Tomar launches DigiClaim for claim disbursement through National Crop Insurance Portal

NEW DELHI, MAR 23

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely DigiClaim under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) today at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. With the launch of the module, claims will be disbursed electronically, which will benefit the respective farmers of six states. Now, the automated claim settlement process will be an ongoing activity to ease all insured farmers' lives and provide them with a sustainable financial flow and support.

Besides Shri Tomar, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary, Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Union Agriculture Secretary Shri Manoj Ahuja, CEO, PMFBY Shri Ritesh

Chauhan and other senior officials were also present. CMDs of Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd and SBI General Insurance were also present including representatives of National Insurance Company (NIC), HDFC Ergo, Bajaj Allianz, Reliance GIC, ICICI Lombard, Future Generali, IFCCO Tokio, Cholamandalam MS, Universal Sompal and TATA AIG. Representatives from SBI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Yes Bank were also present at the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar said that it is a matter of pride for our Ministry to have taken a revolutionary step in ensuring that farmers can receive claim amounts digitally in a timebound and automated manner, thereby making our farmers Aatmanirbhar and Sashakt.

With the launch of a DigiClaim Module, insuring claims totaling Rs

1260.35 crore have been disbursed on March 23, 2023 to insured farmers in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Haryana with the click of a button, and the process will continue as and when the claims are released. The Union Minister also mentioned that till date Rs 1.32 lakh crore claim amount has been disbursed to the insured farmers under PMFBY. He also took special note of 'Meri Policy, Mere Haath' ongoing campaign and observed that the campaign has been monumental in enhancing the awareness around PMFBY at the grassroots levels.

While speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar said that the Government of India is closely working with all exited states from the scheme and have had discussions with their senior officials in which Andhra Pradesh



and Punjab are making a comeback to the scheme, which shows a shining example of corporatized federalism. Governments of Telangana, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand have also been approached to rejoin PMFBY and several discussions have been underway.

Out of these states, Telangana and Jharkhand have indicated their willingness to come back under PMFBY.

In the current system, there have been several instances of insured farmers' claims being delayed due to a variety of factors

Taking cognizance of farmers' welfare and to expedite the claim disbursement process of valid crop loss claims, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has come up with the DigiClaim Module. With this, now farmers' claims will be processed directly to their respective bank accounts in a transparent and accountable manner. This technology has been enabled through the integration of National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) and Public Finance Management System (PFMS).

This will directly impact the claim reversal

ratio, which is expected to go down with DigiClaim. Another noteworthy feature of this digital advancement is that farmers would be able to track the claim settlement process on their mobile phones in real-time and avail the scheme's benefits.

Shri Manoj Ahuja highlighted several other prolific achievements of PMFBY to mark the scheme's seventh year of conception under visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Union Secretary also appealed to state governments to show their partic-

ipation in this endeavour by timely uploading yield data onto the crop insurance portal and releasing the states' share on time so that claims could be transferred to farmers' bank accounts in a hassle-free manner, assisting the Ministry in achieving its true purpose of developing this technology.

Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, who joined the launch via video conferencing, also gave his valuable suggestions for better implementation of the scheme.

This technological advancement has taken PMFBY one step further towards modernization of the scheme. This falls in line with PM Modi's vision of making India a digital powerhouse with more and more technology-driven innovations paving Ease of Living for the farmers.

In the era of rapid innovations, Digitization and

Technology are playing a significant role in scaling up the reach and operations of PMFBY with precision agriculture. In last few years, various innovative technologies have been piloted and integrated with the scheme to make the process of yield estimation and crop loss assessment more accurate, like Yes-Tech, WINDS and CROPIC. Further, for timely redressal of farmers' grievances, Farmer Grievance Portal has been launched in the first phase for the state of Chhattisgarh, which has received a plethora of positive response and in the second phase, it will be implemented in the entire country.

DigiClaim is yet another feather in PMFBY's cap in its ongoing effort to usher in advanced technological solutions such as automated calculation and disbursement of crop insurance claims.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### India slams Pakistan...

with the rest of India. This is despite Pakistan's repeated attempts to derail the process, through its active and sustained support to terror groups and its malicious disinformation campaign against India. PM of Pakistan has voiced Pakistan's frustration due to its failure in its malicious propaganda against India," he said.

Indian diplomat said that the democracy of India is mature enough to address any issues, including those instigated from outside. He said that minorities in Pakistan face blasphemy laws, systemic persecution, discrimination, denial of basic rights and freedoms, enforced disappearances and killings.

"The pluralistic democracy of India is mature enough to address any issues including those instigated from outside. India is a secular State and safeguarding the rights of minorities forming an essential core of our polity. What minorities receive in Pakistan are blasphemy laws, systemic persecution, discrimination, denial of basic rights and freedoms, enforced disappearances and killings," he said.

"The extent of religious discrimination is reflected in the loss of life, liberty and property on the mere accusations of blasphemy laws. Pakistan today stands out as the country having more cases of blasphemy than the rest of the world put together in the past few years," he added.

PR Thakur said that Pakistan's contribution as a leading "exporter of terror and violence is unparalleled." He questioned Pakistan over the presence of 150 UN-designated terrorists and terrorist identities listed by the UN. Indian diplomat at the UN Human Rights Council asked Pakistan if they can deny that Osama bin Laden was found living in Pakistan near a military academy.

"From a country where terrorists thrive in Pakistan and roam its streets with impunity, the world does not need lessons on democracy and human rights. Pakistan's contribution as a leading exporter of terror and violence is unparalleled. Can Pakistan deny the fact that it is home to as many as 150 UN designated terrorists and terrorist entities listed by the UN, and that these proscribed individuals have actively campaigned and contested in elections?", PR Thakur said.

"Can Pakistan deny the fact that impunity reigns supreme in the country as perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks continue to roam free? Can Pakistan deny the fact that its leaders have openly called for Jihad against India?", he added. (Agencies)

He also stressed that the prolonged commitment to counter terror and counter insurgency operations should not affect our conventional response preparedness. (Agencies)

### Modi gup and security...

of Vedas and Upanishads," he tweeted in Hindi.

The Home Minister said through the virtual museum, based on 64 arts, the world will be more familiar with India's architecture, painting, drama and music and the world will know the rich history of India's glorious culture.

Union Minister of Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy attended the event, among others. (Agencies)

### Police have launched...

committed to root out this menace once for all and a collective approach has been launched by the police in this regard," the DGP said.

About query on infiltration, the DGP said that infiltration is on decline even though attempts were made from Rajouri, Baramulla and Kupwara areas. "Last year, 56 foreign militants were killed. Some foreign militants are still active who are being tracked down. Some foreign militants were involved the dastardly act in Dhangri area of Rajouri," he said. "Pakistan's internal situation is very bad at this juncture and the country should focus on their own situation rather than pushing in terrorists into this side."

On some journalists were arrested in Kashmir for terror-links, the DGP said that in the society, law is for one and all. "Some journalists were found involved in terror related activities and law has taken its own course. Law is same for all," the DGP said, adding that "nobody will be spared"-(KNO)

### Congress, NC, PDP...

in front of senior party leaders.

Devender Singh Rana gave patient hearings to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Speaking to the media persons, while listening to the grievances, Devender Singh Rana attacked the Opportunist parties like Congress, NC and PDP. He said that these parties always promoted their own family interests above all and still they uphold 'nepotism' as their first priority, but Bharatiya Janata Party has always upheld its 'Nation first' policy. He said that with the mission to serve the 'Nation and Society', BJP has always listened to the voice of the people and acted according to it.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra conducted the proceedings of the grievance camp and dished out all the issues presented. He said that the public grievances cell initiated by BJP is proving to be a boon for the common masses. People in large numbers visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief in the party, he added.

### 600 cameras for...

ITMSS, which has been made operational in Jammu partially, is a step that would help authorities better manage the vehicular flow and catch violators, they said. According to officials, this intelligent traffic management system project is being implemented by a "master systems integrator" firm along with artificial intelligence software providers like Vehant Technologies that provide solutions to make roads safer. The ITMSS automatically encrypts and transfers data of violation centralised server at the traffic police headquarters, they said. The CEO said, "The phase is under trial and tests are being carried out for any improvements that are needed." Based on the information data received from these cameras, an adaptive traffic-control system alters traffic signal cycles in real-time to respond to changing traffic conditions. Once fully operational, the adaptive traffic control system (ATCS) is expected to cut down waiting time at traffic signals by almost half, they said. They added that the new system, which

would automatically detect violators like those jumping a red light and also generate an e-challan, is being implemented under the smart city project.

"Red Light Violation Detection System will allow traffic cops to keep a track on violators and generate e-challan, which would then be handed over to the violator," he said. The system would consist of camera-mounted sensors for better detection of traffic violations, which would relay the data to the central control room managed by the traffic department, officials said. The system is connected to the control room and is monitored round-the-clock, they said. It also helps the police to detect and register cases against persons for not wearing helmets, over speeding, triple-riding, stop line violations, speaking over the phone while driving and other violations," he said.

These cameras also function effectively during night hours as recording takes place only if there is vehicle movement on the roads, he added.

The Lt Governor said ICCA, as a nerve centre of civic operations, will bring together all different departments to manage the city's utilities and civic services.

ICCC will ensure quick response in the time of emergency, he added. An intelligent traffic management system equipped with the latest traffic technology will make city traffic safer and more efficient. The technological solutions will improve integrated and networked mobility, increase road safety and congestion-free traffic flows on busy routes, Sinha said. (Agencies)

their expertise and skill sets, however, feels that an organisation should keep the mode of recruitment through deputation to minimum.

It said that the details of cases registered with the CBI, the progress made in their investigation and the final outcome are not available in public domain and asked the agency to put in public domain the details to the extent possible.

The committee observed that the annual report of CBI is also not accessible to the general public.

"The committee is of the opinion that in this age of transparency, every public authority should strive to proactively disclose the data available with it or held by it in public domain to the extent possible," said the report tabled in the Parliament recently.

It said that providing access to information will not only empower the citizens but will also make the functioning of CBI more accountable, responsible, efficient and transparent.

The committee, therefore, recommended CBI to publish case statistics and annual reports on its website.

The panel also reiterated its recommendation that CBI should maintain a case management system which would be a centralised database containing details of cases registered with it and the progress made in their disposal.

"The case management system should also enable tracking of the progress of each individual case and should be, by and large, accessible to the general public," the report said. (Agencies)

Efforts on to increase... per cent) of its identified 2046 MW capacity.

The government said that the major challenges in the development of hydroelectric potential in the country are remote location, unpredictable geology, natural calamities, environment and forest issues, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, law and order issues and inter-state issues.

The administration is looking at ways to improve the hydropower potential and will be announcing new policy decisions soon to ensure better usage of the hydropower facilities and also to set up new projects, the government said. (AGENCIES)

Par panel recommends... at vacancies at the earliest".

A total of 1,709 posts are vacant in the CBI against its sanctioned strength of 7,295.

"The Committee is of the opinion that vacancies in the cadres of executive ranks, law officers and technical officers will unquestionably increase pendency of cases, hamper the quality of investigation and ultimately impact the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency," the report said.

The panel further recommended that the Director of CBI should monitor the progress made in filling up of vacancies on a quarterly basis and take necessary measures to ensure that the organisation is sufficiently staffed.

On being asked about the reasons for delay in filling up of vacancies, CBI informed the committee that it is not receiving sufficient nominations of officers from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and state police which have traditionally been a major source of induction, particularly up to the rank of inspector in the organisation, it said.

"CBI further said that CAPFs and state police are under increasing pressure within their own jurisdictions and hence have expressed challenges in sparing officers and personnel to the same extent as in the past," the report said.

The Committee, in its previous reports, had recommended CBI to reduce its dependence on deputationists and strive to recruit permanent staff in the ranks of inspector of police and deputy superintendent of police.

"However, CBI showed unwillingness and justified its stand citing that deputationists bring in fresh ideas, novel strategies and varied skill sets with them and that direct recruitment at higher levels would affect career progression," it said.

The Committee said it fully agrees with the view of CBI that deputationists benefit the organisation with

Lt Governor delivers... The Lt Governor threw light on the life and campaigns of Dr Lohia for establishing just & equitable society, and improving the living standards of the deprived sections.

Dr. Lohia emphasized on new social structure to remove economic disparity and social injustice. He would have been proud of the progress made under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji in achieving economic equality, social equality and women empowerment, the Lt Governor observed.

Today, all the policies and schemes of the government are people-centric, which have taken the form of mass movement. What seems to be unthinkable a decade ago has now become possible, the Lt Governor said.

In this Amrit Kaal, India has emerged as the fifth largest economic power of the world and we are moving forward with the goal to become part of world's top 3 largest economies, added the Lt Governor.

"Change in each and every individual is necessary for the complete transformation of society. We must rededicate ourselves towards establishing an egalitarian and inclusive society as a befitting tribute to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Ji", said the Lt Governor.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also conveyed his best wishes on the release of the second volume of the book titled "Dr Ram Manohar Lohia- Rachnakaron ki Nazar Mein".

