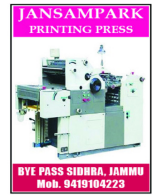




JINDRAH IMAGES



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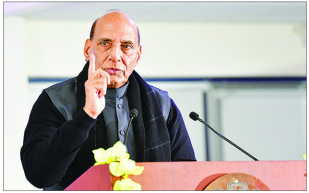
India's borders fully secure, surgical strikes broken back of Terrorists: Rajnath

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 29

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India's borders are "fully secure" and asserted that surgical strikes conducted by India have broken the back of terrorists.

Addressing a conclave here, he also said that whether it was the "stand-off with China or any ill intentions from Pakistan", Indian armed forces have been giving a "befitting reply".

Singh further said that India has led the world on issues like terrorism and has been successful in garnering support to eliminate the menace. "Our borders are fully secure. Whether it was the



standoff with China or ill intentions from Pakistan, our armed forces have been giving a befitting reply, whenever required. "The surgical strikes against terrorism have broken the back of terrorists. A strong and clear message has gone to the world that India has the strength and it can strike

India never harms anyone unnecessarily, nor does it spare anyone who tries to hurt its unity, integrity and sovereignty.

He was speaking at the 'India Rising Conclave' organised by a leading television media network. "This is a conclave on rising India. And, the idea of rising India has been described differently by different people. Some economists see it as a rising economy of India, while some sociologists describe it as betterment in social living. Some political scientists term the political stability in the country and strengthening of democratic values 'rising India', Singh said. However, some

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Udhampur IED Blasts

NIA charge-sheets two lashkar terrorists for reviving terror activities in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 30

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives involved in Udhampur Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast cases hatched by the banned outfit through their Pakistan-based handlers, the agency said on Thursday.

According to NIA, Mohd Aslam Sheikh alias Adil and Mohd Amin Bhat alias Abu Khubaib alias Pinna were charged for their efforts towards "revival of terrorist activities in Jammu by carrying out recruitments from



the pool of Over Ground Workers (OGW) and surrendered terrorists and activating a d motivating them to carry out terrorist acts".

The NIA, which had taken over the investigations into the case on November 15, 2022 from Jammu and Kashmir Police, said Adil was in touch with Pinna, an "individual terrorist" of the LeT listed by Government of India, who was now operating from Pakistan. Pinna recruited Adil

to carry out the two IED blasts on buses parked in the public areas of Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir, which had inflicted injuries to two persons. Pinna, who was initially a resident of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir, joined the terrorist ranks of Hizb Ul Mujahideen in 1997 and was involved in the execution of various terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir, said the anti-terror agency.

The NIA further said Pinna later escaped to Pakistan in 2009 and is presently an active LeT handler who is playing a vital role in reviving and accelerating terrorist

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cloudy Sky, Rain, Thundershowers likely in J&K: Met Office



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 30

The Met office said on Thursday forecast cloudy sky with chances of light rain/thundershowers

during next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir. "Sky is expected to remain cloudy with chances of light rain/thundershowers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CAG red flags slow development of hydro power projects in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 30

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said out of 374 identified project sites with power generation capacity of 1,725.53 MegaWatts, only 10 projects with 79.75 MW capacity had been commissioned with time overrun ranging between four months and seven years. The hydro power potential of Jammu and Kashmir has been estimated at 20,000 MW which includes 1,500 MW in respect of small hydro projects. As of October 2021, only 2,813.46 MW

(6 per cent) of this potential had been harnessed, which included 79.75 MW of small hydro projects. "The main objective of hydro policy for small hydro project/mini hydro projects for expeditious development of available hydro power of Jammu and Kashmir was not achieved. Out of 374 identified project sites with power generation capacity of 1,725.53 MWs, only 10 projects with capacity of 79.75 MWs (five per cent) had been commissioned with time overrun ranging between four months and over seven years," the CAG said in its report tabled in

the parliament on Tuesday. The report on compliance audit for the year ended March 31, 2021 said while no action was taken for 225 sites (60 per cent) after their identification, bids were invited for 115 sites (31 per cent) only. "No response was received for 70 sites and out of 45 sites awarded for development of hydro power projects, 32 IPPs (Independent Power Producers) either failed to fulfill commitments like obtaining statutory clearances for execution of projects or did not

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India's new education policy based on teachings of visionaries like Mahatma Gandhi: Amit Shah

JNEWS SERVICE
HARIDWAR, MAR 30

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed the central government's New Education Policy for its emphasis on learning in mother tongue and universal education based on the teachings of Indian visionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dayanand Saraswati. Addressing the 113th convocation of the Gurukul Kangri here, Shah credited the university (deemed to be) for the



revival of vedic education in India and combining it with modern education. Shah paid tributes to the university's founder Swami Shradhdhanand saying he set India's education system free from the

stranglehold of the British and revived the country's vedic education system, all the while emphasising on culture and modern education. Shah praised the NEP brought

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Centre asks IAS, IPS, IFS officers to inform it about their stock market related transactions

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 30

The Centre has asked IAS, IPS and IFS officers to intimate it in case the total transactions in stock, share or other investments exceeded their six months' basic pay during a calendar year, according to a latest order by the personnel ministry. This intimation is in addition to similar information that needs to be shared by them under Rule 16 (4) of AIS or All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

These rules are applicable to the members of three All India Services - Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS). "...With a view to enable the administrative authorities to keep a watch over the transactions in any stock, share or other investments etc. in respect of members of All India Services (AIS), it has been decided that an intimation may be sent in the enclosed proforma to the prescribed authority every year, if the total

transactions in stock, share or other investments etc. exceed six months' basic pay of government servant during a calendar year," said the order issued to secretaries of all central government ministries. It referred to Rule 14 (i) of the conduct rules that says "no member of the service shall speculate in any stock, share or other investments but this provision will not apply to occasional investment made through stock-brokers or other persons duly

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High intensity blast in Kathua, live grenade recovered

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 30

A suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast rocked a border hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, creating a huge crater in the ground, officials said Thursday. Security forces have been put on high alert in the border belts and along the Jammu-Pathankot highway following the blast that took place on Wednesday night. A live grenade was recovered following a search of the area on Thursday morning, Senior



Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal said. "Information was received about a powerful blast around 9.30 PM on Wednesday. We launched a search operation this

morning...The bomb squad team has collected the samples and sent it for test", the SSP said. The SSP, who led the search operation in the area and adjoining

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Shoba Yatra taken out by Kashmiri Pandits to celebrate Ram Navami in Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 30

Kashmiri Pandits on Thursday took out Shoba Yatra in Srinagar on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami as the festival was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety. The Yatra with a group of children dressed in traditional attire was taken out from Kathleshwar temple in Tankpora area in Srinagar and passed through the roads of Habbakadal, Ganpather, Barbar Shah, Regal Chowk, Lal Chowk, Hari Singh High Street and Jah-

angir Chowk amid tight security arrangements. Chanting "Hari Rama Hari Rama" slogans a good number of Kashmiri pandits were accompanying the yatra that passed off peacefully. Members of the majority community were also seen greeting them by the roadside at various points of Srinagar city. Security forces were deployed at various points in strength as a precautionary measure, an official said. President of the Hindu Welfare Society of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Amritpal's aide varinder booked under arms act in Kishtwar J&K Police seeks to bring him for questioning

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday booked Varinder Singh, suspected to be the bodyguard of the fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh, under the Arms Act in connection with a gun licence issued to him in Kishtwar district, officials said. The district administration also cancelled Varinder Singh's licence, and said it will probe how the former army jawan, who was sacked in 2015,



procured the licence in 2014 and then kept getting it renewed in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said Varinder Singh, also known as Fauji, was part of a private security set up for radical preacher Amritpal Singh,

who is on the run. A video recently showed Varinder Singh, the bodyguard of Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh, opening fire in the air. After the clip appeared, the Punjab Police arrested him last week, slapped the National Security Act on him and lodged in a jail in faraway Assam. Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khalil Poswal said on Thursday that there was also a need to investigate how Varinder Singh got the licence.

"Accordingly, we have lodged an FIR under number 52/2023 under section 3/25/30 Arms Act and provisions of IPC registered in police station Kishtwar," he said. He further said that police has conveyed the details of the case to Punjab Police and sought documents from them. "We will seek the presence of that person. He (Varinder Singh) will be brought here to conduct investigation and to find out how he reached here and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dr Jitendra attends youth convention on India's G20 presidency organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAR 30

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, the youth of India today will define making of 'New India' as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



the privilege and opportunity to contribute to the making of 'New India' as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing a Youth convention here organized by Nehru Yuva

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Next 25 years of Amritkaal belong to Bharat, golden centenary from 1947 to 2047: BJP



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Next 25 years of Amritkaal starting from now till 2047 belong to remake, rebuild Bharat and the hundred years from 1947 to 2047 will be golden centenary for Bharat, stated BJP leaders while addressing a public meeting at Ward No. 40 in Talab Tillo falling under Jammu West Assembly Constituency.

BJP senior leader & Shakti Kendra Vistarak Sanjay Kumar Baru (JMC Councilor), J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, local Councilor Ward 40 Neelam Nargotra, Mandal Vice President Parvin Ghai, Social Media District Incharge Anu Ghai Behnal and Shakti Kendra

Incharge JP Sharma addressed the meeting. The meeting was organized and managed by Sanjay Kumar Baru.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Anu Behnal and Sonali Gupta read the prominent points from the address of Honourable President of India Smt. Droupati Murmu during the course of the meeting.

Sanjay Kumar Baru, while addressing the meeting, said that BJP is the only political party which keeps a continuous contact with the masses in every odd and even. He stressed that during the ongoing Booth Sashaktikaran drive of the BJP, the local people have shown unparalleled love for the policies of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. He said that during the last 9 years, the

residents of India have witnessed a golden era; an era which is led by unprecedented growth, development and resurgence of India. He said that the Modi government started its course with 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and the joining of 'Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' has led to the inclusion of every person from the most neglected part of the society.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that while Bharat has just completed 75 years of freedom from British rule, now it is high time to contribute our energy in these 25 years of Amritkaal for further strengthening of Bharat.

Amritkaal starting from now till 2047 belongs to remake and rebuild Bharat, which will be based upon our rich culture with ultra

modern scientific advancements in the reach of common masses. Self reliant Bharat, which treats every being with concern and which is full of energy, free from disease and poverty, he added.

Keshav Chopra elaborated on the landmark decisions of the Modi government which have led to the build up of strong faith and love of people in BJP. He prompted all those present to support the policies of the Modi government and carry its achievements to other people.

Neelam Nargotra elaborated on the various development works done in the ward. She also presented the note of thanks. Jai Pal Sharma conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

Later, the locals also discussed various development and personal issues with the BJP leaders.

Rajveer Singh, Parvin Ghai, Atul Chopra, Rajesh Gupta, Dr. Parshottam, Anu Soni, Ramesh Sharma, Sushela Gupta, Reeta Kotwal, Devinder Gupta (Lati), Ajay Gupta, Sahdev Singh, Anil Mahajan and others were amongst the prominent locals present on the occasion.

Dharmarth Trust organizes grandiose Shobha Yatra to mark Ramnavmi Festival



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: A grandiose Shobha Yatra was taken out today by the Dharmarth Trust J&K to mark the festival of Ramnavmi from the historical Shri Raghunathji Temple here.

Trustee Shri Ranvijay Singh along with Trust's President Adv. Ajay Gandotra, Secretary Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Retd) and Trust's Council Members RS Pathania and UC Sharma presided over the Murti Poojan at Shri Raghunathji Temple.

Thereafter, Rath Poojan and Dhvajarohan ceremonies were performed. Thousands of devotees comprising prominent citizens, politicians and heads of social and religious organizations participated in the Shobha Yatra. Members of Muslim brethren also accorded a rousing reception to the Yatra enroute.

This Shobha Yatra was conducted in collaboration with Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Dharmik Youvak Mandal.

The Shobha Yatra started from the Shri Raghunathji Temple and was passed through various markets including Residency Road, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak

Mandi, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Raj Tilak Road, Raghunath Bazaar and finally culminated at Shri Raghunathji Temple.

Ranjay Singh, in his message, felicitated people on Ram Navami and prayed that this auspicious occasion would be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the celebration of festivals, which are an important part of our glorious heritage, strengthens communal harmony and brotherhood and reinvigorates the

secular ethos. He prayed for peace and the well-being of the people of the Union Territory.

Tight security arrangements were ensured by the UT administration across the city for the smooth conduct of Ramnavmi celebrations. During the Shobha Yatra various senior police officers also marked their presence to make arrangements robust and incident-free.

Heavy rush of devotees was witnessed at the historical Raghunathji Temple where people made long queues to participate in "Pooja" and other holy rituals.

Earlier in the morning, a Hawan Yagya was solemnized in the Raghunathji Temple in which M.K. Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust offered Puran Ahuti followed by Grand Aarti in the Holy sanctum-sanctorum of the Temple.

Prominent among those who were present include Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu, Dr. Parshottam Dadechi, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Anil Sharma, Mandal Dharmik Youvak President and Hira Lal Abrol.

Gurbir Gora's Ladli Dhee winning hearts

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Punjab's music scene is currently abuzz with the release of Gurbir Gora's latest song, "Ladli Dhee". Gora, a prominent singer, writer, and composer in the region, has been making waves in the industry for several years now. However, "Ladli Dhee" has quickly become a fan favorite due to its heartfelt lyrics and soulful melody.

What sets "Ladli Dhee" apart is that it is not just a typical Punjabi song, but a beautiful tribute to the relationship between a father and his daughter. Gora's poignant lyrics and emotive voice perfectly capture the bond between a parent and child, making it a relatable and touching piece for listeners of all ages.



Aside from Gora's incredible talent, the young music director, Adrey, deserves recognition for his work on the track's composition. The music enhances the emotions conveyed in the lyrics, elevating the listening experience and making it even more impactful. The song has been garnering

praise on social media platforms, with listeners expressing their love for Gora's beautiful ode to father-daughter relationships. Many have also appreciated the fact that Gora has chosen to focus on a topic that is often overlooked in Punjabi music. In conclusion, "Ladli Dhee" is

a beautiful song that showcases Gurbir Gora's talents as a singer, writer, and composer. Its message of love and appreciation for fathers and daughters is one that resonates with many, making it a must-listen for anyone who appreciates soulful music with heartfelt lyrics.