He said the young generation must be told about the significant contribution of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Ji to India's freedom struggle and upliftment of downtrodden.

The Lt Governor invited the students to visit Jammu Kashmir and experience the new and transformed J&K U.T.

The Lt Governor also paid tributes to the revolutionary freedom fighters & great sons of Maa Bharti- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.

Rama Shankar Singh, Chancellor ITM; Prof/Rajkumar Jain; Sh Kumar Prashant, President of Gandhi Peace Foundation; Sh KC Tyagi, Former MP; Sh Prayag Shukla and large number of students and faculty of ITM, Gwalior were present.

**NOTICE**  
I, Sahil (Old Name) S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O H.No 232, New Company Bagh has changed my name from Sahil (old name) to Sahil Sharma (new name). I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Sahil Sharma (New Name).



## Special Navratri devotional Album "Tali Wali Maa " released



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Kuldeep Raj Farm Mangr Seed Multiplication Farm Chinore (Gajansoo) Marh & Pankaj Bhawani Agriculture Assistant SMF Chinore Sahil Mahajan Maa Bawe Wali Records MD released the Album presence of Meenakshi Sharma, Ravinder Gupta Programme was organized by Producer Rajveer Manni Maa Bawe Wali

Records Chairman . The song "Tali Wali Maa " has been sung by singer Rajveer Manni, lyrics written by Sonu Raipuria music composed by Ashh K. The video has been prepared by Kk Malhotra Films under Asst Director Perma Sharma. Spl Thnx: Meenakshi Sharma Ravinder Gupta, Maa Bawe Wali Records All Teams members. The Album has been released on YouTube

Channel "Maa Bawe Wali Records " simultaneously. Kuldeep Raj appreciated the J&K for encouraging the young talent. He said that as a societal family must make endeavour to support and nurture young talent which will bring laurels to whole Jammu & Kashmir. Sahil Mahajan lauded the young talent of Jammu & Kashmir in bringing out melodious devotional album.

He said that "Tali Wali Maa" is revered by one and all in the whole region. He praised the whole production team, especially the singer, and Jk ut Co-Convener Sahil Mahajan for their efforts in making the release of the album. He said that new opportunities are being opened up everywhere today for the innovative mind setup. He said that "Bharat Bhoomi" has a vast and rich cultural heritage and these devotees of fine arts ensure that the mind of our creative youth is directed towards nurturing their skills with positive mind setup. Pankaj Bhawani complimented and wished all the success for the young artists for their new devotional video song and said that the Singer supports every upcoming artist of Jammu and Kashmir. Sahil Mahajan said that the Cell is always there to support anyone committed to bring out the potential in the young generation and the Cell is always there to boost their morale and provide help, if needed.

## NSS Unit of MIER organises Clean Tawi Campaign to mark World Water Day



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** The Environment Unit of MIER College of Education in collaboration with the NSS Unit celebrated "World Water Day" by organizing the "Clean Tawi Campaign" at the banks of the Tawriver in Jammu city. The theme for World Water Day 2023 was "Accelerating the Change to Solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis", which is in line with the targets of UN Sustainable

Development Goal 6. More than 35 students from the UG Department participated in the event. The main aim of this campaign was to raise awareness among the residents regarding pollution of water bodies due to garbage disposal and the need for preserving and conserving the Tawi river, which is a symbol of culture and heritage. In addition, the students familiarized the residents with the strategies of waste management, segregation, and disposal. They also raised alarm among locals about the repercussions of not keeping our water bodies clean and how we are depriving the future generations of this elixir. The student volunteers cleaned the areas along the bank of the river and also used lime powder for sanitary purposes. Mrs. Suman Gupta, In-charge Environment Unit, and Dr. Reeta Dwivedi, Programme officer NSS successfully organized the event.

Dr. Adit Gupta, principal MIER College commended the units' efforts and said that World Water Day is an annual United Nations (UN) celebration that emphasizes the value of fresh water. He was hopeful that the campaign will bring forward the larger issues related to waste management in the region, and make people aware of what roles they can play to ensure a waste free Jammu and Kashmir. He further motivated the youth to take earnest steps towards making the environment a better place to live and emphasized the importance of rivers in the nation's progress. The activity culminated on an optimistic note as the students felt pleased and satisfied after the SHRAM-DAAN and ensured their commitment towards saving Mother Earth.

## Only hand pump at Kotli Shah Doula chowk lying defunct for past three years: Narinder Sharma



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Some things never change in Jammu like the perennial water woes that become worse around this time every year and of course, the defunct hand pumps. The summer story this year is no different. Most hand pumps at public places are lying out of order with no one making efforts to get them up and running. This was stated by Social Activist and PDP District Jammu Media coordinator Narinder Sharma while protesting against PHE Department for not repairing hand pump near Peer Baba in

Panchayat Kotli Shah Doula lying defunct for the last three years despite bringing the same into its kind notice several times. Speaking on the occasion, Narinder Sharma said that no initiative had been taken in the past three years to repair the pump. "Frustrated with poor maintenance of these public hand pumps, people approached department several times but nothing happened," he added. The people today held a protest against the PHE for failing to provide smooth water supply to them. The villagers alleged that the Department didn't take care to regularize the

responsibility of the Panchayats to look after its maintenance," said Sharma. Sharma maintained that not only this village even there is many other villages in the block, where hand pumps lying defunct. "Although we lodged complaint with the concerned department for its immediate repair but shockingly concerned wing (Ground Water Division) declined to repair it and said that concerned panchayats will take responsibility to repair it but when concerned panchayat representatives approached the Block Development Department, they said that there is no financial provision for its repair with them," he further informed. Sharma said that even the matter was also brought into the notice of concerned Sub Division Magistrate RS Pura but till date no action has been taken to mitigate the problem of these poor villagers. "Due to apathetic attitude of PHE department, the residents have become the most affected due to non availability of drinking water," he alleged.

## NSF tribute of 92th Death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukdev

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** National Secular Forum District Unit paid tributes to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev on their 92th Death Anniversary at University Campus. Amid slogans "Bhagat Singh Zindabad", "Inqilaab Zindabad", "Bharat Mata ki jai" and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil. Ankhush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the chief guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu Distt Urban, J&K National Conference Presided over the function, whereas Dr Sukhdev Singh President of NSF was guest of honour.

supreme sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. He appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF members to remember the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. He also said that the right tribute to Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State. On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination. He also said that unemployment is

at an all time high in the present scenario which is the root cause of depression and anxiety among the young generation following which it is becoming a drug addict. Speaking on the occasion Dr Sukhdev Singh said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction, female foeticide and dowry. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants. He recalled the planning capability, boldness and feeling of nationalism in martyr Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev and stressed upon the youth to follow his ideas. Vikash Vasthi district President delivered the welcome address; Roshan Sharma was delivering the vote of thanks.

## UAE's Emaar group's entry in J&K mark change in contours of development: Sham Langer

**'ECONOMY BOOM, CREATION OF JOBS ON CARDS'**

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Sham Lal Langer, Convener BJP Trade Cell, J&K, on Thursday said that J&K has embarked on a new voyage of progress with first direct foreign investment changing the contours of development as UAE's Emaar group has assured to pump Rs. 500 crore in the Union Territory. In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP leader said that the entry of Emaar group will bring boom in the local economy and shall create hundreds



of jobs to provide vistas of opportunities to the people especially youth in the coming days. He said that the changes which the UT of J&K is witnessing after the abrogation of Article 370 are really stunning as no one in the past would have

thought about such developments taking place in the region. Sham Langer said that all credit goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had envisaged a comprehensive plan for the region to bail out people from the chaotic life and bring in prosperity, peace and certainty, for which the people of J&K were longing for the last many decades. He said that the first direct foreign investment in J&K in the shape of venturing a deal with UAE's Emaar group and the laying of foundation of Mall of Srinagar are the testi-

monies to the fact that time has come for the people to enjoy the fruits of development as the dark era of turmoil and insurgency has vanished from the scene. The senior BJP leader appreciated PM Modi and LG Manoj Sinha for doing their best to bring in vibrant change in the Union Territory where now laptops and pens have replaced guns and the youth today is aspiring to become doctor, engineer, pilot, officer in belt force, which was not the case few years ago when the region was ruled by dynastic political outfits.

## Dy. Mayor pays floral tributes to Martyrs

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Foundation and Jewel Bazar Traders Association organized a function at shaheed bhagat singh chowk jammu to pay tributes to Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who were martyred by the British government 92 years ago in 1931. A free Ayurvedic Medical camp was organized by govt. Ayurvedic Hospital jammu on the occasion in which about 900 persons were benefited.



Sh. Baldev singh Billawaria Dy Mayor while speaking on the occasion said that he will look into the demands raised by Traders Association of beautification of bazaar and installation of statue of Shaheed Bhagat singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev at shaheed bhagat singh Chowk and other demands raised by the association for betterment of tourist visiting Jammu and traders of bazaar. He stressed upon the youth of J&K to work for the betterment of society. He assured association that he will do his best to fulfill the demands of bazaar association. Earlier Bazar Association presented charter of demands to the Dy. Mayor. Dr. Sunita Kapoor Major General Rtd paid floral tributes as special

invitee to the martyrs on the occasion. He asked the youth to follow the path shown by the martyrs and avoid intoxication and remain alert to protect the national security. Padamshree Dr. S.P. Varma President GGF-J&K while paying tributes to the martyrs said that their contribution in the freedom struggle was most important and decisive. Mr. Amit Gupta corporator ward no.19 said that JMC will soon install statue of trio at Shaheed Bhagat singh chowk as this is entry to the Jammu city and urgently needs beautification of the area. He stressed upon the youth to take part in sports to remain healthy. Dr. taran singh President said that the foundation is organizing the func-

tion on the day to pay tributes to the martyrs since last 35 years in the same venue and named the chowk to the martyrs. He thanked Jammu municipal corporation for honouring the emotions of the people and traders of the area for accepting the demand for installation of statue of the martyrs shaheed e Azam Bhagat singh Rajguru and Sukhdev. He further added that many organisations including political organizations come to Shaheed Bhagat singh Chowk to pay tributes to the trio. He thanked Dr. Mohan singh MHA Director Indian systems of Medicine J&K and M.S. GAH Jammu for extending support in organizing free ayurvedic medical camp.

## Kishtwar hosts 3-day training programme on drug abuse detection and management

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**KISHTWAR, MARCH 23:** As part of the ongoing 100th Anniversary Celebrations in Kishtwar district, a three-day training programme on Early Detection of Drug Abuse and Post Detection Management was held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office complex today.



The event was organised under the management of the Social Welfare Department, in which more than 500 participants participated, including Youth Club volunteers, NSS volunteers, students, AWWs, ASHAs and NGO members. Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav and SSP Kishtwar, Khalil

Ahmed Poswal inaugurated the training programme. District Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed presented a welcome address and highlighted issues associated with drug abuse. Resource persons from Jammu & Kashmir Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses gave a presentation

on various aspects of drug abuse and post-detection management. Dr Harris of Addiction Treatment Facility at DH Kishtwar spoke on early identification of drug abuse and how it can be managed with the help of addiction facility centres. During the event, the Deputy Commissioner spoke about the role of government and private agencies in early detection and post-management of drug abuse. He highlighted the interventions adopted by the district administration in collaboration with the Police Department and other stakeholders to curb drug abuse in the district. He said that nasha-mukt panchayats will be accomplished through panchayat resolution and line listing of all addicts and peddlers. Clinical interventions for addicts and police action against peddlers will be taken, along with rehabilitation through youth clubs. SSP Kishtwar also spoke about the roles and responsibilities of parents, peers and different stakeholders in early detection and post-detection management.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Progressing to bring some sanity on roads

Recently, the Union Territory administration of Jammu and Kashmir constituted a high-level panel of experts to find out the reasons for recurring fatal mishaps in three districts (Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar) of Chenab region, especially on 110-km-long treacherous Batote-Doda-Kishtwar national highway. Over the years, several measures had been taken to deal with the fatal road accidents in the region but all efforts, so far, have failed to yield the desired results. There were reports that the government has initiated the process to make highways accident free by floating tenders to install crash barriers and parapets. If one goes by the official statistics, over 2,850 road accidents have been reported in three districts of Chenab region during the last five years, in which at least 752 people lost their lives, while over 3,600 were injured - many of them rendered handicapped. In 2022 alone, as many as 129 people were killed and 385 received injuries in 621 road mishaps in these three districts. This number is continuously ticking up because no serious efforts are being made to stop fatal mishaps. The decision of the government to form a panel of experts to suggest measures and make recommendations to the government as to how the rising number of road accidents can be brought down in the region, has been taken after the High Court directed the government for the same. In December last year, a Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh had directed the Government to constitute Committee of Experts (CoE) to ascertain reasons and file Action Taken Report (ATR) on the frequent road accidents in the hilly areas of Chenab Valley comprising three districts of Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar. On December 17 last year, a social activist of Doda district had written a letter to the Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court requesting for taking suo-moto cognizance of increasing road accidents in the hilly terrain of Chenab Valley. The letter was treated as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and clubbed with a PIL titled Intakhah Ahmed Qazi Versus State of J&K and Others, which raised the issue with regard to road accidents on the Mughal Road. The letter was written close on the heels of the death of three engineers in a fatal road mishap near Assar area on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway on November 14 last year. The much-hyped 'J&K Road Safety Policy' (RSP) that had committed "to provide safe and secure roads by taking appropriate steps to reduce the fatalities" has apparently remained on papers only. Approved in 2016, the basic objective of policy was "to reduce fatalities and injuries in road mishaps by 2020 considering 2016 as the base year". The RSP had envisaged that all existing and new roads would be equipped with standard traffic control features like signs, marking, crash barriers, delineators etc, besides initiatives would be taken to upgrade major roads in the state and classify important roads as state highways. There is a need to formulate some concrete measures to save the lives of the people who died while driving on killer roads in the Chenab region. It is expected that the recent decisions to install crash barriers and other measures would help in bringing down the number of fatal road mishaps in Jammu and Kashmir.

'Polluter pays' principle elusive in Bhopal case

The way successive Central and state governments and their agencies have dealt with the disaster is a sordid saga of apathy, negligence and disregard for the victims. At the outset, the Centre took it upon itself to exclusively represent the victims, seek compensation for them and strike a compromise with Union Carbide by passing a new law. This was the first blunder.

DINESH C. SHARMA

ON March 14, the Supreme Court dismissed the curative petition filed by the Centre in the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster case. This ends the vexed litigation relating to civil liabilities in the most heinous environmental disaster and corporate crime in modern history.

The methyl isocyanate (MIC) that leaked from the pesticide manufacturing plant of Union Carbide India Limited in Bhopal on the night of December 2, 1984, instantly suffocated thousands of people to death and caused grievous injuries to several others.

The inter-generational effects of the exposure to the toxic gas and ground pollution caused by the dumping of hazardous waste in and around the factory site linger even after nearly four decades. Litigation to fix civil liability and criminal negligence of the company and its officials had gone on in the district court and the High Court for decades. The apex court was the survivors' last hope for justice. Therefore, the summary dismissal of the curative petition has come as a shocker to them.

The way successive Central and state governments and their agencies have dealt with the disaster right from the beginning is a sordid saga of apathy, negligence and utter disregard for the rights of the victims. To begin with, the Central Government took it upon itself the exclusive right to represent the victims, seek compensation for them and strike a compromise with Union Carbide by passing a new law - Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. This was the first blunder. The government filed a suit for compensation in Bhopal in 1988, some amount was awarded, and, as expected, Union Carbide challenged it in higher courts.

The company used the Indian cases to resist litigation in the US saying that it had subjected itself to the judiciary in India. With intense lobbying on behalf of Union Carbide and a nudge from the Supreme Court, the Central Government committed a bigger blunder. It reached a settlement with Union Carbide for a pittance - \$470 million (around Rs 715 crore in 1989) - in exchange for closing all civil and criminal proceedings against it.

It was only after the victims sought a review of the order that the Supreme Court agreed that the extinguishment of criminal liabilities in the settlement was not appropriate. Criminal cases were filed against company officials in the district court in Bhopal. In 2010, the district court convicted officers who ran the plant on a daily basis of negligence. This judgment brought back the 1984 disaster into focus, leading to a public outcry. Under this pressure, the Centre formed a Group of Ministers to consider additional compensation to the victims of the disaster and then filed the curative petition in the Supreme



Court, seeking enhancement of the compensation as well as reimbursement expenses incurred on relief and rehabilitation.

After hearing it for 13 years, the SC has dismissed the curative petition now, saying that the compensation given as part of the compromise in 1989 was final while standing by the 1989 judgment that had termed the compensation as 'just, equitable, and reasonable'. The Centre's claim for a 'top-up' in the compensatory amount, in the court's view, has no foundation in any known legal principle.

Organisations representing survivors of the tragedy, who implored themselves in the curative petition, questioned the credibility of the very compromise the Central Government struck with Union Carbide. Citing information and documents unearthed through the RTI Act in India and the US, the victims claimed in the court that the settlement was achieved through fraudulent means by Union Carbide. The court was given documentary evidence of how officials of Union Carbide misled government officials into believing that the majority of survivors suffered only temporary injuries.

The court brushed all such evidence aside, saying that the settlement was 'the most appropriate course of action' taken by the court in 1989. Moreover, it said, the Central Government in the curative petition did not plead any fraud. Unfortunately, the court has chosen to treat it purely as dispute between the Union of India and Union Carbide, referring to victim organisations disparagingly as a 'private party' seeking to 'ride on the coattails of the Union (of India)'.

Due to the mistakes made by the Central Government in committing to a settlement pre-

maturely, and due to the nudge from the Supreme Court, Union Carbide never went to trial in India for the worst-ever industrial disaster it caused in Bhopal. The scope of the tragedy has expanded and new effects of MIC have emerged. The court has admitted that the quantum of compensation settled in 1989 was based on a broad and general estimate. The figures for death and grievous and serious personal injuries' were put at 3,000 and 30,000, respectively.

The curative petition filed in 2010 provided an opportunity for both the Centre and SC to correct a historical blunder committed in 1989, in line with the new understanding of environmental jurisprudence since the tragedy in 1984. Several judgments have interpreted the 'polluter pays' principle to include the absolute liability to pay compensation to victims of any pollution caused and costs incurred for the restoration of the environmental degradation caused. In the 1985 oleum gas leak case, the court had observed that "the larger and more prosperous the enterprise, the greater must be the amount of compensation payable by it for the harm caused on account of an accident in carrying on the hazardous or inherently dangerous activity by the industry or enterprise".

The SC observation in the March 14 order that it was the responsibility of the Union of India as a welfare state to fulfill any deficit in the settlement fund goes against the tenets of the 'polluter pays' principle. Instead of bringing Union Carbide to book and making it pay for the continuing medical and environmental tragedy in Bhopal as the polluter, the court has sought to blame the Central Government and questioned the victims themselves.

The lingering problem of Rohingyas' statelessness

LUV PURI

Of the total 1,140 Rohingyas to be reportedly repatriated to Myanmar from Bangladesh through the pilot project, 711 have had their cases cleared. According to the reports, the cases of the remaining 429 were still being processed and their identities and places of origin verified. The development companies several rounds of shuttle diplomacy between Dhaka and Naypyidaw that have taken place in the last five years to support the repatriation of Rohingyas.

These efforts started during the National League for Democracy (NLD) government regime in the first quarter of 2019 and it seems that they have continued even under Myanmar's military-ruled administration. The military staged a coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, and a civil war-like situation prevails as protesters are demanding the restoration of democracy. The success of the repatriation project has consequences for the larger Rohingya population and the countries, including India, in which they are residing as refugees. The number of Rohingyas living outside Myanmar is four times that of those who are in that country.

As per the Arakan Project, in 2019-20, the approximate number of Rohingyas living in Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, the

THE PILOT PROJECT OF REPATRIATION MAY BECOME AN EXERCISE IN OPTICS. THE MAIN IMPEDIMENT STALLING REPATRIATION WAS THE DEMAND BY ROHINGYAS FOR FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS THAT NO ONE IN MYANMAR IS WILLING TO CONCEDE. AS PER THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN NORMS, THE RETURN SHOULD BE A FULLY INFORMED AND VOLUNTARY DECISION WITH ENABLING CONDITIONS. WITHIN CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH, THE SITUATION IS BECOMING MORE CHALLENGING FOR THE AUTHORITIES.



UAE and Malaysia was 9.47 lakh, 5 lakh, 3.5 lakh, 40,000, 50,000 and 1.5 lakh, respectively. Bangladesh hosts the maximum number of refugees and they have come to the country in several phases. The most recent was in August 2017 as 7.2 lakh Rohingyas were expelled from Rakhine in Myanmar on account of the army's allegedly disproportionate use of force after attacks by the Arakan Rakshine Salvation Army on military's posts. The magnitude of the displacement in 2017 can be gauged from the fact that Maungdaw district, comprising the townships of Maungdaw and

Butthadang, with a population of over 7.5 lakh Rohingyas, witnessed a near-total exodus. Within Myanmar, Rohingyas had been stripped of citizenship rights by a domestic law in 1982. Under this law, citizenship is based on the membership of the 'national races', which, the state says, settled in Myanmar prior to 1824, the date of the first occupation of the region by the British. Myanmar has 135 national races enshrined in its 2008 constitution and the Rohingyas are not a part of this category. It is unlikely that the Myanmar military would give up the

rigid idea of citizenship to accommodate the Rohingyas.

The story of the Rohingyas and their connection with Rakhine is mixed in constellations of history, identity, colonialism and conceptualisation of modern-day nationhood.

The official version of Myanmar is that the Rohingyas came from present day Bangladesh to Rakhine and their language is nothing but Chittagonian, which has similarities with Bengali. Officially, Myanmar calls Rohingyas 'Bengalis', which goes against the universally agreed right of the community to self-identify. It is said that initially, the British, when they gained control of Rakhine, facilitated the flight of Rohingyas as sharcroppers. Rohingyas contest this version assiduously and the exact history may be even more complex. They affirm that they are native to Rakhine and have their own distinct language. In this battle of versions, little attention is paid to the fact that till the British Empire imploded in 1947-48 in Myanmar and India and new nation-states were created, including Myanmar and East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh in 1971, geography was porous between the coastal

Rakhine and the neighbouring Bangladesh's Chittagong district.

With a gush of nationalism sweeping across the post-colonial world, national boundaries came to be tightly defined and official historical narratives were developed in support of the new boundaries. In Myanmar, the new official narrative promoted a binary history, which was internalised, including the idea of natives and foreigners, by the Burman Buddhist majority. In a country of multiplicities in terms of ethnicity and religion, internal strife became a way of life, including among adherents of Buddhist majority of different ethnicities such as Rakhine Buddhist as a result of the enforcement of the singular national vision of the majority. The Rohingyas, who are cent per cent Muslim and with their own ethnicity, stood little chance of being included in such a polity. The Myanmar military has often invoked the threat of Rohingyas to gain political legitimacy and the ruling political elite is always insecure about adopting a liberal, accommodating approach towards the Rohingyas as this would potentially invite the wrath of the majority.

Even within a semi-democratic system, from 2010 to 2021, Myanmar's military - the Tatmadaw - continued to wield a major influence, both constitutionally and politically. Section 339 of the Myanmar constitution states: "The Defence Services shall lead in safeguarding the Union against all internal and external dangers." The fact is that the anti-Rohingya narrative of several decades created a situation where even a seemingly democratic and liberal party like the ruling NLD exacerbated the situation of Rohingyas. The NLD oversaw two phases of violent expulsions of Rohingyas in 2016 and 2017. That is why the pilot project of repatriation may become an exercise in optics. The main impediment stalling repatriation is the demand by Rohingyas for the full recognition of their political, social and economic rights that no one in Myanmar is willing to concede. As per the international humanitarian norms, the return should be a fully informed and voluntary decision with enabling conditions. Within camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, the situation is becoming more and more challenging for the authorities.



# TWITTER SCHOOLS DIVYANKA TRIPATHI'S 'EXCITING' REACTION TO EARTHQUAKE: 'THIS IS PLAIN INSENSITIVE'

TV actor Divyanka Tripathi posted on Instagram Stories during the recent earthquake that it was 'exciting'. Twitter users have slammed her tone-deaf reaction. Yeh Hai Mohabbatein actor Divyanka Tripathi was slammed for her irresponsible reaction to the recent earthquake that shook parts of North India on Tuesday evening. Large parts of North India, including Delhi-NCR, felt the tremors of an earthquake of magnitude 6.6 which had its epicentre in Afghanistan. The actor took to her Instagram Stories to share her excitement in witnessing her 'life's first earthquake'.

In an Instagram Story which later went viral on Twitter as it was shared widely by many, Divyanka expressed how 'very exciting' it was to experience her first ever earthquake in Chandigarh. She said in the clip,

"Okay, this is very exciting because I'm experiencing my life's first earthquake and you won't feel it like this... Gali mohalla sab neeche aa gayi hai in Chandigarh. This is exciting, just for now, jab tak ke zyada nahi hota." (All the people from the neighborhood have gathered downstairs... until it doesn't get more stronger.) Several users slammed the actor for her tone-deaf reaction to a natural disaster.