VC JU felicitates Dr Jatinder Manhas for his outstanding contribution to Computer Science

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai today felicitated Dr Jatinder Manhas Head, Department of Computer science, Bhaderwah Campus for his outstanding contribution to Computer Science. The Vice-Chancellor encouraged Dr Jatinder Manhas to carry on world-class research in the domain of AI. Prof. Rahul Gupta, Dean Mathematical Sciences & Rector Bhaderwah Campus and Prof. Pawansh Abrol, Head MCA were present on the occasion.

Dr. Jatinder Manhas recently visited the Lulea University of Technology Sweden to attend advanced training to study brain signals (EEG) in the field of Human Emotion Intelligence using Artificial Intelligence based techniques. The entire training was conducted on a High computing platform equipped with DGX machines at EISLAB research group of LTU. The visit was executed to enhance and refine research capabilities in this domain and to introduce advanced research areas in the University of Jammu and to extend the research boundaries of the University of Jammu at the international Platform. During his visit, Dr Manhas gained in-depth knowledge of the equipment and machinery to be procured and installed in the research lab of the university of



Jammu for the scholars working in this domain to create state-of-the-art infrastructure for better analytics and computer vision.

Dr Jatinder Manhas also explored the possibility of future collaborations with Lulea University of technology Sweden in the area of human emotional intelligence to enhance institutional reach to other Universities working in this domain and to create a joint workforce in the field of artificial intelligence keeping in view the future prospects of this ever changing field of Computer Sciences & IT.

Various common research area in computer vision has been identified and the process for entering into MOU with LTU Sweden were also explored related to scholars

exchange, joint publications and organizing joint training programmes and conferences. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Marcus assures all possible help in near future and shall also act as a mentor in creating artificial intelligence-based advanced labs at the University of Jammu. He also assures providing physical as well as virtual access to High Computing Environment installed at LTU Sweden that is equipped with DGX machines for big data analytics. The research visit was supported by the University of Jammu. Department of computer science, electrical and spaces engineering authorized Dr. Jatinder Manhas as Visiting Research Fellow at LTU Sweden for future research work.

Nowshera Forest Division promotes self-employment with beauty parlour kits, fruit plant distribution

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MARCH 30: Nowshera Forest Division organised a large function at Sunderbani and Nowshera to distribute beauty parlour kits and fruit plants today.

The Chief Guest was District Development Council (DDC) Member Sunderbani, Rajinder Sharma and the Guest of Honour was Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera, Neelima Shah.

The programme was attended by Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, members of Municipal Committee Sunderbani, students, beneficiaries and a large number of locals.

Neelima Shah spoke about the various employment generation activities undertaken by the Forest Department under the Green India Mission to increase self-employment among locals.

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Forest

Department is working towards livelihood options and exploring employment generation involving youth and women, especially in the Chir Zone ecosystem of J&K Union Territory. Rajinder Sharma

emphasised that self-employment is essential to attain the goal of a self-dependent nation and empower down-trodden and poor communities in rural India.

Range Forest Officer Sunderbani, Rakesh Verma

expressed gratitude to those who attended the programme and stressed that such activities help develop coordination between the Forest Department and local people for better conservation and protection of forests.

The event was coordinated by Block Forest Officers, Rajinder Dev Sharma, Rangel Singh, Devak Ved Parkash and Deedar Singh with active support from Beat Guard Sunderbani Ishan Raina.

Raman Suri asks jewellers to adhere to BIS norms from April 1, maintain global standards



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: A meeting of the Executive Committee of Sarafa Association Jammu Province (SAJP) was held today to discuss the new hallmarking rules that will be implemented from 1st April 2023. Raman Suri President, Rakesh Mahajan Sr. Vice President, Deepak Jain Vice President, Vijay Kumar Verma General Secretary, Sumit Handa Secretary, Surinder Kumar Jain Treasurer, Advisors Vijay Saraf, Ajay Talla, Darshan Lal Dhalla, Sanjay Jain, Chaman Lal Khajuria and Rajesh Sawhney, and Executive Members Ankur Suri, Aman Jain, Jugal Kishore Babbar, Vishal Jain and Rajiv Jain attended the meeting. This meeting was held after SAJP President, General Secretary and Secretary attended the Jewellers Awareness Program organised on 27th March 2023 at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Jammu& Kashmir Branch

Office (JKBO) headed by Sh. Tilak Raj Director JKBO. The program focussed on the new hallmarking rules pertaining to HUID and presentation regarding the same was given by Hitesh Yadav Assistant Director JKBO. The entire program was coordinated by Ambuj Tiwari Hallmarking Coordinator JKBO.

The meeting of SAJP today was aimed at discussing ways to increase awareness among the jewellers regarding the new rules and the best practices to adopt in order to follow those rules properly since jewellers, being responsible citizens, have always supported government's decisions and expect the same support from government and BIS in reciprocity. It was decided that small-group meetings will be held with fellow jewellers and awareness will be spread along with resolving any queries or issues. President Raman Suri, who is also Executive

Member Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K, asked Jewellers to adhere to the BIS norms from April 1st this year, by Hallmarking all gold jewellery and related items and come at par with the global standards to win faith of customers and also contribute in nation building.

Raman Suri said, the Union Government gave ample time to Jewellers to adhere to the BIS standards and now, from 1st April 2023, all Gold Jewellery and artefacts will have to carry a mandatory six-digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID). This will ensure quality standards and bring the Indian Jewellery Industry in line with global standards. He informed that presently, jewellery items (without HUID) with the old four-hallmark marks as well as ones with the new six-digit HUID, both can be sold, but from 1st April, only the hallmarked jewellery with six-digit

HUID will be allowed for sale and those violating the rules will be penalised five times the cost of the object or imprisoned for up to one year. BIS marking, he added, will enhance the credibility of the jewellery and lead to customer satisfaction because purity of gold will be assured in the future and consumer's rights will be protected.

Raman Suri said that India uses the BIS Hallmark System for certifying gold jewellery to establish the purity of the metal and we must adhere to the norms to make a mark in the international market. He said that since Hallmark lends credibility to the purity of the jewellery and also helps in maintaining the legal standards of fineness and purity, we all must adhere to the rules set forth by the Government.

The six-digit HUID number was introduced on 1st July 2021 and was implemented in phases. In the first phase, it became mandatory in 256 districts; additionally, 32 and 51 districts were added in the second and third phase respectively, thus bringing up the total tally to 339 districts. To facilitate the marking, there are about 1374 BIS-recognition Assaying and Hallmarking Centres in India. He further said, all norms must be followed from the very beginning. In April, thus bringing an end to the old practices.

Make public inquiry report on alleged recruitment irregularities: AAP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Jammu March 30: large number of aspirants of Fire and Emergency Services assembled outside Maharaja Hari Singh Park and continue their protest on 9th consecutive day, Today Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State Spokesperson J&K & Sangathan Mantri, Partap Singh Jamal along with Mahesh Bakshi (President CVSS) join protest dharna of F&ES aspirants.

Partap Singh said that the said scam was started in the year 2013 when advertisement was notified for 870 posts out of which 696 posts were of Firemen and Firemen drivers, including 598 posts of Firemen and 98 of drivers.

He said that approximately 60,000 aspirants applied against the posts after which Physical Standard Test was held followed by written examination by recruitment board of F&ES Department and then 14,000 aspirants were shortlisted but interview for final selection could not be conducted in 2014 because of flood tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2017, then CM took cognizance of a report of Director General F&ES and cancelled the recruitment after which many candidates approached the court, which directed the



Government to hold the recruitment process afresh. Partap said adding that the then BJP-PDP Government ordered to hold this recruitment under TRP (Transparent Recruitment Process) and a Hyderabad based company namely Timing Technologies India Pvt Limited was hired for the same.

In 2018, physical test of shortlisted 14,000 candidates was conducted and 7,000 candidates passed the test and then appeared in written examination, which was conducted for the second time in 2018. The candidates again leveled serious allegations of mass copying, unfair means and irregularities but Government took no action following which the aggrieved candidates again approached the court, which directed the Government to frame an inquiry panel.

panel, headed by then Principal Secretary Home, J&K, Shaleen Kabra observed that large scale irregularities, mass copying and unfair mean practices had taken place and submitted a report to the Government following which the examination conducted for the second time was cancelled again and recruitment firm hired was blacklisted.

In 2020, Government hired another agency LMES and before conduct of examination on September 20, 2020, paper was allegedly leaked a day earlier and sold openly in the market for lakhs of rupees. The selection list was issued on 3rd of October, 2020 and the appointments were made within three days to hush up the matter and close the recruitment at the earliest. The appointments were made without any police verification. On this

address, Mahesh Bakshi said that the concerned authorities have formed three-member panel headed by Additional Chief Secretary Home R K Goyal Committee in this regard which was to give its report within a month by January 12, 2023 but the report is nowhere even after more than two months. He demanding that the JK administration make public the report of the inquiry committee formed to probe alleged irregularities in the recruitment process. Aap urged upon the concerned authorities to come out with a final decision on the issue so that their wait may come to an end. Other who were present Sushant Abrol, Vijay Deol, Ashwani Kumar, Sushant Mehra, Sam Palgotra, Ashish Mehra, Kapil Dev, Luv Sharma, Abhinav Choudhary and others

Gareeb Democratic Party hold executive committee meet

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Gareeb Democratic party National President Bashir Ahmed Ganie said that the violence in all its manifestations has severely impacted peace, progress and good governance in Jammu and Kashmir. He was addressing a day-long Party convention at Head Office Jammu attended by a huge gathering. The impact of armed violence negatively influences development, peace and good governance, often by creating a climate of impunity, corruption and by undermining public institutions," he said, while appealing the youth to shun the path of violence and contribute in promotion of peace and stability in the region. Gareeb democratic party committee remarked that the nature has gifted J&K with abundant natural resources that can uplift the economic conditions of every household in this erstwhile State. "For that we all need to contribute and create an enabling atmosphere for the optimal use of these resources," he remarked. Reminding Prime Minister



Modi of his statement that development should be a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir, they regretted the alienation and a feeling of neglect among the youth of Kishtwar who feel dejected about the recruitment process carried out by the power projects in the region. He appealed the Prime Minister and Union home Minister to involve local people in the power projects undertaken in their community.

"The development cannot be about the statistical number but it should reflect an improvement in the social, human and envi-

ronmental capital. Government of India must ensure that the local youth are engaged in the recently-launched union funded power projects in Jammu and Kashmir," he added. He said that Nature has bestowed J&K with abundant water resources which will have at least five major new power projects Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kewar, Dul Hasti-II and revived Ratle and a common expectation among the local youth is that they should be given priority in getting employment in these projects. On the occasion Peer Bashir Ahmed National President,

Mohammad Aslam Malik National General Secretary, Abdul Ahad Najar National Secretary, Bashir Ahmed Ahanger State President, Neeta Manhas State President, Mahila Wing, Mohammad Amin Butt State Incharge J&K, Peer Mehbob Ali State Secretary Kissan Wing, Dimple Kotwal State Vice President Mahila Wing, Sonmath Manhas State General Secretary, Razia Begum Provincial Secretary Mahila Wing Jammu, Farzana Kousar District President Mahila Wing Poonch also participated.

PHDCCI conducts interaction with Expert Logistics, Station Director, NR regarding upcoming Multi Modal Logistic park



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu in his opening remarks said that Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) is a key policy initiative of the Government of India, led by National Highways Logistics Management Limited under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to develop Multi-Modal Logistics Parks in hub-and-spoke model to improve the country's freight logistics sector by lowering overall freight costs and time, cutting warehousing costs, reducing vehicular pollution and congestion, improving the tracking and traceability of consignments through infrastructural, procedural, and information technology interventions. Sahai welcomed both the dignitaries and introduced various esteemed executive members of PHDCCI with dignitaries.

Naveen Shukla (RTS) Rtd, Expert Logistics firstly thanked Mr Rahul Sahai for providing the opportunity to interact with PHDCCI Executive Members at a very short notice. Mr Shukla informed the members, that about 30-35 logistics park are identified in the country and one in Jammu Region also. He said that in Samba the land parcel has been identified which will be connected with expressway rail track and Delhi Katra expressway also. He said that Multi Modal Logistics parks will be one step solution to take care of all logistics. He said that local industry needs are taken into consideration to develop MMLP.

A detailed presentation was given on MMLP all over India by his team mate and several queries, questions were also answered. Mr Shukla shared that the MMPL will work on PPP model and will be of great benefit for the industry and traders.

Members present in the meeting appreciated the step taken of devel-

oping Multi Modal Logistics parks (MMLP) in Jammu region and said that good logistic solutions are required here. They agreed that the freight of trains will be cheaper than the road and will benefit the industry. Timely distribution of material is important and better logistics facilities will be of great help members said. They raised the issue of not having any ICD in J&K. Mr Uchit Singhal Station Director, Northern Railway, Jammu-Tawi (Jammu Railway Station) briefed the participants about the benefits of Joint Parcel Services. He said that the joint parcel product aims to target the business-to-business and business-to-customer markets by offering a full parcel handling solution, which includes picking up from the sender's premises, booking and doorstep delivery to the recipient. Singhal said he would like to do more sessions with PHDCCI for awareness of people at large.

The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks from Mr Samar Dev Singh Charak, Co-Chair PHDCCI Jammu Chapter.

Meeting was also attended & Deliberated by Industry members Mr Ashish Jain from (Pharma sector), Mr Jaspal Singh from Samba Industries, Mr Raj Dua a known industrialist, Mr Shantnu Gupta, Mr Vinay Sharma from Berger paints (Samba), Mr Amarjeet Singh from Attar Singh & sons, Mr Ankush Jain from Solar sector and Mr Amarpreet Singh, Resident Officer and Head PHDCCI Jammu Office.

Shiv Sena (H) celebrates its 20th Foundation Day



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Shiv Sena Hindustan today celebrated its 20th Foundation Day at Jagwar Mula Chak under the leadership of Pandit Rajesh Kesari. On this occasion a plantation drive was organized and a Langar was organized in which hundreds participated. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri asked government to keep an eye on elements that are trying to jeopardise communal harmony in the UT and promised a befitting reply to those trying to disrupt peace. He also urged society to discharge their collective responsibility and take a firm stand against those who are trying to sow the

poison of terrorism and separatism in society. Kesri said that violence has no place in a civilized society. "A few elements are trying to justify despicable acts because of their self-interest. Action should be taken against such people as per the law of the land," he said.

Kesri further said that there should be emphasized on evolving strategies for effective monitoring and quick response in fighting conventional as well as modern threats, intensifying crackdown on narco-terror networks and incorporating innovative technology into the police system. "Terrorists are terrorists and they are acting on the directions of the

agencies across the border in Pakistan so that Kashmir is kept disturbed and hurdles are put in the way of peace in the Valley. I am hopeful that the people in Kashmir will not let this conspiracy succeed. We will work together and defeat their purpose," Kesri added.

Calling upon the faculties of all big and small private school institutions to come forward and join hands in making drug awareness campaign as mass movement, Kesri said that drug mafia is making all attempts to trap students in their evil net by spoiling the future of nation. He said Shiv Sena Hindustan will leave no stone unturned to take on

its fight against drugs to all nook and corner of Jammu region. He said that school going children need to be involved in a big way for spreading the message at the grass root level.

We appreciate role of J&K Police to keep a check on the drug mafia in Jammu region. We ask the political parties to reach a consensus on taking effective steps to eradicate this menace so as to liberate the younger generation from the death trap," Kesri said. "All political parties are duty-bound to evolve a mechanism to deal with the menace because J&K is virtually slipping into the tight grip of the drug mafia. Parents are helplessly watching their teenage children dying a slow death despite authorities crack down on the mafia," he said. He said those involved in supplying drugs to the youth too are anti-nationals and they too should be booked under sedition charges. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Rajkumar, Darshana Devi, Balveer Fauji, Balveer Kumar, Captain Om Prakash, Captain Ghara Ram besides others.

Govt cannot mitigate problems by changing names of deptts, localities: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Javed Ahmed Rana President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Pirpanjal and former MLA on Thursday lambasted government over its failure to supply water during the holy month of Ramadan as people face death all across the UT.

In a statement issued to media, Rana advised the government that instead of changing names of the departments and localities,

it should focus on real issues as changing names will not address the issues of people. He said that government in J&K has proven to be damp-squib as on ground it has proven to be total failure. He said that first time in the history of J&K people are facing death of water and power during the holy month of Ramadan. He said that calling PHE as Jal Shakti can do nothing unless the government will act on ground. He said that all the claims made by government over schemes of PHE

have fallen flat as people are facing acute water shortage. He said that despite knowing that water table is dwindling the government is unconcerned, as it has done nothing in the direction of rain water harvesting or rejuvenating forests, which are necessary for water conservation. "This so called people friendly government has closed eyes towards land erosion, deforestation, and excessive pumping of ground water. The days are not far when the J&K will

join the club of states having less water or no water at all, if the people will allow such helmsmen to continue to sit at helm", he said adding that time is passing fast and the government should take adequate steps to harvest water and find out new sources for fulfilling needs of the people. He asked the government to make a Master Plan for Pirpanjal region to conserve water bodies in the region to save people from any water crisis in near future.

Bhagwan Ram embodiment of morality, follow His footsteps for inculcating good virtues: Kavinder

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that Lord Rama was the embodiment of truth and morality and the people should follow him to inculcate good moral values and righteousness.

Addressing an impressive gathering here at Lakshmi Narayan Temple Gandhi Nagar on the occasion of Ram Navmi, Kavinder urged the devotees to learn from the life and history of Lord Ram for inculcating good virtues and working for social bonhomie and brotherhood.

He said that life of Marayada Purushotam Ram is the best example before the people to emulate goodness and set up



limits for an ideal life. On the occasion, a Shobha Yatra was also organised by Raghav Arora President BJP Gandhi Nagar Mandal which after commencing from Lakshmi Narayan Mandir passed through various localities before culminating at Dhoodhadhari Temple in Shastrri Nagar. Kavinder said that under the present circumstances,

wherein political parties believe in spreading hatred among communities to take political mileage, there is dire need to learn the lessons from the life of Lord Rama, who taught to even respect the enemy. He said that people should connect with the rich Hindu culture as the same comprises of answers to all the problems of the world. He said that being the oldest- Sanatan Dharam holds everything

required to live a full life of principles and good virtues. Prominent among those who were present include Gulchani Singh Charak, Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, Pushpinder Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Indu Bhushan, Abhinandan, Lovisha, Varun Sharma, Rajesh Bhu, Rajesh Sharma, Ankush Dogra, Arvind Gupta and Gurdial Singh.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

India's borders fully...

people speaking contrary to this too are also active, and for them, 'democracy seems to be on the wane in India', but such people are very few and far between, he said.

From secure borders and self-reliance to a strong economy and transformed global image, India is rising as one of the "strongest countries" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the defence minister said.

He termed the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as another example of the strong will of the government, asserting that the Union territory has ushered in a new era of peace and progress due to the decision.

"One can assess this from the fact that Congress party while carrying out its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' did not face any difficulty. The Yatra left Kashmir without any issue," he said.

Singh said that the government is carrying forward the vision of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, under whose leadership nuclear test was conducted in Pokhran in 1998. "Today, we are producing big missiles, tanks, weapons and ammunition on our land. This is also a result of a strong political will," he said.

He also highlighted the government's resolve towards the development of the Northeast region, saying that it has been ensured that the region, full of beauty and natural resources, is well connected with the heart of the country.

"The Northeast has come closer to Delhi and 'dil' (heart) of people due to the Centre's efforts, Singh said.

"There is 'unprecedented peace' in the Northeast, which has resulted in the withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA, from most areas, he added.

He also outlined some of the achievements of the government in the last several years, and India's vision for the future ahead.

When 5G rollout in telecom is happening, "our PM has started working on 6G", he said.

"The cheapest mobile data service in India. The reach of broadband connectivity from 20 per cent in 2014 has grown to 80 per cent now," Singh said.

India's export has grown tremendously and even the record foreign direct investment is a "positive signal", the minister said.

"India's time has come. This is rising India," he said, adding today, there is a vibrant digital economy.

He credited bold approach and unwavering resolve of the government, which has ensured secured borders and battle-ready armed forces backed by a self-reliant defence industry.

"Fostering national security as government's top priority and self-reliance as the only medium to achieve it, he asserted that relentless efforts are being made to attain 'Atmanirbharta' in defence.

He listed out some of the steps taken by the Ministry of Defence, including notification of positive indigenisation lists; earmarking of record 75 per cent of defence capital procurement budget for domestic industry in financial year 2023-24 and efforts to provide local companies access to international market.

Singh said the domestic defence production has witnessed a significant increase in the last few years.

"We are not only catering to our own needs, but are also exporting weapons and equipment to other countries. From Rs 900 crore, about seven-eight years ago, defence exports have skyrocketed and are nearing Rs 14,000 crore in the current financial year. Our target is by 2026, it should be worth Rs 40,000 crore," he said.

In the last few years, the social changes achieved have been "remarkable", the minister said.

"Caste-based politics and religious appeasement were being carried out. Triple talaq issue was one, it was being used to do politics, and women were also being cheated in the name of religion," Singh said.

"We worked to give them dignity, equality, and freedom," he said.

In his address, he also said that the current cabinet is by far the "most socially diverse cabinet" and even media has reported on this earlier.

Despite this, there are many people in the country, who have made "virulently" opposition, as an 'occupation' to "tarnish the image of the country and the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi", the minister said.

Citing a report by Morgan Stanley, Singh emphasised the growth of the Indian economy.

"In 2013, investment firm Morgan Stanley had coined a phrase 'fragile five' economies, and named India among them. We have successfully dealt with the problems such as the possibility of recession and COVID-19 pandemic, and today we are an inspiration to other countries. The highest ever FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion last year is a positive sign for the economy and a proof that the world has faith in the possibilities and opportunities available in India. From 'fragile five', we are now among 'fabulous five'," the minister said.

According to a report by Morgan Stanley, this possibility cannot be ruled out that India will be one of the top three economies of the world by 2027, Singh said.

"When we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our independence in 2047, I am hopeful that we will be the world's top economy," he said.

He described India's diplomacy as another facet of rising India and said the presidency of G-20 and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) this year is proof that India's stature is continuously growing on the world stage. (Agencies)

activities in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the NIA, Adil planned the explosives consignment delivered by Pinnas' associates from across the border in Kathua sector.

"Pinnas used drones and the dead drop method for this delivery. Pinnas trained Adil in cyberspace on how to prime the IEDs," said the agency.

On September 28, Adil planted two IEDs in two different buses, which were plying between Basnatarh and Udhampur, said the NIA, adding, "one blast took place around midnight of September 28 and the other in the early hours of September 29".

After his arrest, the NIA said Adil made disclosures about hoarding of explosives for future attacks.

Two more IEDs, three sticky bombs, three detonators and two PTD (Programmable Thermostat Display)

timers were recovered from Adil's residence. "These were part of the consignment that was delivered from Pakistan," said the agency.

NIA unravelling all these facts and filed a chargesheet on March 28 against Adil and Pinnas under sections 120B, 121A, 122, 307 and 407 of the Indian Penal Code, sections 3 and 4 of the Explosives Substances Act, 1908 and sections 16, 18, 18B, 20, 23, 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. (AGENCIES)

Cloudy Sky, Rain...
J&K during the next 24 hours", said an official of the MET department.

Meanwhile, Srinagar registered 6.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 0.8 and Gulmarg zero degrees as the minimum temperature.

In Ladakh region, Drass town recorded a low of minus 4, Kargil 0.5 and Leh minus 3 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu clocked 18.5 degrees, Katra 15.2, Batote 9, Banihal 7 and Bhaderwah 6.2 degrees.

CAG red flags...
deposit upfront premium or the allotment of projects was terminated due to land issues, slow progress and techno economic viability reasons," the CAG said.

It said for 20 sites proposed under Prime Minister's Development Package, the Centre had not acceded to the request of the government of J&K for release of funds in view of high project cost and unviable tariff of these 20 projects.

"Nodal agencies did not coordinate with line departments/agencies for facilitating IPPs in obtaining clearances, approvals and finances for their projects in a time bound manner. Execution of projects was also not monitored," the report said.

It said the IPPs had also attributed poor performance in development of projects inter alia to lack of financing by banks due to non-availability of buy back agreement with the J&K government.

"Failure of JKPCDC (Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation) in ensuring completion of transmission line alongside the commissioning of hydro project at Dah resulted in non-utilisation of power generation of 59.37 MUs and consequent loss of revenue of Rs 16.45 crore," the CAG said.

It said three projects with generation capacity of 12 MWs were selling power outside the UT thereby defeating the objective of hydro policy for providing solution to the energy problems in remote and hilly areas of the Union Territory, where the power demand was estimated at 4,217 MW (21,887 MUs) ending 2021-22.

To encourage private sector participation in development of hydropower projects with a capacity of up to 25 MW, the J&K government initially brought out in 2003 a policy to generate power through small hydropower sources of energy.

In order to give further impetus to exploitation of hydel potential, the government revised the state hydro policy in July 2011 to facilitate projects with installed capacity of 2-100 MW by IPPs and stipulated penalty on the failure to meet the timelines fixed for execution of projects by IPPs.

"Audit noticed that JKPCDC allotted nine projects with potential of 92.50 MW between November 2012 and July 2014. Five IPPs failed to deposit up-front premium of Rs 1.98 crore and did not take up the allotted projects.

"The timelines for financial closure of remaining four projects which were fixed between May 2015 and January 2017 were not adhered to by IPPs. However, JKPCDC did not invoke penal provisions for delay in financial closure of these projects due to which penalty of Rs 12.60 crore could not be imposed on defaulting IPPs. Further, JKPCDC had not executed implementation agreement with IPPs for timely completion of projects as mandated in the hydro policy-2011," the report said.

In its recommendations, the CAG said the lack of ease of doing business for IPPs should be addressed and hydro policy 2011 revisited.

It also suggested feasible identification of sites, prompt DPR finalisation, handholding of IPPs in land acquisition and statutory clearances as well as obtaining of finances and assistance so that IPPs could come forward for taking up projects.

The CAG also recommended the government to ensure execution of bankable power purchase agreements and ensure timely payment of dues to these IPPs.

In respect of EPC projects developed by JKPCDC, completion of projects in a time bound manner may be ensured apart from installation of power evacuation systems before commissioning of projects, it said.

India's new education...

by the Narendra Modi-led central government saying it represents the combined visions of Mahatma Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Shradhdhanand, Mahatma Gandhi, and Lala Lajpat Rai.

"The new education policy, which is the country's third, contains the visions of four great people. Accessible education as propagated by Mahatma Dayanand, combining vedic education with modern as propagated by Swami Shradhdhanand, Mahatma Gandhi's education in mother tongue, and Lala Lajpat Rai's principle of education for all are at the core of this policy," Shah said.

Education in engineering courses has begun to be imparted in the mother tongues of 10 states, while people appearing in JEE, NIIT, and IAS exams have the option of taking the tests in their own mother tongues, he said.

The NEP makes education streamless and classless, with no barriers to science and arts streams, and freedom to learn anything in accordance with one's interest and aptitude, he said.

He said Prime Minister Modi has brought international glory to India and Indianness.

"Narendra Modi readily took decisions which the country was not able to take for decades. Be it abolition of article 370 or securing the boundaries of the country through such measures as surgical strikes or making the country jump from the world's 11th to the 5th largest economy in the world by the Prime Minister has done everything to make the country proud," Shah said.

Congratulating the 1,800 students conferred with degrees at the convocation, he said they should be proud of having studied in a great institution such as the

Gurukula Kangri University, and urged them to apply their learning in nation building so that it emerges as the world's leading country in its 100th year. (Agencies)

Centre asks IAS...

authorised on licence under the relevant law".
The rule further explains that frequent purchase or sale or both of shares, securities or other investments is deemed to be speculation under the sub-rule.