Many users expressed their irritation for Divyanka's insensitive comments on the earthquake that could have caused serious damage to many people, and slammed the actor. One user reposted her clip and wrote, "Imagine someone from Turkey or Syria seeing this after what they've been through...!!!! Natural Disasters are NO joke...!!!!" Another said, "People were scared, was in the fear of



# Arjun Kapoor's sister Anshula Kapoor stuns in black bodysuit, Janhvi Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor react

Anshula Kapoor took everyone by surprise by her new look in her latest Instagram post. Anshula, who is Boney Kapoor's daughter and actor Arjun Kapoor's sister, posted a couple of pictures in a black bodysuit and wrote in the caption how she was insecure about trying on bodysuits earlier but now she is "able to try everything I never let myself explore before" while having fun with it. Janhvi Kapoor, Orry Awatramani, Rhea Kapoor and Shanaya Kapoor among others commented on Anshula's post.

Anshula posted a couple of pictures of herself sitting on the



ground in a black bodysuit, with her curls left untied. In the last picture she shared a picture of a quote by Bridgett Devoue that read, "Imagine all the things we could be if we weren't controlled by insecurity." Anshula then detailed her deci-

sion to wear a bodysuit despite having doubts whether her body shape would suit one. She wrote: "Over the years, I've endlessly told myself that bodysuits aren't flattering for my body shape. I've stopped myself from wearing them more times than I can count. But I had a realization earlier this year. There's a lot of hidden joy in being able to try everything I never let myself explore before, at least once. I want to experience that thrill. Am I owning it? Who cares!! Am I having fun? Oh 100%!! Still learning and trying not to let my stretch marks, cellulite, tummy rolls etc

get the best of me & my insecurities. This is me just letting my curls loose, having the best time with the team I trust most, and loving every minute of it. (star emoticons)" Reacting to Anshula's post, actor Janhvi Kapoor commented with fire emoticons, while Rhea Kapoor wrote: "We want the close-ups!!!!" Orry Awatramani, who is often seen partying with the young Bollywood stars, also commented with fire emoticons and wrote: "Um hello ????" Meanwhile actor Karisma Kapoor left red heart and fire emoticons in the comments as well.

# Shabana Azmi: People Don't Really Associate Humour With Me



I was the lightness of 'What's Love Got To Do With It?' that drew her to the romantic comedy, says Shabana Azmi, who believes cinegoers don't often associate her with humorous characters.

Azmi reunited with Shekhar Kapur, the director of her 1983 family drama 'Masoom', for his British feature project, which also stars Lily James, Shazad Latif, Emma Thompson and Sajal Aly.

"People forget that I have done humour. I mean, as far back as Shyam Benegal's 'Mandi', with the monkey running after me and stuff like that. I did it also in 'Honeymoon Travels' and films like that. But yes, people don't really associate humour with me although I've done it," the 72-year-old actor told PTI in an interview.

"For me, the lightness of the film attracted me to do it strongly. In today's times, I think to have something that is all heart and that is light and that makes you feel warm and lovely, I think that's an emotion we really need to hold on to," she added.

"What's Love Got to Do with It" is about Zoe (James), a modern British woman living in the messy world of 'right swipes' and 'online dating'.

Having constantly tried and failed to find 'Mr. Right', Zoe is intrigued when her childhood buddy Kazim (Latif) decides to tie the knot in traditional 'desi' arranged marriage style.

# Avinash Tiwary: Even When I End My Career, People Will Still Talk About 'Laila Majnu'



Avinash Tiwary has been one of the very few young actors in Bollywood who has not only succeeded in mainstream roles, but also done considerably well on the OTT space. His last release 'Khakee' on Netflix, went on to become one of the biggest hits of the year.

Having started his career with a cult film like 'Laila Majnu', Avinash Tiwary has come a long way. With so many projects in his kitty, he opens up candidly while talking to Prateek Sur about 'Khakee', his respect for cops, his debut film 'Laila Majnu', the OTT space in India, facing failures in the film industry, and lots more. Excerpts: I remember Vicky Sidana, the casting director, reached out to me and he wanted me to go ahead and do a meeting with Bhav. There was a brief narration for about 20 mins and I liked the episodes and wanted to read more. I was really petrified and scared but in the end, Neeraj sir and Bhav showed a lot of love and praise for my skill and they made me believe that I can do this role. It was their belief that made me do it. They have filled me with an immense amount of confidence that is going to stay for my life.

So, your character is someone who cannot be classified as good or bad. Do you enjoy playing characters with a hint of grey shades?

I personally feel that they are humanised characters. It's only then that you can bring layers and nuances and I absolutely like playing these characters. It's all about exploring their conditioning and their desires and thankfully web series have a longer format that gives you the freedom to explore.

The story revolves around cops. In India, however good a cop tries to be the people think he is corrupt and is ready to take a bribe at the drop of a hat. What do you think can be done to remove this stigma or taboo against the police force?

# 'Bheed' To 'Bhola' - 5 Intriguing Films That We Can't Wait To Watch



The whopping success of 'Pathaan' and 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' has finally put to rest all speculations about whether Hindi cinema still has the power to draw audiences to theatres and now trade observers and audiences are looking forward to a lavish buffet of entertainers in the months to come. Here are a few films that everybody is waiting for in the coming months:

'Bheed' Anubhav Sinha, who once helmed the potboiler 'Dus', the sci-fi thriller 'Ra. One' and a romantic drama like 'Tum Bin', has in the past few years, dramatically shifted to serious, introspective, and socially relevant films like 'Mulk', 'Thappad', 'Article 15', and 'Anek'. This year, he is back with another thought-provoking film 'Bheed' which addresses issues like social inequality and the power of the individual and the collective. The film stars Bhumi Pednekar, Rajkumar Rao, Dia Mirza, Pankaj Kapur, Ashutosh Rana and many others. The film is slated for a release on March 24.

# Swara Bhasker feels like a 'queen' in her green lehenga, twins with Fahad Ahmad for their saangeet

Swara Bhasker shared a couple of photos of her green outfit from her saangeet ceremony on her latest Instagram post. The actor looked stunning in a green lehenga, twinning with her husband Fahad Ahmad in a green bandhgala. The couple had a court marriage and announced that they submitted their papers on January 6 under the Special Marriage Act. She also wrote in the caption: "Like a Queen in green courtesy my fave @rahulmishra\_7 ... Giving @fahadzirarahmad also princely vibes! (green heart emoticons)" In a separate post, Swara posted another set of pictures from the saangeet ceremony, where she was seen sitting with



green lehenga for her saangeet ceremony.

In some of the pictures she can be seen twinning with Fahad in a green kurta pyjama too. She also wrote in the caption: "Like a Queen in green courtesy my fave @rahulmishra\_7 ... Giving @fahadzirarahmad also princely vibes! (green heart emoticons)" Swara and Fahad's wedding reception was held in Delhi and it was attended by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Shashi Tharoor, TMC leader Derek O'Brien and actor Jaya Bachchan among others. For the occasion, Swara wore a pink and golden lehenga and Fahad opted for a cream-coloured sherwani and white pyjama. Swara Bhasker had announced her wedding last month. She had shared the news on her social media and tagged Fahad, who is the state president of Samajwadi Party's youth wing - Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha. Sharing a video of them together, she wrote, "Sometimes you search far & wide for something that was right next to you all along."

# 'WE HAD SEXUAL RITUALS THAT WERE SO....', KELLY RIPA RECALLS HOW SHE MANAGED RELATIONSHIP WITH MARK OVER FACETIME

Kelly Ripa shared some insights into how she and her actor husband, Mark Consuelos, stayed connected during the pandemic when Consuelos was filming on location and they were separated. Ripa revealed that they had to rely on virtual communication, including video calls to maintain their long-distance relationship. She mentioned that they even had 'sexual virtual' sessions over video calls to keep things interesting.

During a podcast, Ripa also shared that she made sure to present her most flattering side during their Facetime sessions, which helped to keep the romance alive despite the distance. Although it was a challenging time for the couple, they were able to make it work by staying connected in any way possible. On the debut episode of Kelly Ripa's SiriusXM podcast 'Let's Talk Off Camera' with Kelly Ripa, the couple, Kelly and Mark,

shared insights into their successful relationship with their marriage counselor, Dr. Linda Carter. The discussion revolved around how they were able to maintain their bond despite being apart for an extended period while Marks was busy while shooting during the presented situation created by pandemic. She gave an account on the usual ritual they followed, and said, "There were rituals. Can I tell you something? We had sexual rit-

uals that were so ludicrous over FaceTime." She continued further, and said, "I became so alarmed at my appearance over FaceTime that I started rigging the computer to hang from a ladder. I'm not kidding. I hung the computer over a ladder so that I could look up to Mark and he did not have to see what gravity was actually doing [to me]. You get really close to yourself in situations where you're separated from your husband for long

periods of time." Ripa started her career as a dancer and made her acting debut in the TV series 'Dance Party USA'. She went on to appear in several TV shows and movies before landing her breakthrough role on 'All My Children' in 1990. She rose to fame as a co-host of the popular morning talk show 'Live with Regis and Kelly' alongside Regis Philbin. She also gained popularity for her role as Hayley Vaughan on the soap opera 'All My Children'.





# DIG INTO THE SWEET COMFORT OF MIDDLE EASTERN TREATS

THE TRINITY OF PASTRY DOUGH, SUGAR SYRUP AND SPICED NUTS IN BAKLAVA AND 'KNAFEH' MAKE IT WORTH THE INDULGENCE

**B**aklava and knafeh, decadent Middle Eastern desserts, are finding a sweet spot in homes through handcrafted batches and luxe festive gifting. Brands have begun getting orders for Christmas parties and corporate gifting. Last month, just ahead of Diwali, Medha Inamdar, a home baker from Navi Mumbai, notched up orders for 38kg of her special baklavas.

The "sultan of sweets", baklava—flaky, paper-thin sheets of phyllo dough doused in scented syrup and encased with the choicest of nuts—is known for its rich legacy and complex history. While many claim its origins can be traced to the Ottoman empire, some believe it originates in ancient Assyria in the Taurus and Zagros mountains of Turkey and Syria as early as eighth century BCE. The beauty of baklava lies in the shared heritage of the Greeks, Turks, Egyptians, Lebanese, Armenians, Jews and Arabs, who developed their own classic versions influenced by local flavours.

Making the perfect baklava is a labour-intensive process. It starts with a sugar syrup that is infused with fresh orange, lime juice or rosewater. Once it acquires the desired consistency, it is left to cool. Phyllo sheets are then spread on a large baking tray. Nuts like pistachios, walnuts or hazelnuts are blitzed and combined with ground cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves or cardamom. The mixture is spread on the phyllo sheets, layer



upon layer, with brushings of melted butter in between, and then baked until the crust is golden. The buttery sugar bombs are cut into square or diamond shapes.

Premium dessert stores and brands are trying to showcase its exclusivity.

Shazia Ahmed and Raies Sheikh launched Mezaya in 2018 to offer Mumbai-based freshly-baked baklavas in a delivery-only format. Currently operating as a cloud kitchen with 12 outlets, Mezaya hopes to reach a total of 25 outlets in the city by next year, before expanding to other metros. They source the rosewater from Iran, orange blossom from Lebanon and flour for the phyllo dough from Turkey.

In 2019, Jameela Ruhi and her husband, Zamzeer Ahmed, transformed their home baking venture into a QSR, Kunafa World, in

Bengaluru. Knafeh, also known as kunafe or kunafa and usually associated with Palestinian cuisine, is made of kadayif, a noodle-like shredded phyllo dough, layered with soft cheese and rich nuts and soaked in warm sugar syrup. Since the challenge was to get sweet lovers to own a foreign dessert, they introduced common flavour combinations such as Kitkat, Oreo, Nutella, Lotus Biscoff, Snickers, Bounty and Ferrero Rocher. The cheese is imported from Greece and the kadayif and cream blend are made in-house. With over nine outlets in Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Mysuru, Kochi and Mumbai, the couple hopes to expand to 15 more cities in 2022.

Kolkata-based Tania Agarwal, 22, who started The Baklava Box in 2019, expanded to a pan-India delivery model and an offline collaboration with Nature's Basket in

October last year. Today, he gets an average of 500 orders a day, which peak during weddings and occasions like Diwali, Christmas and New Year. "We shipped around 40,000 boxes on Diwali alone," he says.

Brands such as Hurren's, a boutique store in Mumbai launched a few months before the pandemic, are focused on the luxe gifting space. The opulent store-cum-café boasts of a selection of handcrafted baklavas, mastered by chefs from Gaziantep, Turkey's baklava capital.

Businesses believe acceptance of this dessert could be due to its multidimensional flavour, familiar to the Indian palate. That hint of cardamom or whiff of rose is a huge comfort factor for the consumer. "It was encouraging to find people switching from traditional mithai to our baklavas as gifts to family and friends during Ganpati," says Sheikh.

The retail grocery segment was quick to latch on to the trend. Avinash Tripathi, concept head at Fresh Pik, a premium grocery vertical from Reliance Retail, says they are planning a premium in-store experience with a shop-in-shop concept exclusively for Middle Eastern sweets. Inamdar is now looking forward to making a batch of filig baklava—a bittersweet concoction of peanuts, sesame seeds, cardamom and jaggery—for Makar Sankranti in January. All you have to do is keep up with Instagram.