The ministry, in its order dated March 20, further said that since share, securities, debentures, etc are treated as moveable property as per explanation-1 under Rule 6 of AIS (Conduct) Rules, 1968, if an individual transaction exceeds two months' basic pay of the member of service as prescribed in Rule 16(4) of ibid rules, "intimation to the prescribed authority would still be necessary".

"Every member of the service shall intimate the government in respect of each transaction, whose value exceeds two months' basic pay of the member of service within a month of the completion of such transaction", reads Rule 16 (4). (Agencies)

High intensity blast...
border areas this morning, said it was a high intensity blast.

"One live grenade was seized around 6.30 am today. It points out that someone lobbed the grenade after detecting presence of security forces", he said.

The SSP said prima facie it was an IED blast.
As the site of the blast is close to a police post, there is a possibility that the police post was the intended target. "It points out towards that. On Wednesday, our presence was more in this area, that is why they may have hurled grenade and after that they triggered IED blast", Jamwal said.

Block Development Committee (BDC) chairman Ram Lal Kalya, a resident of Santiyal village which is just 300 metres from the border post, said, "Around 9.30 pm on Wednesday we heard an explosion. I informed the post in charge."

The exact site was located after one-and-half hours, he said, adding that a big crater was found in an agriculture field.

Shoba Yatra taken...
Kashmir Chunnal Lal said that with the taking out of the Shoba Yatra the nine day Ram Navami, the birth day of Lord Rama, festival concludes.

He said the special prayers for the peace and prosperity of the country and Jammu and Kashmir were conducted during all these days.

Amritpal's aide varinder...
how he got license from here."

Giving further details, he said that the gun license was issued to him in 2014 from Kishtwar Deputy Magistrate (DM) office.

He said the CID wing of the Punjab Police recently wrote to the Kishtwar that there was misuse of his gun license. "The matter was activated and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar cancelled gun license," the SSP said.

Poswal said that police will have to ascertain as to under which circumstances the gun license was issued to him in the first place as his army unit was never posted here in Kishtwar.

"He was a jawan of the 96 regiment and was terminated in 2015. After issuance, his gun license was getting renewed. The license has been validated till 2025 from Ramban, Reasi, Baramulla and Kathua. There is a need to investigate the case," the SSP said.

As for verification by Police before granting gun license to him, he said that there was a letter from the then commandant to DM. "On that certificate, the gun license was issued. There was certification or verification by Police in Kishtwar in this case," the SSP said.

Amritpal Singh, meanwhile, remains elusive since the police crackdown against him and members of his pro-Khalistan 'Waris Punjab De' outfit began on March 18, about three weeks after he and his supporters stormed into the Ajnala police station near Amritsar to secure the release of an arrested man.

The preacher escaped the police net in Jalandhar district on March 18, switching vehicles and changing appearances.

He and his associates have been booked under several criminal cases related to spreading disharmony among classes, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and creating obstructions in the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

Dr Jitendra attends...
Kendra, Kathua on the theme 'Role of Youth vis-à-vis India's G20 Presidency'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the youth of this country must feel lucky that they are living in an era when India has assumed G20 Presidency under PM Narendra Modi, the youth can play a key role to showcase India's rich cultural diversity and heritage and solution to the global problems while being the President of G20 forum.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the world is knocking at the doors of India as India has talent and capability under PM Narendra Modi to lead the world under all circumstances as India is now regarded as the 'Leader of the World'.

Saying that this government is dedicated to the youth of this country, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the revolutionary decisions were taken by PM Narendra Modi for the welfare of the youth be that doing away with the attestation by a gazetted officer, the interviews for the non-gazetted posts etc, as this government strongly believes in the youth of India.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the 'Start-up India, Stand-up India' is actually dedicated to the youth by PM Narendra Modi and it is because of their efforts that from mere 350 start-ups in 2014, it has now crossed 90,000 with more than 100 unicorns. Many start-ups under Aaroma Mission born in Doda district of J&K have shaped the future of many youth who left the jobs and are now earning in lakhs having lucrative lavender startups.

The Minister said, this is the proudest moment for the youth of this country that India has assumed G20

Chilling murder in Sopore: Drug addict son kills mother

JINNEWSERVICE

SOPORE, MAR 30

A 'drug addict' son killed his elderly mother in Danganpora village of Sopore in north Kashmir's on Wednesday night.

The accused Showket Ahmed who strangled his mother to death was a chronic drug addict and was taken by police in preventive custody several times, locals told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"Around 11:30pm, Showket knocked on our door and was carrying an iron rod in his hand. We got panicked especially my wife who had undergone a surgery yesterday. Showket told me there are some unknown men at his home but noticing him under the influence of drugs, I pushed him away and locked the door again," said Showket's brother, Mushtaq Ahmed, who resides next to mother's house.

He said Showket threw stones on front side of their home breaking window glasses. His mother Ayesha Apa tried to stop him but he asked her to stay silent.

"Showket told her to shut her mother else he will hang her. Shortly afterwards, I heard Ayesha Apa (my mother) screaming and I came out and started calling neighbours," he added.

According to him, it was dark when they reached the crime spot "But Showket pelted stones on us to prevent us from moving ahead.

Two civilians approached us saying Army is calling people one by one. We went outside and after thorough enquiry and narrating the scene, army men accompanied us to the spot but we didn't find anyone at first. After searches we found Apa (mother) near a well with a broken door on her in a bid to conceal his crime," he said. He said that soldiers helped them take the body to Sopore hospital where she was declared brought dead.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sopore Shabir Nawab told KNO that the accused killed mother when he was under the influence of drugs.

"The person is a staunch drug addict. The accused has confessed his crime," the SSP said. Adding that a case in this regard has already been registered and the accused is in police custody. KNO

Vehicles owners receive wrong E-challans for no fault
JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 30

Scores of vehicle owners on Thursday alleged that they are receiving wrong e-challan of their vehicles and urged the authorities to look into the matter.

Many vehicle owners told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they are getting incorrect e-challan for a violation they never committed. "Even some e-challans are being slamed on vehicles not present in the area," they said.

"I have received one such e-challan with Rs 1000 two days ago for my scooter," said Dilwar Reshi, a resident of Malbagh area of the city.

He said that his scooter has been challaned for not wearing a seat belt which is totally unfair and at the time this challan was issued, my scooter was parked in the courtyard of his home.

Similarly, Sameer Ahmad, a Bandipora resident complained that a few weeks ago his two wheeler was blacklisted by the transport department for violating traffic rules at Papachan area.

He said that the traffic violation was neither committed by him nor he passed through that area at that time.

Motorcycle owner, Afan Ahmad said that he has also received a similar e-challan stating that he had committed some traffic violations in Srinagar despite the fact that he was in his house at that time.

To solve this problem, people are now demanding from the traffic police and transport department to make necessary improvements in the system and resolve this technical glitch.

An official said that the wrong challan can be issued due to various reasons. "Tampering the number plates could make it harder for the system to read the number plate. Because of this, the system would read the number plate incorrectly and send the challan to the wrong person. Moreover, with damaged plates, worn-out plates or because of incorrect number plates, the challan could be sent to the wrong person," he said.

Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari and IGP Traffic, Vikramjit Singh have assured that they will look into the matter. KNO

Presidency under PM Narendra Modi, at the same time the youth of this country have responsibility to carry forward this legacy to make India 'Vishwa Guru'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, hundreds of opportunities have been created for the youth of this country for their skill development what is important is that youth should take advantage of these opportunities and become active partners of India's journey towards becoming a 'Vishwa Guru'.

Praising Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as tallest but uncelebrated youth icon of 20th century India, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that Mukherjee became Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University as a 34 year youth and said, Kathua was selected today for the youth convention for the reason that Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the best youth icon who sacrificed his life for national integration. The onus is on the youth of this country to carry forward his legacy, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

The others present during the youth convention today were Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey, DDC Vice-chairperson Kathua, Raghunandan Singh Bablu, Deputy Director, NVK Kathua, Somdat Zard besides students across different institutions of Kathua and youth from various areas of district Kathua.

Property tax is April fool of 'Acche Din': Shivsena

DOZENS LOCAL YOUTHS JOINED SHIV SENA



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Shiv Sena's (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit, while continuing its protest against the property tax which is going to be imposed from April 1, has termed it as the April Fool of the central government's good days.

Jammu today, State chief Manish Sahni, present in the occasion, said that government's sympathy towards the public has totally died. No appeal, protest is working against the anti-people and dictatorial decrees of the Jammu and Kashmir administration. In spite of all-round criticism, the government is going to impose property

tax on the people of Jammu and Kashmir on April 1, showing stubborn attitude. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been facing terrorism for the last 35 years. Covid, unemployment and inflation have brought the public to economic misery. Instead of giving relief to the local people, they are being burdened with the

extra burden of tax. Sahni said that the preparations have also been made to increase the rates of electricity and water bills. Sahni said that many relaxation and concessions are being given to big industrialists and suit-booters, including giving land in Jammu and Kashmir under the guise of investment, but the people of the state are being burdened with taxes. Demanding the LG administration to immediately roll back the property tax, Sahni said that let the assembly elections be held first, the issue like property tax should be left to the elected governments. On this occasion dozens of local youths joined Shiv Sena. President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh and Shashipal welcomed the new entrants with Shiv Bandhan.

Ramnavmi celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety in Budhal



J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDHAL, MAR 30: Ramnavmi celebrations was held in the shive Mandir budhal where devotees from length and breadth of the region the entire shiv mandir. The devotees also participated in special pooja organized bearers and religious priests also participated in the pooja. This was followed by

taking out of an impressive Shoba yatra from the shive mandir. The Shoba yatra started from shive mandir budhal taken in the traditional which was fully decorated by the devotees. Earlier the pooja was performed in a traditional way in the shive mandir. A large number of devotees participated in the Shoba Yatra in which scores of hanki decorated four wheelers were taken

out. The people enroute had made beelines to greet the Shoba yatra and pay obeisance to Lord Rama. The devotees were seen watching the Shoba yatra from roof tops of houses and shops in the budhal city and they showered flowers on it. The Shoba Yatra ahwch started from shive mandir after passing via bus stand budhal to near police station.

tion budhal return. The authorities had also made elaborate security arrangements on the occasion for smooth conduct of yatra. Ramnavmi was also celebrated at where an impressive Shoba yatra was also taken out by the devotees in the budhal town. A large number of people from budhal and adjoining at villages Shobha Yatra in connection with the Ram Navmi. The programme was organised under the supervision of bajrangdal block president prem singh and other members coordination with other social youth and religious organizations of budhal. Despite rain, the devotees with great enthusiasm carrying a large number of women's and children's also attended the programme. S.H.O budhal N.R Thakur were also accompanying and elaborate security arrangements had been made for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

Shat Chandi Maha Yagya concludes with Purna Ahuti at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: The 9-day long Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during Chaitra Navratras for universal peace, harmony, prosperity and health of humanity, concluded today with Purna Ahuti on the auspicious occasion of Ramanavami.



Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Navneet Singh, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Sudhir Bali, SDM Bhawan, other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims participated in Purna Ahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst vedic mantras on the occasion. The Shat Chandi Maha Yagya also telecasted live from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. daily during these Navratras.

as per directions of Chairman, SMVDSEB (Hon'ble Lt.Governor, JK-UT), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine were a grandeur look during these Navratras. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it, tracks leading to the Shrine and the buildings nearby were profusely and artistically decorated with exquisite fresh flowers of varied varieties brought from various parts of the country and abroad. Huge reception doors and pandals were installed in the Bhawan area. The entire Bhawan area was decorated with attractive and colourful lights. Hi-tech Multipurpose Video Walls at various

locations on the track for enabling dissemination of real time information to the visiting pilgrims in regard to the yatra added to the aesthetics of various locations on the track in these Navratras. The live telecast would be the main attraction to the pilgrims. Besides, elaborate arrangements were made for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine included ensuring round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks and in the Bhawan Area. Sanitation and Sanitisation, Medicare and availability of special "fast related" food at the catering outlets of the Shrine Board. The Shrine Board also made arrangements for free food for the pil-

grims at Tarakote Marg and Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat. For the ease and comfort of pilgrims, facilities like the added accommodation by inauguration of Durga Bhawan, battery operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services were also operated smoothly. The pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine lauded the arrangements made by the Shrine Board for their facilitation. Other special features were bhajan and bhainat performances by the renowned artists such as Gurdas Maan, Hansraj Raghuvanshi, Matihli Thakur and Lakhwinder Wadali etc during morning and evening Atka Aarti during these Navratras.

NDPI Chief praises new Excise Policy appeal to political parties to do healthy politics

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta by welcoming the new Excise Policy said that the new Excise Policy introduced by the UT Government would greatly help in achieving the financial targets. He appealed to all political parties to do healthy politics. He said it's not necessary to always oppose every move of ruling government sometimes we should appreciate good moves also. Addressing to media here, the NDPI president said that the Policy is vibrant and has touched all the important issues in the larger interest of the public and Union Territory of J&K. He said those opposing the policy are themselves arrange cocktail



Gupta maintained the focus has been laid on transparency and openness. Gupta said the policy carries forward the objectives of encouraging transition from high to low alcoholic content beverages, to bring about greater social consciousness and

awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to check bootlegging/smuggling of liquor and narcotic drugs in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from neighbouring States/Union Territories. The NDPI leader said new Excise Policy aims at rationalizing the tax structure to optimise revenues besides encouraging a transition from High to Low Alcoholic drinks. He further added that the major new initiatives include introduction of three new categories of Licenses a) JKEL 2A (Retail vend of Beer and RTD in JK/DC/Tourism Establishments/ Tourism Development Authorities /Airports etc.) b) KEL-6A (Bottling License on leased out Premises)and c) W1-Winery is a very welcome step by LG administration.