## This weekend, try a recipe for molten grilled cheese sandwich

A BELOVED SANDWICH FROM HAWAII PILED WITH CHEESE, CREAMY MUSHROOM AND GROUND MEAT



**C**lose your eyes and imagine you're in Maui. Maybe you conjure up a beach with turquoise waters and a surfboard; or some badly behaved people from this year's hit HBO series *White Lotus*. If you're thinking food, you might cast your mind to fresh poke, or a plate lunch.

What you probably do not think of is a molten grilled cheese stuffed with meaty sloppy joe. But the over-the-top sandwich, known as a flying saucer because of its round shape, is beloved by locals on Maui and also Kauai.

Flying saucers are such a local specialty that Sheldon Simeon had never heard of them growing up on the Big Island. It wasn't until he hopped islands that he discovered the sandwich. Now they're featured in his cookbook *Real Hawaii* that he wrote with Garrett Snyder

(Clarkson Potter; \$35).

The book is a gorgeous trip all around the archipelago, making for great armchair travel if you aren't on the move these days.

Simeon, a Top Chef finalist and owner of the outrageously good lunch food spot Tin Roof Maui, combines diverse influences from Chinese and Filipino to Portuguese in his cooking. Recipes tell stories of Hawaiian classics including spam musubi and the classic noodle dish saimin as well as shoyu sugar steak which has its roots in the staple sugarcane crops.

Flying saucers are a less expected entry. "Very few local dishes involve American cheese, which is somewhat surprising given our affection for canned meats and picnic condiments," writes Simeon in the book. The sandwich is an exception. He describes it "as the glorious love child of a

sloppy joe and a grilled cheese: tomatoey beef goulash and Kraft Singles squished between two slices of white bread, then grill-pressed over an open fire until melty and toasty."

There's an inter-island rivalry between ownership of the sandwich. "It is from Kauai, but Maui has taken it over, it's our pride and joy" says Simeon. He got his first taste of one at the Maui Country Fair, where people lined up before the stand even opened. "It's crazy," he says.

"They're delicious, but really it's about the nostalgia. Your grandparents have stories about standing in line. Some aren't perfect, they still have crust on it. Each one is different, but you love it." And they are delicious. The filling is simple, as a sloppy joe-style filling should be: ground meat mixed with sautéed onions and garlic and a few other vegetables, cooked in a chile-pepper oil that adds a layer of heat. Tomato paste and can-canned cream of mushroom soup—yes, it's still around—add to the good natured gloppiness of it. That filling is piled into American cheese covered bread rounds and fried until golden so the cheese is a melty salty contrast to the saucy meat. Eat it as hot as you can stand it.

## Why Snacking on Hemp Seeds Can Help You Sleep More Soundly

**H**emp seeds pack a powerful nutrient-rich punch. "First of all, hemp protein is considered to be complete, meaning it contains all essential amino acids," says Sheri Vettel, MPH, RD, LDN, an Integrative Nutrition health coach. "For individuals following a primarily or entirely plant-based diet, this is incredibly important." In addition, Vettel explains that compared to other sources of protein, hemp is particularly high in one amino acid known as arginine. Arginine is a precursor to nitric oxide, which supports healthy blood pressure.

Hemp seeds are also rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids, as well as nutrients that support overall health, including vitamin E, potassium, magnesium, phosphorus, calcium, iron, and zinc. Plus, Vettel points out that they're a low-allergen risk and are fairly easy to digest.

But here's a little known fact and one more reason to start snacking on hemp seeds: Hemp



seeds can help ensure you get better sleep. Why snacking on hemp seeds for sleep is so effective.

"Hemp's nutrient profile is incredibly useful when it comes to supporting quality sleep because the combination of the amino acid tryptophan and vitamin B6 serve as precursors for melatonin, a hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle," says Kylene Bogden, MS, RDN, CSSD, LDN, CLT, a wellness advisor for

Love Wellness. "When eating hemp seeds, their vitamin B6 content will trigger the conversion of tryptophan into serotonin, which your body can then convert into melatonin."

Bogden strongly emphasizes that, when possible, it is always better to eat in a way that supports your body's natural physiological reaction (i.e. hemp seeds) versus relying on a supplement like melatonin. Moreover, one

ounce of hemp seeds provides approximately 45 percent of the RDI for magnesium. "Magnesium is a mineral that plays a role in regulating levels of the calming neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which promotes restorative sleep," says Vettel. "Unfortunately, magnesium deficiencies are quite common for several reasons. This includes the declining nutritive value of crops, one's overall dietary composition, and even gut-health issues that can lead to malabsorption of magnesium. This makes it so important to include several quality sources of magnesium in the diet, such as hemp seeds, as we do know that magnesium deficiency is linked to insomnia and overall poor-quality sleep."

How to best utilize hemp seeds for sleep (and overall health)

It's important to note that while hemp seeds are fantastic nutritionally, eating them before bed won't necessarily induce sleepiness right away.

## Genes may play role in tooth decay, gum disease: Study

**H**ereditary traits and factors such as obesity, education and personality may play a role in tooth decay and gum disease, according to a study.

Tooth decay and periodontitis, also known as gum disease, are among the most common diseases around the world but unlike many other well-known diseases knowledge of how genes affect the risk of developing these dental diseases is still limited, said researchers at the University of Bristol in the UK.

Two people who eat the same things and take care of their mouth the same way may end up with a different number of cavities but researchers had not been able to explain why until now, they said.

"The study makes it clear that teeth are part of the body. Among other things, we can see that there seems to be a causal link between risk factors for cardiovascular disease and tooth decay," said Ingerger Johansson, from the Institute of Odontology at Umea University, Sweden. Previous research has suggested several

genes may be involved but none had been confirmed. This is partly because complex diseases, such as tooth decay and periodontitis, require large studies to draw firm conclusions.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, combined data from nine international clinical studies with 62,000 participants together with data on self-reported dental health from the UK Biobank including 461,000 participants, making it the largest study of its kind. The analysis involved scanning millions of strategic points in the genome to find genes with links to dental diseases.

The researchers were able to identify 47 new genes with connections to tooth decay. The study also confirmed a previously known immune-related gene is linked to periodontitis. Among the genes that could be linked to tooth decay are those that help form teeth and the jawbone, those with protective functions in saliva and those which affect the bacteria found on the teeth.

# E-visagi- g tech-e- abled smart cardiac care

Technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning should play a critical role in identifying and treating cardiovascular diseases at an early stage, writes Dr Prathap C. Reddy.

**A**s we mark World Heart Day this year, I wonder why we remember our hearts just one day of the year. The heart is the first organ to form during the development of the body and it begins beating not from birth, but from the fifth to sixth week of pregnancy with the foetal heart fully developing at ten weeks, and once it starts beating, this vital organ does not stop.

However, the heart is susceptible to disease and cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. The positive aspect is that many forms of heart disease can be prevented or treated with healthy lifestyle choices, early diagnosis through regular health checks and timely treatment and management. It is for this that we must remember our heart every moment, every day and work to keep it healthy and strong. We are fortunate that today, technology has armed us with the digital health innovations

required to improve cardiovascular disease care.

This is in line with World Heart Day's focus on harnessing the power of digital healthcare to improve awareness, prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases that encompasses a wide range of diseases. Digital is definitely a powerful solution to improve efficiencies in healthcare. Innovative digital health technologies are leading to good healthcare by facilitating disease prevention, diagnosis and management. Technology empowers patients and healthcare professionals and delivers better health outcomes.

While behavioural and metabolic factors are important contributory risks, some such as smoking, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet can be addressed through appropriate lifestyle modifications. In addition, technology with smartphone apps and smart wearables can help in addressing the effect of risk factors such as hyper-



tension, diabetes, dyslipidaemia and obesity.

Today technology is powering CVD management and prevention with timely interventions that lead to and provide motivation for lifestyle modification and adher-

ence to treatment regimens. Patients also play a critical role in the management of their own health with patient-facing interfaces on smartphone apps. The data from smartphone apps and smart wearables is also leading to

the development of strategies to increase physical activity levels and motivate individuals to follow a healthy diet with consequent improvements in morbidity and reductions in mortality.

World Heart Day this year also envisages a huge role to be played by Telehealth in beating CVD. Digital technology also powers virtual consultations, with patients able to consult a doctor anywhere and anytime at their convenience and avail instant consultation, diet and nutrition-related advice, and consultation with a specialist based on the criticality of the ailment. With telehealth services now available 24x7, video consults are becoming the new norm, increasing ease of availability and access to healthcare.

The healthcare industry needs to use the power of technology and focus on early detection. Preventive health checks and new technologies like AI, robotics, and data analytics need to be har-

nessed to provide high-quality health care for India's vast population of 1.3 billion.

AI and ML should be leveraged for technology-based solutions to tackle the menace of CVD. AI-powered CVD risk scores will enable physicians to predict the risk of heart disease years in advance of onset. A National Cardiac Registry will help collect data to enable researchers to better understand the causes of CVD.

The future will continue to see digital health as a critical success factor that supports healthcare delivery. An ASSOCHAM study predicts the number of smartphone users in India to rise to 859 million by 2022.

One can only imagine the vast benefits of digital health to these users with the accelerated adoption of a digital approach to cardiovascular disease management leading to personalized treatment with better health outcomes at a lower cost.



# Srinagar district strikes Gold Medal at National level in TB Elimination

J I NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 23:** In a significant achievement in the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), District Srinagar has been selected for the Gold Award among few other Districts in the country.

The selection for Gold Award has been made by the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India.

In its efforts to eliminate Tuberculosis globally, United Nations & WHO kept 2030 as target year which has been revised by India to elimination by year 2025 keeping in view the robust TB Elimination mechanism in the country. In order to certify TB Elimination in the country, sub national certification (SNC) mechanism was adopted involving central TB division of ministry of health



and family welfare, WHO, ICMR-NIRT and IAPSM who worked on it since 2020. District Srinagar has claimed for the first time for TB elimination this year under the sub national certification (SNC) for TB elimination and progress towards TB-free status initiative and based on its robust mechanism district Srinagar has been selected for Gold Medal in view

of around 50% decline in TB patients. The number of TB patients in Srinagar district decreased significantly in both the public and private sectors. Due to improved screening programmes like Active Case Finding (ACF) and Contact Tracing in response to the implementation of TB Preventative Therapy and Har Ghar Dastak, the number of TB patients fell to

44 per lac population by 2022 from 84 per lac in 2015. There has been a 335% growth in the Number needed to test (NNT) to get a single TB patient, going from 11 in 2015 to 48 in 2022. The TB score has increased to 72.83 in 2022 which is substantial and closer to the elimination target.

The SNC verification teams' qualitative analysis and survey findings also showed a considerable decline in the number of TB cases in district Srinagar. The survey teams from district tuberculosis centre (DTC) Srinagar have not yet received a single report of a TB case, despite the fact that more than 10,000 households were visited at random as part of the mandatory household visits for detection of TB cases in the community during this round of sub national certification for TB elimination.

Deputy Srinagar Mohammad Ajiz Asad said, "The quantum improvement in drive against Tuberculosis is primarily driven by better access to diagnostic, public-private partnership and priority of the government to make treatment available to majority of patients. A multi-Sectoral and community led approach has been the key over past few years to achieve the desired outcomes. A number of Chemist shops have also been notified for easy access to drugs for the patient undergoing treatment against TB".

Ajiz further said that the digital platform of Nikshay Mitra has revolutionized the way tuberculosis (TB) patients receive care and support from the community. This has also led to de-stigmatisation of the TB in the society where patients are coming forward on their own to seek medical treatment and social support.

# Ramban administration intensifies market checking drive

J I NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN, MARCH 23:** In light of the ongoing Holy Ramzan and Navratras festivals, enforcement agencies in Ramban district have intensified market checking drives on the orders of Deputy Commissioner Musaffiqul Islam. A joint inspection team led by CEO of the Municipal Council Sudershan Kumar, accompanied by a Khalafwazi inspector, officials from the Pollution Control Committee and Food Safety Officer conducted market checks and fined defaulters a total of Rs 7200.

During surprise raids at Bowli Bazar, Maitra Market, DC office road Mandi and Atri Chowk, 20 shopkeepers were fined and 48 kgs of banned polythene carry bags below 120 microns were seized. The Food Safety Officer inspected the quality of food and edible products such as milk and milk products, sweets, meat, chicken, fruits and vegetables. Two shopkeepers were fined under section 56 and one under section 58 of the Food Safety Act. Spoiled fruits and vegetables were also destroyed.

Shopkeepers and vendors were instructed to maintain hygiene and quality of eatables and to display price lists of commodities. Additional Deputy Commissioner Harbans Lal informed that the district administration has already directed concerned departments to ensure availability of essential commodities at prescribed rates and in a hygienic manner during the festive month.