Ramnavmi celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in RS Pura

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Ramnavmi-the birthday of Lord Shri Rama, was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in RS Pura. Devotees in large numbers thronged various temples in RS Pura since early morning to offer prayers and seek blessings of 'Maryada Purshotam'. The temples were abuzz with large number of devotees paying their obeisance and participating in Bhajans and Kirtans. Temples were specially decorated with burning and flags. The day also coincides with culmination of nine day long Navratra festival. Long queues of devotees, including men, women, and children were seen at various Durga temples since morning. Special prayers and Kanja Puja was also organized at temples. Young girls, dressed in their best, were invited by their neighbours for Kanjak Pujan. People also took part in the community Hawans organized at temples



and households to mark the occasion. On this occasion Social Activist and PDP District Jammu Media Coordinator Narinder Sharma today participated in huge Langar which was attended by devotees in large numbers organized to mark Ram Navmi celebrations at Baggamarh in RS Pura. After payers and rituals, Sharma prayed for peace in J&K and said that such events bring people closer to each other. He congratulated organizers of Bhandara and asked them to strengthen their resolve and continue to serve community regularly. Extending his support to them, he promised that anything that would help the organizers in making Annual Bhandara more accessible to commoners were to be extended. He also said that more such events must be organized to strength social bonding in J&K.

Politically, consciously equipped BJP activists create public awareness, social change: Former Legislator



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 30: Politically and consciously equipped BJP activists create public awareness and social change.

This was stated by Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa during booth strengthening meeting with representatives of Both Numbers 01, 02, 03 and 04 of Khandwal Panchayat of RS Pura Jammu South Assembly Segment.

Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa was accompanied by DDC Member Geetu Aulakh, Sarpanch Sonamdeep Singh, Vijay Sharma Mandal President, Avtar Singh Naib Sarpanch, Bharat Sharma, Inder Khajuria, Both Raj Panch, Saudagar Singh, Neeta Ram, Surinder Kumar, Bhushan Kumar and many others. "BJP takes all possible steps for the welfare of the grass root level workers", the Former Legislator said, adding that polling booth are the life-line of a party and ground level work-

ers keep it alive by putting in their hard efforts. "The grass root level workers are also the backbone of the party and their welfare is party's duty", Randhawa added. "I had seen the grass root level workers putting in their sincere efforts for the party's win during elections and the same spirit should be continued by them in the forthcoming elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", Randhawa added. He also asked the party workers to promote the policies and schemes being launched, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Government, adding that the schemes have been launched for the welfare of the people and party workers too. He also asked the party workers to keep close contact with the people of their areas by projecting their issues at the appropriate platform. "Masses should be kept aware about the policies of the BJP so that at the time of elections, they become the frontrunner in the elections", the Former Legislator said, adding that the issues of the party workers will also be redressed in the phased manner.

DC B'la Visits Shilpitri Temple, Extends Greetings to Hindu Community on Ram Navami

J I NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MARCH 30: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Shrishr Asgar accompanied by various other senior officers today visited Shilpitri temple at Baramulla to participate in the celebrations of Ram Navami observed with religious fervour on the birthday of Rama, the seventh avatar of the deity Vishnu. During the visit, the DC extended warm greetings



to the Hindu community of Baramulla on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, hoping the day augurs well for the increased prospects of peace and prosperity in the district. On the occasion, Dr Shrishr Asgar said the festival is yet another glaring example of the massive and

abundant cultural richness of the country, a source of wonder for people across the globe. She hoped that the festival is celebrated in its true traditional fervor, amity, and brotherhood, which she said have long been the template of Indian culture and ethos. She added that on this great occasion we all need to spread Lord Ram's noble message of righteous conduct and renew our commitment to his ideals.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Agricultural varsities functioning demands probe

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has exposed the mess and corruption in the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir's two agricultural universities - Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir. The recent report of the CAG said the human resources function of two universities was far from satisfactory and was plagued by irregular appointments, favoritism and inadmissible financial up-gradations. It observed that relaxing the minimum standards for appointments and promotions of teachers compromised the quality of teaching and research in the universities. Lateral entry to teaching positions from lower technical positions deprived the University of availing the benefits of recruiting meritorious teachers through open advertisements. The extension of "undue benefits" due to excess drawl of pay, allowances and entitlements led to financial strain on the state coffers. These revelations were not only startling but also put a stamp on the much prevailed notion about corruption and favouritism in these two prestigious institutes. The report stated that the audit covering the period 2016-17 to 2020-21 was conducted between August 2021 and February 2022, by a test check of records at the offices of Registrar, deans of various faculties and Comptroller of SKUAST-J and SKUAST-K. During the scrutiny, service records of 739 personnel (30 per cent of the total persons-in-position (2,462) were selected on the basis of simple random sampling without replacement, for detailed scrutiny. Surprisingly, the SKUAST-J appointed at-least 31 Assistant Professors and Junior Scientists between the year 2011 and 2017. Out of the 31 Assistant Professors/ Junior Scientists, seven did not possess the minimum eligibility of NET. Besides, the appointments to teaching posts through lateral entry caused an additional financial burden of Rs 10.16 crore to state exchequer. Audit noticed that two Agriculture Universities had neither reviewed recruitment rules (as mandated once in five years) since their creation, nor put in place any mechanism for periodic assessment of vacancies, review of sanctioned strength and fixing of time frame within which vacant posts were to be filled which paved way for appointments in excess of sanctioned strength, ad hocism in governance and misutilisation of vacant post," the report said, adding "The Universities had also not carried out restructuring of non-teaching cadre which resulted in avoidable litigations and continuation of redundant posts. What was more ironic was that out of 206 vacant non-teaching posts in SKUAST-J as of March 2021, 96 posts under 23 categories were continuously lying vacant for over five years. The CAG has also reported irregularities in the appointment of teachers and scientific staff saying, it noticed cases of appointments without adoption of mandatory Academic Performance Indicators, appointments without mandatory NET qualification, appointments by counting inadmissible periods in teaching experience and appointments through lateral entry by irregular up-gradation of technical posts. The CAG has recommended that there was an urgent need to review sanctioned strength to weed out redundant posts and initiate process for filling up of management positions through direct recruitment besides the universities should adopt UGC regulations in toto and avoid lateral entry of technical cadre to teaching positions to maintain the minimum standards prescribed for appointment of teachers. The government should order a high level in depth probe into the cases of nepotism and favouritism in these two universities to fix accountability.

Despite Oppn backing, Congress at a crossroads

RAHUL GANDHI MAY HAVE CLAIMED THE MORAL HIGH GROUND AND COLLECTIVELY, THE OPPOSITION MAY BE SENSING AN OPPORTUNITY IN HIS DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE LOK SABHA, BUT REGIONAL SATRAPS AND THE CONGRESS MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT POLITICAL SYNERGY. ONE-UPMANSHIP, PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND THE RIVAL CAMP'S MACHINATIONS ARE SOME OF THE EASY TOOLS THAT CAN DEMOLISH THE PROSPECT OF POLITICAL SYNERGY IF AN ANCHOR IS NOT IN PLACE.

VIVEK KATJU

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha last week after a Surat court convicted him in a defamation case over the 'Modi surname' remark, which he had made more than 1,000 km away in Karnataka in 2019. The development has virtually fast-tracked the build-up to the 2024 General Election.

Cold chain infra key to minimising food loss

Suddenly, the entire non-BJP/INDA Opposition has stood up in solidarity with Rahul. Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, Pinarayi Vijayan and KC Chandrashekar Rao, Chief Ministers of Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala and Telangana, respectively, often considered hostile to Rahul and the Congress, swiftly attacked the BJP, terming the disqualification a death knell for democracy and a metamorphosis of BJP's vindictive politics into autocracy. Several other prominent leaders, such as Akhilesh Yadav, Jayant Chaudhary, Hemant Soren, Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, have termed the development as the BJP's authoritarian attack on Indian democracy.

These remarks may be music to Rahul's ears, but the future roadmap for the grand old party is tricky. The first roadblock in the way of a united Opposition is Rahul's own reluctance to take anyone on board. The Gandhi scion, who has been in politics since 2004, has shown little interest in warming up to the likes of Mamata, Kejriwal and Nitish Kumar, while Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin continues to be a notable exception. On many occasions, Rahul did not mind words while criticising the then Uddhav Thackeray dispensation, even though the Congress was then a part of the Shiv Sena-led ruling coalition in Maharashtra.

Unlike the 1975-77 movement against the Emergency, the 1987-89 Bofors scandal or the 2011-13 India Against Corruption stir, the Opposition lacks an anchor such as Jayaprakash Narayan, VP Singh or



Anna Hazare. The Congress may also take note of how JP, VP, or Anna were able to involve numerous student unions, lawyers, media personnel, trade unions and others in their campaigns. These stakeholders in democratic values greatly helped the political parties and individuals achieve their goal of dislodging those in power.

At present, the Congress' organisational network is near-defunct and not in a position to launch an effective public campaign in support of Rahul Gandhi. The mood and morale of the party rank and file are nowhere near the spirit of 1977 when the Congress went out of power for the first time.

In the 1977 General Election, Rahul's uncle Sanjay Gandhi made sure that Youth Congress leaders were given 100-odd Lok Sabha tickets. As a result, the Youth Congress of the Sanjay era remained fiercely loyal to the leadership. When the counting for the 1977 Lok Sabha elections was going on in the Tis Hazari court of Delhi, jubilant Janata Party and Jana Sangh workers coined a slogan to mock the Congress - 'Congressi digkha, sau rupaiya pao (show a Congressman and win Rs 100)'

party veterans chose to bear the humiliation, but the Youth Congress leaders decided to hit back, even though the counting had shown that all Congress nominees from Delhi were trailing. 'Haan hum hain Congressi, lao sau rupaiya,' they retorted.

In the days after the verdict against Rahul and his subsequent disqualification, Congress protests in various parts of the country have been patchy and perfunctory, even failing to get the local media's attention.

Rahul's ire against mediapersons will not help the party's cause. In his scheme of things, Rahul wishes to keep the spotlight on Adani's 'relationship' with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not on the defamation case.

Rahul must look back to the days of the Bofors controversy and see how the then Opposition had benefited from the media investigations against the Rajiv Gandhi government. His allegations of financial wrongdoings or compromises on matters of national security would have a greater ring of credibility if they were backed or corroborated by media reports.

Throughout his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul leaned heavily on civil society groups and activists such as Medha Patkar, who are known for their left-of-centre ideology. The big question is whether Rahul would be able to rope in these civil society groups in his latest make-or-break survival campaign.

The possibility of drafting student unions, trade unions and lawyers' bodies is even more daunting. Rahul's ratings are reportedly very low among the millennium kids. Similarly, most of the lawyers' bodies have little association with the Congress or its ideological moorings.

Since the 1991 economic reforms, the trade unions have moved away from the Congress, so much so that its staunch supporter, Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), is often not on the same page as the parent organisation. The INTUC, in its 33rd plenary held recently, urged the Congress to reconsider the economic policies it had followed since 1991 and go back to the 'Nehruvian' path of mixed economy.

In a nutshell, Rahul may have claimed the moral high ground and collectively, the Opposition may be sensing an opportunity in Rahul's disqualification, but regional satraps and the Congress may find it difficult to work out political synergy because such a collaboration fundamentally entails a mindset to bring the leadership and the campaign together. One-upmanship, personal ambitions and the rival camp's machinations are some of the easy tools that can demolish the prospect of political synergy if an anchor is not in place.

RECALIBRATING STRATEGY

VIVEK KATJU

While India is celebrating its G20 rotational presidency in a high-voltage fashion and as a national endeavour, the rotational presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which it also currently holds, is being treated in a low-key manner. One obvious reason for this vast difference in approaches lies in the significance of the two groupings: the G20 is currently the world's premier multilateral grouping, while the SCO's international footprint is limited. Besides, there is no doubt that China is the main SCO country and Pakistan is also its member. India's ties with both countries are passing through a very difficult phase. This, too, has led to the lack of enthusiasm about the SCO presidency.

What India will have to expect is that the Russians and the Chinese will have a go at the West and, in particular, the US.

A sign of this absence of zeal was witnessed in the somewhat routine manner in which India approached the SCO tourism ministers' meeting in Varanasi on March 17-18. At the last SCO Summit in Uzbekistan, in 2022, the Samarkand Declaration noted, 'In order to further promote the rich cultural and historical heritage of the peoples and the tourism potential of SCO member states, it was decided to declare the city of Varanasi (Republic of India) as the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2022-2023.'

It could have been expected that the Modi government and the Uttar Pradesh authorities, too, would go all out to project Kashi but no substantive attempt was made to greatly project Varanasi as the SCO cultural capital.



Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy presided over the meeting which was attended by China and three Central Republics representatives in physical form but at vice-ministers' level. The other SCO countries, including Pakistan, participated virtually, also at lower levels. The SCO Summit will take place in India in July. In response to a question, the government said in the Lok Sabha on March 24 that 'India will also host the Heads of State Summit in July 2023 and will fulfil the role of an active and constructive member of the organisation.' Prior to the summit, three important meetings are to take place. These are of the national security advisers on March 29 (Wednesday), the defence ministers in April and the foreign ministers in Goa on May 4-5. On March 24, the government also intimated to the Lok Sabha that 'Most foreign ministers of member states of SCO have confirmed their participation. Confirmation from foreign ministers of China and Pakistan is awaited.' Prior to the summit, attention will be focused on how India navigates these meetings, which are likely to be held in hybrid format. That will enable Pakistan to participate without its defence and foreign ministers visiting India. Its approach on participation has been ambivalent till now. While it participated in the SCO chief justices' meeting through a Supreme Court Judge, the Pakistan foreign ministry official spokesperson confirmed that a 'delegation from Joint Staff Headquarters' physically attended an expert working group meeting which works under the SCO defence ministers. Pakistan also

ATTENTION NOW ON HOW INDIA WILL NAVIGATE THE UPCOMING SCO, G20 MEETINGS

objected to India disallowing its delegation from taking part in an SCO meeting of 'Armed Forces Contribution in Military Medical, Healthcare and Pandemics' because of its insistence on using a map showing Kashmir as a part of Pakistan. Naturally, India will object to such a map. In 2020, NSA Ajit Doval had walked out of a virtual meeting when the Pakistani NSA projected the objectionable map as a background. That was the right course to adopt, especially as the host, Russia, had cautioned against raising a controversial bilateral matter.