CEO Sudershan Kumar said that the aim of the market checks was to maintain hygiene and fresh stocks of eatables in the market, as well as to curb black marketing and profiteering of essential commodities.

# Community mobilisation cum enrollment drive held at Ramban



J I NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN, MARCH 23:** To boost enrolment in government schools and raise awareness about government-sponsored welfare schemes, the School Education Department in Ramban organised a drive and community mobilisation awareness programme under Samagra Shiksha at Maitra, Ramban. The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma. President Municipal Council, Sunita Sumberia and DDC

Councillor, Renuka Katoch. The event was attended by Zonal Education Officer, Firdous Ahmed; Sarparch of Panchayat Maitra, Mohinder Singh and Zulekha Begum, as well as other PRI members, parents, teachers and students.

During the event, Sharma said that the community mobilisation and enrolment drive programme is being carried out in the district on a mission mode. He added that active participation from the community ensures transparency and accountability and helps to leverage their col-

lective knowledge for better functioning of schools.

Sharma also informed attendees about government schemes such as the MDM programme, free textbooks and uniforms, and scholarship schemes for SC/ST/OBC/specially abled students. He encouraged community members to promote enrolment by urging the public to send their children to government schools for quality education.

Zonal Education Officer Firdous Ahmed said that providing quality education to students is their top priority. He urged teachers and others to work hard to ensure meaningful enrolment in their respective schools. President Sunita Sumberia and DDC Councillor Renuka Katoch also gave valuable suggestions for achieving enrolment targets and improving the education system.

They also highlighted all government schemes and facilities available in government schools and urged community members to participate in an effective enrolment drive to increase enrolment in government schools.

# Horticulture P&M Shopian organized awareness programme on PMFME

J I NEWS SERVICE

**SHOPIAN, MARCH 23:** Under the Banner "Atma Nirbhar Bharat", the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (P&M) Shopian today organized 7th awareness programme on Prime Ministers Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme in Block Imamsahib at Panchayat Ghar Barbugh Shopian. A large gathering of Potential entrepreneurs and SHGs of the block participated in the event.

BDC Chairman Avtar Krishan Pandita, Area Marketing Officer Shopian along with his field staff, District Horticulture Officer Shopian, Representatives/Experts from line departments, PRI Members and District Resource Persons PMFME Scheme Shopian attended the programme.

Area Marketing officer, (AMO) Shopian / District Nodal officer (DNO) for the scheme addressed the gathering and presented an overview and potential scope of the scheme in the district.

The Scheme offers 35% credit linked capital subsidy with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and Rs. 40,000/- seed capital per member for SHGs and Producer Cooperatives with a support for Branding and Marketing and hand holding to the units to be established under the scheme.

The participants were urged to come forward and reap the benefits of the scheme. Expressing the desire, preliminary registration of some potential entrepreneurs was done on spot.

# CEO Kathua launches portal to capture school staff data

J I NEWS SERVICE

**KATHUA, MARCH 23:** In compliance with directions from the Director of School Education Jammu, an integrated portal was launched today on the existing website of the Chief Education Officer in Kathua.

The portal captures various parameters of schools including staff and infrastructure to provide transparent and hassle-free information to the public and higher authorities. The portal can be accessed at <https://schools.ceokathua.in/Index.aspx>.

A circular issued by the Chief Education Officer has instructed all school heads to upload information related to staff and schools on the portal. Kathua district has taken the lead among all districts in the state to launch such a useful portal where information related to staff and students is available at a click to all superior authorities.

The project was completed under the supervision of CEO Kathua, Parkash Lal Thappa with inputs from DEPO Kathua, Kowal Krishan and executed by Raman Kant, Assistant Programmer for Samagra Shiksha in the office of CEO Kathua.

Raman Kant was also praised by authorities for his sincere and dedicated efforts in leading and executing the project with efficiency.

# Chairman DDC, DC Kupwara kick start Plantation drive in Monabal Handwara

J I NEWS SERVICE

**KUPWARA, MARCH 23:** Chairman, District Development Council (DDC), Kupwara Irfan Sultan Panditipuri and Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Datray today kick-started plantation drive under MGN-REGA convergence at Monabal in Handwara subdivision of Kupwara district.

The DDC Member Langate, Khurshheed Ahmed; BDC Chairperson, Showkat Pandit, ACD Kupwara Hilal Ahmad Mir, DFO Langate and other concerned officers were present at the occasion.

On the occasion it was informed that during the drive as many as 1500 saplings of different varieties including Deodar, plum, hybrid walnuts, male poplar, chinar trees were planted in the area.

It was further informed that RDD department and Divisional Forest Office (DFO) Langate are jointly planting these saplings on community lands, and other available places.

Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the concerned officers to gear up their manpower and ensure that all target of plantations for whole district is achieved within current plantation season.

# Kulgam as part of TB district Anantnag declared TB-free district

DC Kulgam complements & felicitates NTEP staff

J I NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM, MARCH 23:** District Kulgam has been declared as Tuberculosis (TB) free district and has achieved a unique feat two years ahead of National Target. Pertinently, District Kulgam is a part of TB District Anantnag which obtained Gold.

Following the National ambitious goal of achieving TB Free India by 2025, District Kulgam is privileged to hit the milestone two years ahead of National target.

While speaking about the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that District Kulgam has always earned laurels in the NTEP activities be it Har Ghar Dastak, ACF, ACSM campaigns, community engagement, prompt diagnostic & Treatment Services.

The DC complemented anti-TB medical officials of Kulgam for achieving the target two years ahead of the National target. He said that the tireless efforts of District administration have paid off today and that it is pride movement that the district has been cleared of this deadly disease. Meanwhile, central government also awarded the District administration for achieving the feat of making the district TB Free.

# Night Bus service in Srinagar: Div Com Kashmir directs for immediate induction of buses on routes

INSTRUCTS IDENTIFICATION OF ROUTES & FRAMING OF TIME SCHEDULE BY TODAY

J I NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 23:** In a first, Night Bus Service to start in Srinagar on different routes to facilitate general public.

In this regard, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay

Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of officers to chalk out plan for induction of SRTC Bus for night transport service.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Traffic Police, City; General

Manager JKSRITC and other officers.

Addressing the officers, Div Com directed JK SRITC to spare more than fourteen busses which shall run on different routes of Srinagar to facilitate general public after dusk when

public transport usually remains unavailable to commuters.

Div Com also directed RTO Kashmir to identify routes to ply SRTC buses besides he instructed him to frame the time schedule simultaneously and submit

same by today. Also, Div Com instructed concerned Smart City officer to pace up the ongoing works and remove debris and material from roads to avoid bottleneck obstacles.

During the meeting, it was informed that the bus service will be available upto 10 PM in night.

# Udhampur hosts 3-Day training on drug abuse detection and management



J I NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR, MARCH 23:** A three-day training programme for early detection of drug abuse and post-detection management was organised by the Department of Social Welfare at the DC Office Complex today. The programme was held in collaboration between Mission Youth and the district administration. Additional District Development Commissioner, Chah Shyam Singh was the chief guest who inaugurated the training programme in the presence of District Social

Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta. Around 200 students from various colleges and educational institutions participated in the training.

During his speech, Singh highlighted the harmful effects of drugs and advised participants to focus their attention and energy in the right direction. He encouraged them to not only devote time to their academics but also participate in sports for all-round development and to avoid dangerous addictions. He appealed to the public and participants to

join hands in fighting drug abuse and eliminating this social evil from society.

Health expert Dr Nikhil Gupta, resource persons DySP (DAR), Shahid Naem and Dr Vinod Bharadwaj delivered informative lectures on the ill effects of narcotic drugs. They emphasised that drug abuse is a challenge facing the country and urged all stakeholders to join in raising awareness about its harmful effects and measures to prevent it. They also provided detailed information on how to recognise drug addiction, treatment and testing processes.

# DC Kathua reviews implementation of NTCP, PCPNDT Act

Calls for concerted efforts to make Kathua Tobacco free district

J I NEWS SERVICE

**KATHUA, MARCH 23:** Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in the district.

Discussions were held on measures to reduce tobacco consumption in the district, particularly by motivating youth and other stakeholders.

The DC called on CMO and CEO to ensure that signages displaying 'Tobacco Free Zone' are installed in educational institutions including schools and colleges. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining vigilance at identified points and asked enforcement agencies to undertake drives to control the illegal sale and use of tobacco near educational institutions.

He urged stakeholders to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco at all levels.

The meeting was attended by ADC Billawar, CMO Kathua, ACR, District Immunisation Officer and District Tuberculosis Officer, as well as other concerned officers from various depart-



ments. Rahul Pandey also chaired a review meeting of the Advisory Committee on PC-PNDT ACT-1994 (Pre-conception & Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques).

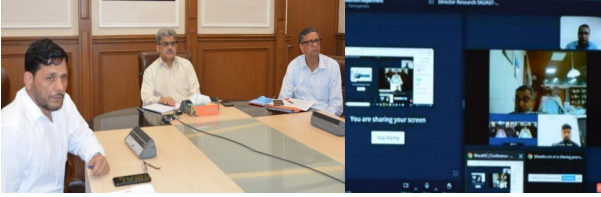
Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rakesh Magotra provided an update on the status of government and private ultrasound clinics in the district, including their registration status, inspections and availability of sonologists.

Pandey stressed the need for stringent implementation of PC-PNDT rules 1994 and directed concerned officers to inspect clinics and undertake decoy activities to identify defaulters and improve the sex ratio in the district.



## Atal Dulloo reviews State Level Upgradation Plan under PMFME

Emphasizes need for smooth execution of SLUP towards achieving goals set forth in PMFME scheme



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, chaired a meeting today to review the State Level Upgradation Plan (SLUP) under Prime Minister Formalization of Micro-enterprises (PMFME) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary, APD, Director Research SKUAST-Kashmir, Head of Department Division of Food Sciences and Technology SKUAST-K, team members of TransGraph Consulting Private Limited, Hyderabad and other concerned officials both in person and through virtual mode.

TransGraph Consulting Private

Limited gave a presentation on preliminary and field surveys conducted by the consulting company in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The team members of TransGraph shared the results of the preliminary and field surveys conducted by TransGraph and highlighted the key findings from the survey.

The meeting was informed about the district-wise observations and suggestions thereof with regard to the PMFME scheme.

The plan proposes establishment of 3895 new units or upgrading the existing units in the UT.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on agro-processing infrastructure and discussed district-wise observations and suggestions,

key findings and recommendations. Speaking on the occasion, ACS called for revision or addition in the Non-ODOP list so that some more products can be added in this category.

He also asked TransGraph to formalize action plans for all 20 districts of the UT and map non-ODOP products in all these districts.

ACS emphasized the need for smooth execution of the plan and urged all stakeholders to work towards achieving the goals set forth in the scheme.

He hoped that the survey results will help in identifying the key areas that need to be addressed in order to promote the growth and formalization of micro-enterprises in the region.

## Chairman DDC, DC Kupwara inaugurate 6 Health & Wellness Centres, 10 Food Stores in Handwara subdivision

J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MARCH 23: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori and Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today inaugurated 6 Health & Wellness Centres and 10 Food Stores constructed under ADF fund at Mawar, Qaziabad and Langate blocks of Handwara subdivision of Kupwara district.

These 6 Health and Wellness Centres, constructed by Rural Development Department under Area Development Fund (ADF) at a cost of Rs 1.20 crore, were handed over to Health department.

These Health and wellness centres include Health and wellness centre Yaroo Langate, Health and wellness centre Martang Mawar, Pringroo Mawar, Drungsoo Mawar, Mankal Mawar, and Health and Wellness Centre Khanoo Bagund.

The 10 food stores which were constructed by RDD under ADF at a cost of Rs 90 lacs were handed over to CAPD department include Food store building at Udipora Qaziabad, food store building Humpora Qaziabad, Rawalpura Qaziabad, Deedarpora Qaziabad, Badrabala Qaziabad, Narihal Qaziabad, Food store building at Gund kamal Qaziabad, Food store building at Khanoo Langate, Uproo Langate, and food store building at Younisoo Langate.

The DDC Member Mawar Khurshid Dar, BDC chairman Langate, Showkat Ahmad Pandit, BDC Mawar Tahir Mir, ACD Kupwara Hilal Ahmad Mir, concerned BDOs, AD food Kupwara, BMO Langate and other concerned officers were present at the occasion.

## LCMA commemorates World plantation Day, World Water Day, World Meteorological Day

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 23 Lake Conservation and Management Authority Srinagar organised the programme to commemorate the day of World Plantation Day, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day at Kehwa park NFR.

A painting competition among students was organised in which 70 students from four different schools took part. Renowned Artist of the Kashmir valley Arshad Suleah was the chief guest of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the students and advised them to take part in such programmes.

LCMA officials also educated students about the importance of trees, water and how to maintain the climate of earth by growing more and more trees.