The question is, what would India do if Pakistani ministers in the SCO meetings, either participating virtually or physically, raise controversial issues or behave inappropriately? As China and Russia have stakes in the smooth conduct of the organisation, it would be best if they and the SCO secretariat are asked to advise Pakistan to conduct itself in keeping with the basic principles of the organisation so that India is not compelled to take action that its people would expect their government to take. Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto has, in the past, used unacceptable language against PM Modi; hence, his friends - the Chinese - should specially warn him against any theatrics if he decides to take part in the SCO meeting.

What India will have to expect is that the Russians and the Chinese will have a go at the West and, in particular, the US, in their statements. At the summit, Iran will join the SCO;

so its President, who will surely attend, will also make strident statements against the West. This will give the Chinese satisfaction because they have brokered the re-establishment of diplomatic contacts between Iran and Saudi Arabia. There is little that India will be able to do to control what the Russians will say. It is likely that foreign minister Lavrov will take part in the Goa meeting, but will President Putin attend the summit? He was present in Samarkand and would not perhaps miss the Delhi summit.

The SCO meetings and summit will be taking place in the midst of the continuing war in Ukraine. In Samarkand, Modi had told Putin that today was not an era of war. Clearly, that did not make an impact on the Russian President. Western leaders will want Modi to press on Putin to put an end to the aggression. Modi will therefore have to navigate a difficult situation, especially as the G20 Summit will be held in Delhi in September.

The Samarkand Declaration did not refer to the Ukraine war or any specific international or regional issue, except the situation in Afghanistan. It will not be difficult to reach a Delhi Declaration on the lines of the Samarkand example, even if India has inhibitions on new proposals moved by China and Pakistan.

The problem is that it will not be easy to work out a G20 Summit declaration by consensus. India would like that clean consensus documents emerge from both summits.

RADHIKA APTE UNVEILS HER CHARACTER IN ACTION-COMEDY 'MRS UNDERCOVER'

ACCLAIMED ACTRESS RADHIKA APTE TALKS ABOUT PLAYING A HOUSEWIFE AND UNDERCOVER AGENT IN THE SPY COMEDY 'MRS UNDERCOVER'.

Acclaimed actress Radhika Apte talks about playing a housewife and undercover agent in the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover'. Radhika will play the role of Durga, a former undercover agent who turns homemaker, and is called back on duty after ten years. She discovers that getting back is not easy because after marriage she has forgotten everything, having devoted all her time to her family.

The 37-year-old actress said: "For me, 'Mrs Undercover' is special for many reasons. Not only is spy comedy an unexplored genre in India, but at the very first narration of this film I fell for my

character. Durga is funny, kind, sincere, she is also clumsy and unsure of herself and this film is her journey of discovering her own strength." Radhika said that every woman will relate to her on-screen character Durga as it is a story of every housewife who gives up her dreams of a career for family.

"Every household has a Durga, a woman who quietly goes about her work and doesn't get her due because she is considered 'just a housewife,'" Radhika pointed out.

"This film fights that mindset which prevails in our patriarchal society, and it's done beautifully in the guise of humour."



PM NARENDRA MODI MEETS 'BRILLIANT TEAM' BEHIND 'THE ELEPHANT WHISPERERS'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met documentary film maker Karthi Gonsalves and producer Guneeet Monga, who made the Oscar award winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers'. "The cinematic brilliance and success of 'The Elephant Whisperers' has drawn global attention as well as acclaim. Today, I had the opportunity to meet the brilliant team associated with it. They have made India very proud," the Prime Minister tweeted after meeting the two ladies. Gonsalves has directed the award winning documentary, while Monga produced it.

'The Elephant Whisperers' won the Oscar award for the best documentary short film at the 95th Academy Awards ceremony earlier this month.

The documentary is about the bond that develops between a couple and an orphaned baby elephant, Raghu, who was entrusted to their care.

Manoj Bajpayee: I Find It Challenging To Work In Formulaic Films

Manoj Bajpayee has shared what motivated him to come on board the documentary 'The Vial', which is all about the development of the Covid vaccine.

The celebrated actor also talked about the kind of cinema he preferred to be a part of and how excited he is about his upcoming movie 'Banda'.

Bajpayee told agencies: "There were three reasons that inspired me to become a part of 'The Vial'. First, it was the unwavering conviction of the producers, director, and channel that impressed me. Second, the documentary aimed to shed light on the pandemic that we all have experienced, and I wanted to pay homage to the health workers, frontline workers, and scientists who worked tirelessly to develop vaccines across all regions."

"And third, I was keen to work in this field as a way of showing my support



and appreciation for these individuals." Discussing the most difficult aspect of creating this documentary, Bajpayee said: "As for me, the most challenging part was

memorizing all the information and lines that were required of me as an actor and narrator. Having already worked on two documentaries, 'Secrets of Simauli' and

'Kohinoor', I was familiar with the narration aspect, but memorizing all the necessary information was a significant challenge." When asked if he prefers commercial cinema or independent cinema, Bajpayee elaborated: "I don't prefer one over the other. For me, what matters most is the story. I find it challenging to work in formulaic films where I already know the beginning, middle, and end. I believe the story must be unique, and the character should be something that audiences have not seen before."

He concluded by sharing his excitement about his upcoming movie 'Banda' and said: "The film is directed by Apoorv Singh Karki. Its story is unique and inspired by true incidents. It revolves around a lawyer's journey as he fights a difficult case. It's a character that I've never played before, and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Late Actor Satish Kaushik To Be Seen In 'Mirg' Along With Raj Babbar



Late actor-director Satish Kaushik will soon be seen in one of his last films titled 'Mirg', which is ready for release after rounding up its post-production work.

The film also features Raj Babbar, Anup Soni and Shwetaabh Singh in pivotal roles.

The film, which is centred around the legend of the mountain leopard popular in the lower regions of Himachal Pradesh, is a genre-bending story of a heist-gone-wrong revenge drama.

Jatin Goswami On Working With Late Satish Kaushik In 'Patna Shuklaa': He Was A Mind Blowing Story Teller

Talking about the film, director Tarun Sharma said: "My main aim while approaching 'Mirg' was to give the audience an engaging film. Every aspect of filmmaking should come together to create something engaging, transporting people into an alternate reality." "That for me is the magic of cinema. I was blessed with a wonderful and involved crew."

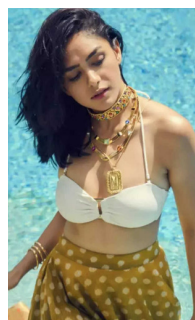
Mrunal Thakur On Her Teary-Eyed Social Media Post: Thin Line Between Feeling Low And Seeking Help

The daily lives of stars may appear rosy on social media but they too go through moments of vulnerability and under-confidence, says actor Mrunal Thakur.

The 30-year-old actor recently gave a glimpse of a bad day in her life when she posted a teary-eyed photo of hers on Instagram Stories and stressed about taking one day at a time.

Thakur, known for movies such as "Love, Sonia", "Super 30" and "Sita Ramam", said she felt at ease after she vented out her emotions. "Sometimes you want to hear good things, you want that push from someone and after putting that post out, I felt so relaxed. Most people have stopped being vulnerable. There are days when we feel low, sad, we feel under confident but that does not mean that a big word (depression) is to be used. "There is a thin line between feeling low and seeking help. I am just saying, don't be afraid of being vulnerable, just own it," she told agencies in an interview.

The "Jersey" actor said the intention behind sharing the post was not to grab headlines.



"In today's world, especially with social media, everything looks nice, pretty and aspirational but trust me there is a lot of hard work that goes behind that. There are a lot of problems that the actor or the personality faces. So, that post was just to normalise feeling vulnerable," she added. Thakur said she is glad to have listened to her "inner voice" and

shared her feelings with the world. "Today, I feel like I have heard my inner voice in a world where there are so many voices around me. I choose to listen to my inner voice. So I am really happy," she added.

On the work front, Thakur will next be seen in crime-thriller "Gumraah", drama "Pooja Meri Jaan" with Huma Qureshi, war drama "Pippa", R Balki's "Lust Stories 2", and Telugu family drama "Nani 30".

The actor is playing a cop "Gumraah", a character that she says is "a passionate and tough woman" and gave her the opportunity to explore something new.

"One of the reasons I did this movie is because I have seen actresses, who I really dream of working with, play such strong roles and their journey. For the first time, I didn't have to play a sister, a wife and lover, I was just doing my job in this movie so it was interesting," Thakur said.

The Hindi-language crime thriller film, which is directed by debutante director Vardhan Ketkar, is a remake of the 2019 Tamil film "Thadam".



We Need More Inclusive: 'The Power' Star John Leguizamo On Changing Power Structures In Hollywood

John Leguizamo, known for his roles in "Moulin Rouge!" and "Carlito's Way", believes his upcoming series "The Power" reflects the changing gender dynamics in Hollywood where more women are taking up leadership roles.

The new Prime Video show is based on author Naomi Alderman's 2016 novel, about teenage girls suddenly developing the power to electrocute people.

Leguizamo stars as Rob, whose daughter is among the girls who acquire the superpower. His wife is Margot

Cleary-Lopez, the mayor of Seattle, played by Australian actor Toni Collette.

The actor said women in Hollywood have made huge strides despite the many obstacles they encounter every day.

"I mean, look at the women who were nominated as directors this year at the Oscars, non-existent. And yet women are moving into areas of power, more directing, more executives," Leguizamo told PTI in an interview.

It is beautiful to see when women are running things and we need more of it, more inclusion, the 62-year-old actor

added.

"Hollywood is grappling with the fact that white people are only 59 per cent of the population of the US but they have 100 per cent of the roles and the executives... And now they have to start divvying up power and this series encapsulates that."

"You see you teenage girls in South Africa, Atlanta, Seattle and London; white girls, black girls, Latin girls, Asian girls; getting power and being able to take charge of their lives in a way that needs to exist in the real world, but doesn't really exist in the real world yet."

Leguizamo's character of Rob is a "new type of male", said the actor, known for featuring in movies such as "Romeo + Juliet", "Chef" and "John Wick" franchise.

"We all crafted this character to create this new type of male. What a lot of guys are going through and should be going through is being able to give up a little bit of power because men have had privilege."

"Also to be a man who can support a woman who's more powerful than him, more ambitious than him, whose career is more important than his and still be okay with himself. I

think that's a wonderful type of new masculinity that we all need to start embracing," he added.

The actor said there are many men who are happy to play the role of "Mr Moms" in their households.

"I'm the moneymaker in my house, but I have friends who aren't the money makers and they're the Mr. Moms and they're very content. They're very happy and they're cool, not jealous of their wives' power or anything. They think they can do what they want, they can achieve as well," he added.



Boost your brain power: Increase your magnesium intake with these tips



Are you feeling forgetful or struggling to concentrate? Your diet may be to blame. Recent research has shown a strong link between magnesium intake and brain health, especially in women. Unfortunately, many people don't get enough magnesium in their diets. But don't worry, increasing your magnesium intake can be simple and delicious with a few easy tips. Read on to learn how to increase magnesium levels in your body for better brain health.

A recent study conducted by researchers at the Australian National University has found a

strong link between dietary magnesium intake and brain health. The study revealed that both men and women who consumed higher levels of magnesium had larger brain volumes.

However, the study's findings showed that the neuroprotective effects of magnesium were particularly significant in women, particularly post-menopausal women.

Based on these results, the researchers recommend increasing magnesium intake from an early age to potentially safeguard against neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's in the future.

Magnesium is an essential mineral that is required for several important bodily functions, including regulating blood pressure, supporting nerve and muscle function, and maintaining healthy bones. However, many people do not consume enough magnesium in their diets. In fact, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), around 50 percent of the population does not get the recommended daily amount of magnesium.

How to increase magnesium levels in your body? Luckily, increasing magnesium levels is easy with a few

simple changes. If you show signs of magnesium deficiency, or in general too, here are some tips to help you increase your magnesium intake.

bottled water.

3. Consider taking a magnesium supplement. If you're unable to get enough magnesium from your diet, you may want to

It is important that we get a balance of all nutrients and minerals on a regular basis for a healthy functioning. But some minerals like magnesium gets left out. Here are some tips to increase your magnesium intake.

1. Eat magnesium-rich foods. One of the best ways to increase your magnesium intake is to eat foods that are naturally high in magnesium. Some examples of magnesium-rich foods include:
 - * Dark leafy greens: Spinach, kale, and cabbage are excellent sources of magnesium.
 - * Nuts and seeds: Almonds, cashews, pumpkin seeds, and sesame seeds are all good sources of magnesium.
 - * Whole grains: Brown rice, quinoa, and whole wheat bread are all high in magnesium.
 - * Legumes: Lentils, chickpeas, and black beans are all good sources of magnesium.
2. Choose magnesium-fortified foods. Many foods are now fortified with magnesium to help you reach your daily intake goals. Some examples of magnesium-fortified foods include breakfast cereals, milk and some brands of
3. Consider taking a magnesium supplement. Talk to your doctor before starting any new supplements.
4. Limit caffeine and alcohol intake. According to studies, both caffeine and alcohol can interfere with magnesium absorption, so it's a good idea to limit your intake of these substances.
5. Cook with herbs and spices. Some herbs and spices, such as basil, coriander and cumin, are rich in magnesium. Try adding these herbs and spices to your meals to increase your magnesium intake.
6. Increase intake of fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are generally rich in a variety of vitamins and minerals, including magnesium. Some examples of fruits and vegetables that are high in magnesium include bananas, avocados, figs, and sweet potatoes.

Navratri 2023: Nutritionist Explains Why Samak Rice Should Be A Part Of Your Diet While Fasting



The festival of Navratri has begun and it's time to indulge in vrat-special meals. When it comes to eating, the festival has some restrictions that involve abstaining from consuming flour, oily and greasy food, and regular grains. With this, Navratri serves an opportunity to get healthier by adopting the sattvik diet and ditching unhealthy foods. Among the several foods consumed during the festival is samak chawal. It is used in several vrat recipes ranging from kheer and chilla to paratha.

Having a taste similar to that of broken rice, samak rice can be beneficial for your health.

According to nutritionist Lovneet Batra, samak rice has low phytic acid, which is an anti-nutrient found naturally in plants. Phytic acid hinders the absorption of minerals like magnesium and calcium in the body. So eating samak rice can help you reap the benefits of eating fruits or other nutritious food.

The nutritionist explains that samak rice is also rich in dietary fibre and has ample amounts of soluble and insoluble fractions.

If you are observing fast for the first time this Navratri, then there are certain things you need to keep in mind. Below are the tips you can follow during Navratri fasts.

Keep it real

It is advised to take things slow so that your body gets time to adjust to the change in routine. More stringent forms of fast such as nirjala vrat, in which people don't drink water, should be avoided if you are a beginner.

Stay under control

When certain kinds of foods are not eaten during Navratri fast, it doesn't mean that you will go overboard with those which are allowed to be consumed. So, eat in moderation.

Caffeine during periods: Why should you cut down on your consumption

CAFFEINE DURING PERIODS, IS CAFFEINE GOOD FOR PERIODS, CAFFEINE PERIOD CRAMPS, CAFFEINE AND MENSTRUATION, DOES DRINKING CAFFEINE AFFECT YOUR PERIODS, HEALTH SHOTS

You need energy in the morning or just want to stay up, you grab a cup of coffee or tea. Caffeine seems to be the perfect solution for someone who needs additional energy to get through a long day at work. So, it can be a great remedy. In fact, some need to have a cup of coffee or tea on their desk at all times. But should you have caffeine during menstruation? Will having caffeine make your period cramps worse? Let's find out what an expert has to say about consuming caffeine during periods.

Health Shots connected with Hari Lakshmi, Consultant, Dietitian, Nutritionist, Motherhood Hospitals, Alwarpet, Chennai, to find out if having caffeine during menstruation is a good idea or not.

Caffeine isn't limited to your coffee, but can be found in some

chocolates and energy drinks too. So, it can go into your body through various foods or drinks. If you are a caffeine addict, excessive caffeine consumption can be quite harmful, especially for menstruating women, says Lakshmi. Here's how it will affect your health:

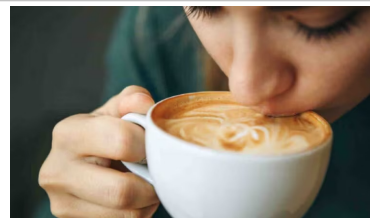
Here are some products that you can try:

3. Dehydration

Large coffee consumption may increase urination during menstruation.

This in turn leads to a loss of vital physiological fluids. Instead of a caffeinated beverage, drink lots of water to keep the body hydrated and lessen your chance of getting bad period symptoms.

Coffee inhibits a hormone that can constrict blood arteries and impede blood flow. It can contribute to bloating and stomach



pain. So, consuming caffeinated drinks may worsen cramps or period pain.

How we metabolise caffeine depends on factors like genetics, tolerance, age, weight, and liver function. According to the Food and Drug Administration, most people can safely consume 400 mg of caffeine daily that is around four cups of coffee. If

you just got down, limit your caffeine intake. But the expert says that the exact amount of how much you should cut down, depends on how your body processes caffeine.

Expert says that coffee contains caffeine, which might boost oestrogen, worsening the situation for women on periods. Although some claim that it

eases menstrual discomfort, the truth is that it just makes periods more uncomfortable.

Consuming coffee during periods is also connected to longer, heavier periods and other irregularities, according to a 2014 study published in the Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences. It also says that habitual use of caffeine needs to be considered as a risk factor for most of the menstrual abnormalities.

Well, caffeine is not only responsible for missed or irregular periods, but there are other factors too. Some of them are a high-carbohydrate diet, rapid weight loss, stress and heavy drinking.

Things you can do to ensure you have healthy periods taking a break from caffeine is one way to have healthy periods. You can also experience healthy periods by doing the following!

20 Best Healthy Carbs For Weight Loss

When it comes to weight loss, if you think all carbs are not your friend, think again. Spoiler alert: You're perfectly capable of getting lean without eradicating carbs from your diet—the trick is to choose just the right healthy carbs for weight loss. We spoke with the experts who share their two cents on the healthiest carbs that can actually help you slim down. "Carbs are not only an essential macronutrient, but I call them 'happy foods.' Without enough, you are left unsatisfied and hungry, which eventually leads to binging on all things carbs later in the day," Laura Burak MS, RD, founder of Get Naked Nutrition and author of Slim Down with Smoothies, tells Eat This, Not That!

But there's a fine line between carbs that contain added sugar, such as cookies, candy, and ice cream, and "quality carbs," as Burak dubs them, that are naturally packed with fiber and nutrients. These types of good-for-you carbs "work FOR your body"—not against it—by helping you feel fuller for a longer period of time and keeping your blood sugar stable.

What makes carbs "healthy carbs"?

The three main groups of carbohydrates are as follows:

- Simple carbohydrates are essentially sugars. These types of carbs are naturally in fruits, veggies, and milk products, but you'll also recognize them in unhealthy processed foods and refined grains via "added sugar." (Think processed, refined sugars like soft drinks, candy, and syrups, per MedlinePlus.) Your body breaks down simple carbs fast to utilize them for fuel, leaving you craving even more carbs, which can result in weight gain.

Independent investigations have supported that it can enhance memory function. It has been suggested for usage in patients with moderate cognitive impairment and

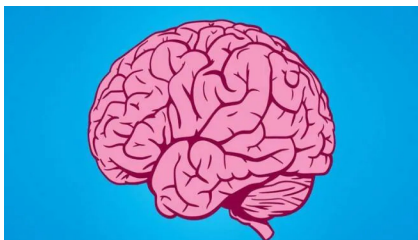
Best Brain Supplements for Memory and Focus in 2023

Our brain functions can slow down as we age. Your mental performance can also be greatly diminished if you suffer from excessive stress and anxiety because of your job. One simple way to solve this issue and start feeling more active is to start using brain supplements. These will make you feel more energetic and alert. They enhance memory, speed up brain performance, and enhance cognitive wellness.

4 Best Brain Supplements you can Buy

The brain supplements or nootropics market is now expanding, with new products always becoming available. In addition, research in this area is getting more funding every year. Best brain supplements can help you stay mentally active whether you're a busy professional or a student.

Natural components are used to create nootropics that enhance cognitive performance and may even help your long-term general brain health. Medical professionals concur that these products are typically safe when used as recommended. However, you can do some research to find out about their effectiveness



and safety before you start using them.

These are the best brain supplements:

1. NooCube - Best Brain Supplement Overall * Editor's Choice*
2. Mind Lab Pro Top All in One Nootropic Supplement
3. Hunter Focus - Best for Memory and Focus
4. Brain Pill - Energy Boost and Clarity

NooCube is produced by Wolfson

Brands, a wellness firm that started operating in 2016. They take pride in their cutting-edge research while developing their goods. NooCube is designed for "people with deadlines," which we may interpret as professionals and students of all ages.

The main emphasis of the supplement appears to be on improving cognitive function. NooCube contains no caffeine and uses strictly natural ingredients. Many people who wish to restrict their caffeine intake but want to enjoy the advantages of a

high-quality nootropic will find this very helpful.

The best neuroscientists were employed to help create NooCube, which increases brain productivity. It

Moreover, addressing the metabolism can affect immunological responses, reduce inflammation, and positively impact many other aspects of health, including mood, sleep, and

immunity. You may take advantage of these benefits of NooCube nootropic without a prescription. It guarantees that you can finish a task without halting or becoming side-tracked. It is, in essence, a one-stop everyday solution that appeals to both men and women of all ages. It is also a risk-free product that boosts energy and enables you to do more without exerting yourself.

The Ingredients of NooCube are Highly Effective

- * Bacopa Monnieri extract

This herb, also known as water hyssop, is often found in marshes all throughout the world but is especially prevalent in India. It is included in the best brain supplements because it improves memory and relieves anxiety. It has been used medicinally for ages, and it has even been used to

NATURAL COMPONENTS ARE USED TO CREATE NOOTROPICS THAT ENHANCE COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE AND MAY EVEN HELP YOUR LONG-TERM GENERAL BRAIN HEALTH.

blends 13 all-natural substances with scientific backing to strengthen brain conditions. It addresses the underlying causes of cognitive problems, unlike the works of many other brain supplements. Consequently, NooCube is special and can enhance memory, mental clarity, nerve growth, and many other things.

In addition, unlike other stimulants that alter brain blood flow or body metabolism, the NooCube supplement modifies metabolism and brain connectivity. A recent study suggests that the stomach may have a greater impact on brain health than previously thought. Thus, scientists believe that focusing on gut health, creating long-chain fatty acids, and promoting the actions of neurotransmitters are the best ways to avoid neurodegenerative diseases.

It has been used medicinally for ages, and it has even been used to

early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

- * Lutemax 2020

With the help of three macular carotenoids called Lutemax 2020, oxidative stress is reduced. Studies show that Lutemax 2020 enhances concentration, learning performance, attention, and sleep habits and organically fosters a better brain-eye connection. Moreover, it safeguards neurotransmitters.

- * L-Tyrosine

It is an amino acid that the body can naturally make from another amino acid - phenylalanine). Therefore, it is an ingredient of many brain supplements. L-Tyrosine is necessary for the synthesis of certain brain chemicals, for the production of melatonin, and for the proper operation of organs that control hormones. Its utilization in NooCube focuses on its



Chief Justice presides Awareness Programme on Drug Addiction & Substance Abuse - Prevention and Challenges at GDC (Boys), Pulwama

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, MARCH 30: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), Justice N. Kottiswar Singh in the august presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority today presided over an Awareness Programme on Drug Addiction and Substance Abuse - Prevention and Challenges at Govt. Degree College (Boys), here.

The programme was organized by District Legal Service Authority Pulwama under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Social Welfare and Health Departments. On the arrival, the Chief Justice was given ceremonial guard of honour. Upon arrival the Chief Justice planted a chinara tree in the premises of Govt. Degree College (Boys) Pulwama.

The Chief Justice was informed by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama that during the last one year under such special plantation drives about 1.5 lakh trees have been planted and locally prepared vermicompost has been used during the plantation drive.

During his key note address, Chief Justice, N. Kottiswar Singh lauded the role of District Legal Service Authority and J&K Legal Services Authority in organizing such kind of awareness programmes which is the need of hour to educate the youth that has fallen prey to the menace of drug abuse. The Chief Justice impressed upon the audience to follow the golden rule of Prevention is Better than Cure.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, in his address delineated the main purpose of organizing this awareness programme which is



to disseminate information regarding the pros and cons of use of drugs that has become a great threat to our society as every second person is consuming drugs due to one or the other reason, knowing fully its ill effects on the health of an individual.

Referring to a question raised in the parliament, Justice Tashi informed the gathering that about 10 lakh cases of drug abuse have been identified in UT of J&K with a substantial number of women addicts. He also highlighted the seriousness of the problem and urged all the stakeholders to work collectively to eradicate this menace from the society.

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Naser Ahmed Dar, Chairman DLSA Pulwama welcomed the dignitaries and the Chief Justice for conceiving a programme on such an important social evil, which is affecting the youth of this Country.

The highlight of the programme was that the two expert speakers Dr. Majid, a renowned Psychiatrist and Pallavi Singh, Director, J&K Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses delivered their respective addresses in Urdu as well as Kashmiri language so that the message of this awareness programme reaches to the general masses.

Dr. Majid highlighted the role of medical experts in treating the persons effected by substance misuse and also underlined the initiatives taken by the Union Govt. And the UT Administration in this regard.

He also informed that all the hospitals in J&K have a dedicated facility of De-addiction centres and the government has already notified helpline numbers for easy access to such facilities by the needy and effected person.

Other expert Pallavi Singh also highlighted the role of parents and teachers in

reformation of drug addicts.

After the programme the students of the Govt. Degree College (Boys), Pulwama requested the Chief Justice for opening of a Legal Literacy Club and considering their demand the Chief Justice issued on spot instructions to Member Secretary, J&K LSA to ensure that the same is established as early as possible.

Later, the Chief Justice also inaugurated a Legal Aid Clinic at Panchayat Garh Nixas, Pulwama in presence of Executive Chairman, J&K LSA.

During his address to the local gathering at the spot, the Chief Justice elaborately explained the purpose of such clinics and support centres in the villages which perform the role of first point of contact between the Legal Aid Seeker and the System. The Chief Justice also explained the role performed by Para Legal Volunteers in remote corner of a particular region. On learning about the opening of a Legal Aid Clinic at a place from where no lawyer belongs, the Chief Justice said that the Legal Aid Clinic would be all the more beneficial for the locals of the area.

During the programme Y P Bourney, Registrar, Vigilance; M. K. Sharma Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority; Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar IT; Mansoor Ahmad Lone, CJM Pulwama; Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Mohammad Yousef Choudhary, SSP Pulwama; Advocate G.M Dar, President Bar Association, Pulwama; Kayaz Ahmad Choudhary, Secretary DLSA Pulwama; Principal Government Degree College Pulwama and others officers of District Pulwama were also present on this occasion.

FCS&CA Deptt conducts Market Checking at Baramulla

FINE REALIZED ON SHOPKEEPERS FOR VIOLATING LEGAL REGULATIONS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MARCH 30: In order to ensure the quality and price control besides keeping vigil on erring traders, a market checking team of Flying Squad Enforcement Wing FCS&CA Baramulla today conducted a massive Market Checking at various locations of Baramulla town.

The drive was conducted across the district as per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar after reports that some erring traders and shopkeepers are charging exorbitant rates dealing with different consumable items.

During the inspection, the checking team realized a fine of Rs 11400 on various shopkeepers for violating the legal regulations at the main market Baramulla. They also destroyed contaminated vegetables and spices.

On the occasion, Flying Squad Enforcement Wing FCS&CA Baramulla reiterated that a drive has been conducted in order to ensure the quality and price control besides keeping vigil on erring traders. It was said that such drives will be conducted on a routine basis so that quality of commodities is ensured.