Plants were also distributed among students in order to create awareness about the importance of these days.

## Reasi administration launches awareness drives on water conservation and drug abuse prevention



J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, MARCH 23: Deputy Commissioner, Babla Rakwal and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Rakesh Gupta flagged off the Jal Jeevan Mission Prachar Rath today.

The Prachar Rath will create awareness about water testing, hygiene and sanitation, Pani Samitis' roles and water conservation. It will travel to all seven blocks in the district to spread awareness about the JJM schemes launched by Prime Minister of India with the slogan "HAR GHAR NAL SE JAL". The Prachar Rath is being run by ISA society for scheduled and backward hired by the Jal Shakti department for IEC activities.

In another event, Additional District Development Commissioner, Jyoti Slatia inaugurated cultural programmes on drug addiction held at Bus Stand, Chowk Chabutra and near Ganesh Mandir in Reasi town. The event was organised by Information Department Reasi under Mission Youth.

During her address, the ADDC stated that the purpose of such seminars was to educate people on the harmful effects of drug abuse and to discuss ways to rehabilitate those affected. Kud dance was also performed to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. Youths were encouraged to become brand ambassadors against drug abuse in society and promote communal harmony.

## DC Rajouri reviews functioning of GMC Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MARCH 23: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal visited Government Medical College (Nagrota) to assess its progress and functioning. During his visit, he reviewed the power and water infrastructure and hostel accommodation on the premises. The DC interacted with students and motivated them to work hard and accomplish their academic goals with dedication and perseverance.

Later, the DC chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress on the construction of dedicated power lines, installation of water supply pipelines and allied infrastructure, and the present status of hostel accommodation. The academic and other blocks were fully functional, with classes being held in the building itself.

The DC reviewed the progress on the GMC receiving station and directed officers from the Power Development Department to have it ready by April 2023. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti apprised that land for the water supply scheme was yet to be identified. The DC directed the concerned revenue officer to identify land for the water supply scheme at the earliest. The Groundwater and Drilling Division Jammu were asked to install a borewell in the GMC premises in the first week of April 2023. The DC also directed concerned officers to take immediate measures for repairs and renovation of the damaged boundary wall of the GMC building. The DC took note of cleanliness and sanitation in and around the institution and issued a directive to maintain proper cleanliness and sanitation standards around the premises.

## DC Rajouri reviews progress on BRO road projects

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MARCH 23: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal reviewed the progress of several BRO roads, including the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road

and the widening of NH144A in a meeting held today. During the meeting, he was informed about the progress of these projects and expressed satisfaction with the work being carried out. The DC asked officials to

ensure that the projects are completed on time and with quality and specifications. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to expedite the completion of these road works and maintain quality standards.

## DC Kathua reviews road safety scenario during District Road Safety Committee meet

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MARCH 23: A meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Pandey at the DC office complex today. Detailed discussions were held on the enforcement of traffic rules, awareness activities on road safety, identification of black spots and road safety audits.

The DC emphasised the importance of effective implementation of measures to make roads safe for travel and called for all stakeholders to work together to reduce road accidents in the district. He urged for mass awareness about safety rules and corrective measures to make roads safer for commuters.

He directed Xen PWD (R&B) Kathua to improve road markings and signages to eliminate high-risk stretches and black spots. PWD(R&B) was instructed to regularly maintain roads to prevent accidents and identify black spots for corrective measures such as sign-



boards, speed limits and crash barriers.

Pandey also stressed the need to educate the public about road safety rules and directed ARTO Kathua to organise special road safety awareness camps. For strict enforcement of traffic rules, he asked MVA and traffic authorities to carry out special drives and take stern action against violators. He also called for MVD staff to be deployed at toll posts to check vehicle overloading.

The DC instructed concerned officers to involve taxi and auto drivers before commissioning a taxi cum auto stand at an identified location. The meeting was attended by ADC Basohli, ARTO Kathua, SDM Hiranagar, CMO, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), A&E PWD (R&B) Basohli and representatives from Government Degree Colleges and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), among others.

## DC Kulgam interacts with media persons



J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, MARCH 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat today convened an interactive meeting with media fraternity at Kulgam.

ACR Kulgam, Mir Intiyaz-ul-Aziz; DIO Showkat Hussain Gamie, media persons associated with different media houses/ Organisations attended the meeting.

Media Fraternity apprised the DC about the issues of media persons, besides, the difficulties they face while covering the events on ground.

They also put forth demand for establishment of a press club at Kulgam and DIO was instructed to explore the possibilities to provide the media persons, a facilitation centre.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that media is the 4th and significant pillar of democracy and holds an important role in delivery of transparent and accountable governance to the people.

While appreciating the role of media fraternity in highlighting the development of the district, the DC called for focusing on creating mass awareness on

vital socio-economic development of the district besides issues confronted by the society.

He stressed upon the media fraternity to reach out to the public and ensure that their issues are brought into the notice of the administration for redressal.

It was also given out that the main aim of both administration and media should be an effective public service and sustainable development of the district. Meanwhile, DC assured them that their genuine issues will be resolved at the earliest.

## Tourism Dept renders all assistance to accident hit tourists

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 23: The Department of Tourism rendered all assistance to the group of tourists from West Bengal that was caught in a tragic road accident at Bijbehara the other day.

Two tourists were killed and three others injured after a vehicle they were traveling in met with an accident in Bijbehara area in Anantnag district.

Immediately after learning of the accident, field officers of the Tourism Department, on the instructions of Secretary, Tourism and Director Tourism Kashmir, rushed to the spot and helped in rescue operations along with district administration. Later the bodies of both the killed tourists were airlifted to their native places in West Bengal for their last rites.

## Budgam observes awareness programme on World Down syndrome day

J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, MARCH 23: An awareness programme on World Down Syndrome Day was today held at Sheikh ul Alam hall here in Budgam. The programme was organized by District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Social Welfare Department Budgam.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Dr. Akhramullah Tak presided over the function.

Besides, DSWO Budgam Dr. Syed Farhana, DIO Budgam Erum Aziz, Child specialist Dr. Ghazala, DHEW Budgam spoke on the occasion. Ashas, Aganwadi workers, supervisors and parents of specially abled children participated in the event.

The celebration focused on this year's theme "With Us Not For Us" and highlighted a human rights-based approach to disability. The event emphasised fair treatment, equal opportunities and freedom for individuals with Down Syndrome to make



their own choices.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Budgam said people with Down Syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world should organise and participate in such events to generate public awareness so that there is overall development, inclusion and well-being of people with Down Syndrome. He further said that the World Down Syndrome Day

is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity among people irrespective of their condition.

DSWO also highlighted the various schemes launched by the Government for inclusive-ness of these persons for development of society.

She also emphasised the importance of raising awareness about Down Syndrome to ensure fair and equal participation of individuals with special

needs.

Speaking on the occasion, DIO Budgam said, the theme for this year is "With Us Not For Us" and is focused on a human rights-based approach to disability; the right to be treated fairly, have the same opportunities as everyone else, and the freedom for people to make their own choices.

Dr Gazala Consultant Pediatrician from Health



Lok Sabha passes Rs 45 lakh crore Budget 2023-24 without debate

NEW DELHI, MAR 23: Lok Sabha on Thursday approved the Union Budget envisaging an expenditure of around Rs 45 lakh crore for the fiscal year starting April 1 without any discussion, as the Opposition continued to create ruckus over demand for a JPC probe into allegations against the Adani Group.



The Lower House of Parliament took up the Demands for Grants and Appropriation Bills after two adjournments as the ruling and Opposition MPs engaged in a matching duet over demands for an apology by Rahul Gandhi and the Adani issue. Most of the second leg of the Budget Session has been washed out due to the protest by both sides and it was one of the rare occasions when the Budget was passed without any discussion.

Soon after the Lok Sabha reassembled at 10 am after two adjournments, Speaker Om Birla put the Opposition's cut motion or amendments to the government spending plan to vote which was rejected by

voice vote. This was followed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moving the demands for grants for 2023-24 and relevant Appropriation Bills for discussion and voting. Birla applied gullotine and put demands for grants of all ministries for voting. The demands were passed as the Opposition MPs trooped into the Well of the House shouting slogans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present during the passage of Budget for 2023-24. The entire exercise was over in 12 minutes completing two-thirds of the parliamentary approval for the Budget for 2023-24. The Finance Bill 2023, which contains tax proposals that Sitharaman had

moved while presenting the Budget on February 1, will now be taken up by the Lok Sabha possibly on Friday.

All the budget-related bills will be transmitted to Rajya Sabha, which cannot make any changes but only return them to the Lok Sabha after discussion as they are classified as 'money bills' requiring approval of the Lower House only.

The current Parliament session is scheduled to end on April 6. There is speculation that the duration of the session may be curtailed after completion of the budgetary exercise. Unlike the past, the Lok Sabha this time did not discuss the Demands for Grants of the identified ministries. The Business Advisory Committee had approved discussion on the ministries of railway, rural development, health and family welfare, Panchayati Raj, tribal affairs and, tourism and culture. However, no discussion could take place because of continuous disruption of the House after it reassembled for the second leg of the Budget session.

Dir Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates distribution of vegetable seedlings raised under Hi-tech polyhouses

SAYS VEGETABLE CULTIVATION HAS VAST POTENTIAL, EDUCATED YOUTH, SHOULD COME FORWARD AND TAKE ITS FULL TIME ENTERPRISE

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 23: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated distribution of vegetable seedlings raised on scientific lines under a hi-tech poly house here at kitchen gardens Lalmandi Srinagar. Director handed over the vegetable seedlings (Knol-Khol, Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber, broccoli, beet root, bottle guard, squash, and Saag khanyari, to farmers of Srinagar district and adjacent areas.

He was appraised on the occasion that during the second phase about 3-4 lakh seedlings of Knol-Khol, Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber, broccoli, beet

root, bottle guard, squash, and Saag khanyari have been raised under hi-tech poly houses at kitchen gardens premises Lalmandi Srinagar. He highlighted the role of vegetable cultivation in the overall development of the agriculture sector. He assured the farmers of every possible technical support from the department during the cultivation of different vegetable crops. Chowdhury Iqbal said that the department has established hi-tech poly

houses in all the districts of Kashmir division with the aim to provide quality vegetable seedlings to the farmers of concerned districts in sufficient quantity and round the year. Director Agriculture said that the vegetable sector has a vast potential of employment generation for the educated youth of the valley. He asked the young educated farmers to come forward and take agriculture as a full time enterprise and become job providers not the job seekers. He assured them full cooperation from the department in their endeavor of becoming the agriculturpreneur. Chowdhury said that valley wide seedling distribution will continue in a phased manner. He said demand for vegetable seedling is increasing every year as backyard farming, an kitchen garden farming is increasing which is an encouraging trend for the overall development of the agriculture sector.

117 self-employment cases approved by DC Rajouri under Mission Youth

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MARCH 23: The District Level Implementation Committee for Mission Youth, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal, met to discuss and approve cases under the Tejaswini scheme today. It is flagship programme of Mission Youth, aims to provide financial assistance to unemployed women for starting their own businesses.

During the meeting, the committee approved 117 cases, while the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for creating awareness about such schemes among the youth and encouraged them to come forward and avail themselves of the benefits.

Tejaswini cases cleared in today's meeting included 36 cases of Karyana shop, 7 of beauty parlour, 4 boutiques, 3 of cement store, 3 cloth shop, 2 of computer shop, 1 of cyber cafe, 9 of dairy farm, 1 of electrician, 3 of hardware, 1 of photostall, 1 of library, 17 of tailoring shop, 1 of soya paneer unit, 1 of wedding shop and 2 of shuttling.

Vikas Kundal stressed the need for creating awareness about the scheme and called upon the youth to come forward and avail themselves of its benefits. He assured them that the government is committed to providing all necessary support for the success of their businesses. Mission Youth is dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities for young people. One of its initiatives, the Tejaswini scheme, provides women with easy access to funding that they can use to start or grow their own businesses.

GCW Gandhinagar hosts session on transgender issues

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: An interactive session on the topic-'Transgender Issues and Concerns' was organised today at the Padma Shri Padma Sachdev, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar.

The programme was held under the patronage of Principal of the college, Prof Minu Mahajan. The speaker on the occasion was Prof Anjiz Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Social Work, GDC Pulwama. The welcome address was given by Prof Harmeet Singh. Prof Minu Mahajan highlighted the need to discuss issues related to transgender community in public forums to create awareness and reduce stigma towards them.

The event was organised under the guidance of Convenor IQAC Prof Yashpal Sharma and was coordinated by Dr Pooja Charak, Prof Paramjeet Singh, Dr Harmeet Singh, Dr Vandana Sharma, Prof Eisha Gohil, Dr Ujjwal Sharma, Dr Syed Shehna, Dr Suraj Mohani and Prof Sumita Devi.

Kishtwar: Kissan Mela cum Exhibition held at Subhash Park

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MARCH 23: A mega Kissan Mela cum Exhibition was organised at Subash Park in Kishtwar under the supervision of Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik today. The event was attended by more than 400 farmers and was graced by Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal, President of Municipal Council Sajjad Ahmed Najjar and other officials.

This is to certify that, I Sanjeev Kumar S/o Sh. Balwant Singh R/o Sector 7 Ward No-57 Model Town, Gurgaon is the owner of the g/m NEXT LEVEL FITNESS situated at Ward No-57 Model Town, Gurgaon which was opened on 13/02/2023. Further is that NEXT LEVEL FITNESS g/m is under no objection as the residents of our neighbourhood (Ward no-57) have no issue over the opening of the above mentioned g/m. Name Signature

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Chief Lifts Inspector Mechanical Engineering Department Bikram Chowk, Jammu

Table with columns: S. No., Name of the company, Authorisation Valid upto, Authorized Person/Contact No. Lists various elevator and lift companies and their authorized personnel.

MUST CHECK - The company/firm with whom the owner is signing the contract for installation, erection and/or maintenance services must be authorized by the Chief Lifts Inspector, Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Mechanical Engineering Department, Bikram Chowk, Jammu.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Table with columns: S. No., Name of Work, Adv. Cost (In Lacs), No. of bids received. Lists various construction and repair work items.

Ref:- This office e-NIT No. 102 of 2022-23 Dated 22-02-2023. Due to no / poor response received from the bidders (2nd time), the tenders invited for the above cited work vide this office e-NIT No. referred above are hereby cancelled and fresh tender is being invited.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. I, JAMMU SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Table with columns: S. No., Name of Work, Name of Division, Advertised Cost (In Lacs), Cost of document (In ₹), Earned Money (In ₹), Time and date of opening of tender, Class of Contractor. Lists construction work items.

Position of AAA - Accorred Major Head - Under Non Plan The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website http://tenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu and upload the same Le treasury challan/Receipt, Earned money/Bid security in shape of CDR/DRR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu. The CDR/DRR/BG shall be valid for 45 days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of I1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu at the time of allotment.

2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. TRB/2023/WAFZ/2022-23 Date: 23.03.2023

Table with columns: Tender Type, Opening, Works, Bidding System, Date of Uploading Tenders, Bid Starting Date, Bid Closing Date/Time. Lists tender details.



## J&K National Health Mission celebrates "World Meteorological Day 2023"

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: As a sequel to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision of saving our climate, Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission today celebrated "World Meteorological Day 2023" at State Health Society Nagrota, Jammu.

During the celebration, achievements, current progress and future opportunities were discussed to sensitize the audience on climate change.

J&K NHM organised the event on this year's theme

"Future of weather, climate and water across the generations", Mission Director, NHM, Ayushi Sudan, inaugurated the programme and provided detailed insights on this year's theme and shared some facts about the impacts of climate change on human health. She appealed the audience to perform their part with all devotion to save the planet earth.

The programme was designed to highlight the essentials of climate change besides discussing steps need to be taken up to reduce the deterioration



of climate.

The introductory session was addressed by Dr Parvish Kumar, Programme Manager

Climate Change. He highlighted the importance of steps to be taken in this regard.

Satish Kumar, ICT consultant from Mavis Technologies New Delhi presented a detailed presentation on the "Role of ICT in climate change"

which highlighted how information and communication technology is leading the way in climate change.

Gundeep Singh from Rise Global Meteorology Department, New Delhi, highlighted the importance of "Jal Shakti Mission" in providing clean water to households besides telling how this mission helps in water conservation as well.

Students from JMC, Cluster University and NCC also shared their thoughts on water conservation and ways of mitigating climate change.

## Advisor Bhatnagar decorates JKP Inspector on promotion

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today decorated recently promoted inspector, Rakesh Kumar of Jammu and Kashmir Police. Officer on Special Duty, SSP, Rajesh Sharma; Officer on Special Duty, Joginder Singh Rai and other officers of personal section of

Advisor were also present. Interacting with the officer on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar congratulated him and his family. He advised the officer to work with the same zeal and dedication for the department and welfare of general public. Notably, the officer is currently performing his duties with Advisor Bhatnagar as Liaison Officer.

## Principal Secretary SDD reviews progress on works under Capex Budget

ASKS EXECUTING AGENCIES TO EXPEDITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN POLYTECHNICS, ITIS

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 23: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review status of development works and re-appropriation of funds under Capex Budget 2022-23.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, R&B, Kashmir, Special Secretary SDD and other officers. Chief Engineer, R&B, Jammu, Director Skill Development Department concerned.

Principals and Superintendents of Government Polytechnics and ITIs of Jammu/Kashmir attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Samoon sought details from the concerned officers about the latest details both in terms of physical and financial reports of various ongoing works in different Polytechnics/ITIs of Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary asked the officers to accelerate the pace of progress on works to ensure their timely completion with full utilization of funds earmarked under Capex Budget 2022-23. He also asked the concerned to submit the proposal for re-appropriation of funds in respect of the works as per the instructions of the Finance Department.

He directed the concerned officers to take appropriate measures for execution of new works under both the sectors 'Polytechnics as well as ITIs' to ensure maximum utilization of overall funds allotted under Capex Budget.

Regarding establishment of Small Business Development Units in various Polytechnics and ITIs, Dr Samoon asked the officers to ensure that all arrangements like furniture and IT related equipments are made available there for effective functioning.

Regarding establishment of hostels in the Polytechnic, Dr Samoon directed the officers to work in synergy so that they are completed and made available for the benefit of the students. He directed the concerned heads of the executing agencies to expedite the remaining ongoing works so that the buildings would be handed over to the department at the earliest.

Dr Samoon further asked the Director Skill Development Department to personally visit the Polytechnics/ITIs and review the progress on ongoing works there.

The meeting also held threadbare discussion on the Skill Budget 2023-24, training of 60000 women Self Help groups, Back to Village phase IV and Centrally Sponsored Schemes among other things.

AAROHAN-VIBRANT YOUTH VIBRANT SAMBA

## Mega Job fair organised in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MARCH 23: Under the Mission Youth programme for the revitalisation of youth clubs, the district administration organised a mega job fair titled "Aarohan-Vibrant Youth Vibrant Samba" to provide job and self-employment opportunities to local youths. The event was held at the Conference Hall of the DC office in Samba.

Deputy Commissioner, Anuraadha Gupta inaugurated the job fair in which youth from across the Samba district participated enthusiastically and availed benefits from departments as well as private companies' job offers.

More than 15 private companies, including Jio, SBI, Pharmaceutical, Cosmetics, Cycle Works and Life Insurance Corporation participated in the fair and shortlisted over 100 candidates for various posts. Anuraadha Gupta

spoke about various government-sponsored schemes for self-employment, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, Spurring Entrepreneurship and Customised Livelihood Generation Scheme for Dental Professionals. She also mentioned the Tourist Villages Development Programme and urged officials to reach out to youths and raise awareness about these schemes. The Deputy Commissioner also provided updates on the recently concluded DYTE programme and announced that four candidates had been selected as Agniveers while 100 candidates had cleared physical exams for BSF and CRPF recruitment.

Six beneficiaries were provided with subsidised vehicles under the Mumkin Scheme by the Department of Employment.

A pledge ceremony on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan was also undertaken by participants.

## Atal Dulloo reviews State Level Upgradation Plan under PMFME

EMPHASIZES NEED FOR SMOOTH EXECUTION OF SLUP TOWARDS ACHIEVING GOALS SET FORTH IN PMFME SCHEME



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, chaired a meeting today to review the State Level Upgradation Plan (SLUP) under Prime Minister Formalization of Micro-enterprises (PMFME) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary, APD, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, Head of Department Division of Food Sciences and Technology SKUAST-K, team members of TransGraph Consulting Private Limited, Hyderabad and other concerned officials both in person and through

virtual mode.

TransGraph Consulting Private Limited gave a presentation on preliminary and field surveys conducted by the consulting company in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The team members of TransGraph shared the results of the preliminary and field surveys conducted by TransGraph and highlighted the key findings from the survey.

The meeting was informed about the district-wise observations and suggestions thereof with regard to the PMFME scheme. The plan proposes establishment of 3895 new units or upgrading the existing units in the UT.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on appraising infrastructure and discussed district-wise observations and suggestions, key findings and recommendations.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS called for revision or addition in the Non-ODOP list so that some more products can be added in this category.

He also asked TransGraph to formalize action plans for all 20 districts of the UT and map non-ODOP products in all these districts.

ACS emphasized the need for smooth execution of the plan and urged all stakeholders to work towards achieving the goals set forth in the scheme.

## Seminar on 'G20 Youth 20 Talks: Voices for a Better Tomorrow' held at MAM College

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: Maulana Azad Memorial College Jammu held a one-day seminar on "G20 Youth 20 (Y20) Talks: Voices for Better Tomorrow" with the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) Jammu Chapter. The seminar was about "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Way of Life". This topic is one of the five themes of this year's G20 summit.

Principal of the college, Prof Dr GS Rakwal was the chief guest while Dean Research Cluster

University of Jammu, Prof Ranvijay Singh was the guest of honour.

At the commencement of the seminar, Head of the Department of Electronics, Dr Vishal Sharma emphasised the significance of the seminar's theme and articulated their conviction that the role of youth in promoting a sustainable way of life within the context of G20 is paramount.

The ultimate goal of this seminar is to empower youth and raise awareness about the Y20 summit and its objectives.

Prof Ranvijay Singh spoke about

the mission and vision of Indian Science Congress Association which is working tirelessly to create scientific temper among young generations.

The event featured an impressive roster of ten student speakers who shared their perspectives and insights on a range of issues such as climate change, unemployment, waste management, skill development, space research, conservation of natural resources, entrepreneurship and innovation. All speakers were awarded medals in recognition of their contributions.

Three students namely Anant

Maini, Jafer Pazeer and Neha received 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively and received mementos along with the medals.

Prof GS Rakwal commended the students for their participation and recognised their energy and potential to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth and to build a better future. He also encouraged the organisers to continue hosting such events in the future to empower youth and celebrate India's G20 presidency.

The event was judged by Prof Banpreet Kour, Prof Karan Singh and Prof Indrajit Kour.

## LSA Ganderbal organizes Anti-Polythene Drive & Rally

JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MARCH 23: As the part of three days Solid Waste Management Campaign, District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal in collaboration with Municipal Council Ganderbal & District Pollution Officer Ganderbal, today organized "Anti Polythene Drive & Rally" from Main Market Beehama Chowk Ganderbal to Towheed Chowk Ganderbal.

The rally marked the first day of Three Days long campaign on solid waste management.

The programme was held under the Supervision of Executive Chairman J&K LSA, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Administrative Judge for District Ganderbal, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Member



Secretary J&K LSA, Amit Kumar Gupta and under the guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey & Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The goal of the drive was to create awareness about "Solid Waste Management" & the harmful effects of polythene and to encourage people to switch to more sustainable options.

The anti-polythene drive

a series of activities in the main market, including awareness campaign, rally, distribution of brochures, posters, jute bags and dustbins among street hawkers and they made aware on spot about its hazardous and to stop its usage.

While interacting with the media, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal said that the main aim of the programme is to create a behavior change among the people and make them realize that every citizen has a responsibility towards preserving the environment. It is our collective duty to protect the planet we live in for future generations. She further added that in order to ensure the success of the Solid Waste Management Campaign and anti-polythene drive, we encourage everyone to join us in this noble cause.

was attended by Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Officials of DLSA Ganderbal, president Municipal Council, Ganderbal, Divisional Officer of Pollution Control Committee Ganderbal, Social Activists, Law Students of Central University Tulmulla Ganderbal and PLVs of DLSA Ganderbal.

Besides the rally was also joined by some Police Officers and Administrative Officers as well. To combat issue of polythene, DLSA Ganderbal also organized

## Rally on World Water Day organised by GCW Gandhi Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 23: The NSS units of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar organised an awareness rally at their adopted villages, Jaralan Chak and Kanhal, of the 20th Bishnah today under the banner of the college's G20 Club.

The rally was flagged off by Principal, Prof Minu Mahajan; Convenor G20 Club, Prof SS Parihar and other faculty members. 51 volunteers participated in this awareness activity under the supervision of NSS Programme Officers, Prof Mala Bhasin and Dr Monika Hans.

The volunteers actively participated in door-to-door campaigns and interacted with villagers about the wise use of various water resources. Sarpanch Jitendra Singh also participated in the rally and discussed the water resources of Chak Jaralan and Kanhal with the volunteers.

Prof Minu Mahajan applauded the volunteers for their participation and encouraged them to continue being part of such activities. She emphasised the necessity of taking strict action against the global water crisis and inspired volunteers to take appropriate steps to control issues like water pollution, water scarcity and sanitation of water resources. She appreciated the efforts of NSS POs for organising this awareness Rally in the adopted villages.