Meanwhile, all the traders were urged not to violate the rules and were directed for displaying the rate lists at their respective trade centres.

JKPaySys to remain operational on 31st March for generation, submission of bills to treasuries

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 30: The JKPaySys shall remain operational on 31st March 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM for generation and submission of bills to treasuries.

According to a circular issued here today by the Finance Department in this regard, the DDOs shall generate/submit bills after observing all prescribed codal formalities and any lapse on part of rejection made at treasuries for want of codal formalities/miscalculation will be sole responsibility of DDO concerned.

The circular read that the DDOs shall submit the hard copies of the bills to concerned treasuries by or before 12:00 O'clock. The Bills/ Claims so presented are liable to special audit, wherever required.

The document further said that the Treasury Officers shall entertain the claims from DDO's duly completed in all respects upto prescribed timings and subsequently submit the liability by or before 1:00 PM to respective Directorates who in turn submit to Directorate General Accounts and Treasuries by 1:30 PM.

Besides, the payments authorized on 31.03.2023 are processed well in time to avoid last minute rush on various applications as per special arrangement put in place by RBI.

Treasury Officers will not leave the treasuries unless successful information regarding acknowledgement approved, debit notification is received from RBI.

Any information regarding acknowledgement rejected, return notification for the payments processed on last day of Financial Year (if any) from RBI is communicated to respective DDOs/NIC well in time for correction/rectification.

ART OF LIVING UTKARSH YOGA WORKSHOP CONCLUDES AT BALGRAN

The four day Art of Living workshop UTKARSHA YOGA organised by the Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and Art of Living Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh concludes at Balgran, Jammu. Utkarsha Yoga is a meticulously designed program by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar exclusively for the children. The program focuses on all round development of children in a holistic way. The breathing techniques taught in the program gives the children the essential tools to overcome negative emotions such as fear, shyness, nervousness, anxiety, frustration, jealousy etc. easily. Nearly seventy children attended the workshop and received the training. During the workshop the children were trained in yoga, pranayam, suryanamaskar, bhastrika, bharamari and Sudarshankriya meditation. The children also learnt the five keys of wisdom which are useful for overall development of the children. Besides this, the soft skills were also imparted to the students such as communication skills, public speaking, mind management, time management, eating and sleeping habits, control over emotions in a play way method. After attending the workshop children shared their experiences and felt happy after having got trained through different techniques of meditation Sudarshan kriya. The workshop was conducted by two senior Art of living teachers Anju Gupta and Dr Anujasrotia and assisted by dedicated team of AOL teachers and volunteers Sunny, Ranjoy, Anjali, Avnika & Jyegeswar. Dr Seema Kohmetra Director Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Jammu in her valedictory address highlighted the role of such workshops in moulding the character of young students. Such initiatives can indeed go a long way in contributing towards stress free and violence free societies, she said. She further Added that to make such workshops a success in real sense of the term, it is important to have the follow up sessions. So it was decided that Madam Anju Gupta, senior faculty from AOL will be taking follow up sessions on alternate Saturdays to make a positive impact on the young minds. Ajay Kapoor state Coordinator - Art of Living Bureau of communications and Projects coordinated the event. He in his address said "The entire program is playful, effortless, engaging and fun-filled, all exercises and processes are designed specifically for this age group which gives them a chance to express, involve and learn by experience. Among others who attended the closing ceremony included...Dr.SapnaSangra, Dr Shubha Vats, Dr Monica Narang, Dr.MrinaliniTrey, Dr.Renu Janmal from JU, RajanSalalia STCand senior faculty from AOL namely Prabha Salathia, Ajay Gupta, Suman Sharma, Kuleep Sharma, TahinaSalalia.

NCORD - DC Anantnag calls for coordinated action against Drug Abuse

JJ NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MARCH 30: NCORD meeting was held here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated action against drugs. He said that Police and Drug Control Officers are making efforts to ensure the supply of drugs and substances of abuse is restricted.

He said that society, teachers, health professionals and PRIs need to ensure that through counselling young minds are made aware of the threat drugs pose to them and to the society as a whole.

He said that teens are most vulnerable and need special attention to keep them away from this menace and parents and teachers have best access to youth for counselling



them. He appreciated the efforts of the Health and Education department whereby training has been imparted to teachers to aid students who fall prey to drugs. He also appreciated the drug awareness camps being held in various parts of the district by NRLM.

SP Anantnag called for an awareness campaign by means of installation of hoardings and other IEC material at conspicuous places to create awareness among the youth.

Drug Control Officer Anantnag said that 335 youth clubs formed in the Panchayats have been made aware about issues related to drug abuse and

have been sensitised to report suspicious activities among their peers so that help can be given where needed.

The meeting was attended by SSP, ADC, Principal GDC, MS GMC Anantnag, PO ICDS, SDMS, CDPO HQ and representatives of NRLM among others.

Ram Navami celebrated with religious fervour at Kheerbawani Temple Tulamulla

DC paid obeisance, inspected arrangements



JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MARCH 30: Ram Navami was today celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety here at Kheerbawani Temple Tulamulla, decorated with flowers and lights. Since early morning, thousands of devotees thronged to the temple and paid obeisance there. They also participated in Arti and Bhajansandhya.

The Deputy Commissioner Ganderal, Shyambir also visited the Temple and paid obeisance there. He also wished happy and prosperous Ram Navami to the people and prayed for peace, prosperity and development of the UT. On the occasion the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the arrangements being put in place by various departments for the devotees and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements, being put in place. Pertinently, the District administration had made elaborated arrangements for the devotees with regard to water and power supply, medical facilities, security arrangements, Bhandara service, arrangements for sanitation and cleanliness and other related arrangements to ensure visiting devotees may not face any inconvenience.

Agriculture deptt organises one day awareness camp for women's SHGs



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MARCH 30: As part of the ongoing nationwide Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and to mark the International Year of Millets 2023, the

Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare organised a one-day awareness camp for women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at panchayat Kanga in Block Gandhri. The camp was attended by 50

women farmers and some prominent men farmers. Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Sudhar Manhas, Agriculture Extension Officer Jagdish Bali and Junior Agriculture Extension Officer, Munish Gupta educated the women, including local Sarpanch, Shakeela Begum, about the nutritional and economic importance of various types of millets and their cultivation. They also informed them about the material support and technical guidance provided by the department.

Each member of the women's SHG was given 2 kg of millet (bajra) and 2kg of turmeric (haladi) on a 50% subsidy to motivate them to cultivate these crops.

The women appreciated the role of the Agriculture Department in uplifting the farming community, especially women.

DC inaugurates New Smart Science Labs at GHSS Girls Kishtwar



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MARCH 30: Government Model Higher Secondary School for Girls Kishtwar has been upgraded with new Smart Science Laboratories under District Capex 2022-23. The inauguration was done by Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav in presence of Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, Sudarshan Sharma today. The school authorities expressed their appreciation for the district administration's initiative, which marks a significant milestone in the education sector of Kishtwar district.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Yadav said that

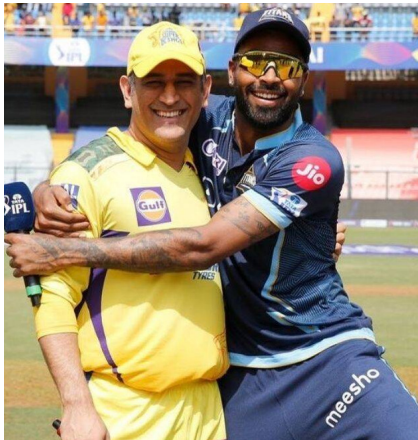
and others to discuss various aspects related to the development and improvement of the school infrastructure and facilities.

Dr Yadav emphasised the need for providing quality education and modern facilities to the students. He expressed his happiness over the inauguration of Smart Science labs in the school, which will provide students with a better learning environment and help them excel in their studies. The DC interacted with the CEO, Sudarshan Kumar Sharma and Incharge Principal KL Sharma to discuss the various challenges faced by the school and find ways to overcome them.

Executive Engineer R&B, Rabinder Kumar; DIO, Kuldeep Kumar and other senior officials were also present at the occasion.



MENTOR VS MENTEE : ITS DHONI VS HARDIK AS BOTH TEAMS FRET ON 'IMPACT PLAYERS'



AHMEDABAD, MAR 30: Hardik Pandya's youthful leadership template will meet its match in Mahendra Singh Dhoni's time-tested improvisations as defending champions Gujarat Titans clash with eternal title contenders Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League opener here on Friday.

The 2022 was Pandya's first year as an IPL captain and despite his flamboyance on and off the field, he did invoke a certain sense of calm in Titans' campaign that had the an identical start to finish tempo, unmatched by any other team.

With Shubman Gill in the form of his life, Rashid Khan not losing one bit of his consistency and Pandya himself having his worth weight in gold, Gujarat are once again the team to beat.

David Miller's absence from the opener due to national duty will reduce some middle-order muscle but Rahul Tewatia, who has improved by leaps and bounds in

recent years, could compensate for the temporary miss.

Kane Williamson might not be most sought after in this format but in low-scoring games on difficult surfaces, he could still be the man to watch out for.

Pandya has never shied away from admitting that he has learnt the ropes of leadership from Dhoni, who has always been his Mentor. But at 42, playing from IPL to IPL, Dhoni knows the template of IPL success only too well. There have been blips here and there, like last time when they failed to qualify for the play-offs but even with shut eyes, one can vouch that there was no fault in planning but the execution wasn't on expected lines. On Friday, as the 16th edition starts, it will be very different from earlier ones as 12 players per side will take part in the pitched battle at the Motera Stadium with the 'Impact Player' rule coming into play for the first time. Dhoni, who manoeuvres his resources having put

in a lot of thought into his actions, might well make himself the 'Impact Player' if need be during chases. That for sure won't happen in the first few games as both teams try to make optimal use of the rule. For CSK, the presence of Ben Stokes is sure to make the opposition wary but to Gujarat Titans' delight, the England Test captain perhaps won't bowl at least in the initial phase of the tournament.

That makes him an ideal candidate as 'Impact Player' depending on whether the team bats first or second and accordingly Dhoni can think of playing three foreigners instead of four.

Devon Conway, Stokes and Moeen Ali at this point look the non-negotiable three starters in the playing eleven.

A lot will depend on how well Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu and Dhoni himself perform with willow as the Indian pace bowling unit of Deepak Chahar and Simarjeet Singh will have their task cut out.

How well Dhoni can use either spinner Mubish Theekana or slinger Matheesa Pathirana will also go a long way establishing a pattern in selections.

As far as GT is concerned, there is one strategic decision which has been baffling and that is release of tear-away quick Lockie Ferguson and bringing in Shivam Mavi. However Alazarri Joseph's presence is a bit reassuring in this format. Save Mohammed Shami, the only other pacer of repute is the skipper himself. Yash Dayal had a good first season hasn't been in great form in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with only 2 wickets from 6 games but to be fair, he was coming back from injury. Pradeep Sangwan and Mohit Sharma are both experienced campaigners but they are now well past their prime.

The other cause of worry for GT will be keeper's slot. While Wriddhiman Saha was decent as an opener last year, they have a better T20 batter in Kona Bharat this time round, who incidentally bats in the top order in the shortest format.

IPL 2023: Abhishek Porel set to replace Rishabh Pant at DC, Sarfaraz to start as first keeper

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: Talented Bengal keeper-batter Abhishek Porel is all set to be the injured Rishabh Pant's replacement at Delhi Capitals in the upcoming Indian Premier League season starting Friday.

DC have been fretting about an Indian replacement for Pant, who met with a horrific car accident late last year and ruled out of competitive cricket for at least one year.

"The DC are likely to put forth Abhishek Porel's name as Rishabh's replacement for the current season. He is only 21 and under the guidance of Ricky Ponting and Sourav Ganguly, could



be groomed as a second option even after Rishabh comes back," an IPL source tracking the developments told PTI on the condition of anonymity. However, maverick Mumbai man Sarfaraz Khan will be the Capitals' No.1 keeper-batter for at least the first few games, as

which is not conducive for strokeplay. The ball won't come on to the bat easily and he is likely to find it difficult against quality spinners. The problem with Phil Salt could be his batting on a Kotla track which is not conducive for strokeplay. The ball won't come on to the bat easily and he is likely to find it difficult against quality spinners. The Delhi Capitals during their first camp in Kolkata had summoned Bengal's Porel, Karnataka's glovesman, Luvnith Sisodia and Saurashtra's domestic giant Sheldon Jackson for the trials but they were undecided.

IPL turns 'Sweet 16' : Dhoni's CSK, Rohit's MI remain premier contenders as Kohli's RCB eye fresh start

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: The never-ending speculations about Mahendra Singh Dhoni's impending 'last dance', Virat Kohli's endless pursuit of an elusive silverware and Rohit Sharma's customary nonchalance are things that make the IPL starting Friday a heady cocktail of cricket and entertainment.

Megastars Dhoni, Kohli and Rohit have been the IPL's driving force in the past 15 seasons, getting the cricket crazy Indian fans hooked on the event for nearly two months every year.

As it enters the 16th season, innovations introduced in the form of potential game changer like the 'Impact Player' rule, DRS on wides and waist-high no balls, and two broadcasting giants locked in an ugly war of TV vs Digital act as ingredients garnishing the mouth-watering dish, which will be devoured by millions for more than 50 days.

However, the product will remain the driving force and players the main stakeholders, as the likes of Dhoni, Kohli and Rohit set the narratives for their respective franchises with amazing fan bases.

Nearing 42, Dhoni has defied the law of diminishing returns when it comes to his manic following among CSK fans, who thronged the Chapeau to see their 'Thala' hit towering sixes at his spiritual home.

'canary yellow' jersey, but when it comes to MSD, never say never. Even Rohit agrees with that, and won't be surprised if his 'captain' continues playing till 45.

Having finished outside the play-offs in 2022, Dhoni would like to equal Mumbai Indians' record with five titles, and he knows how to get the best out of the resources available at his disposal.

He will have Ben Stokes in his roster to give him the firepower in batting - in powerplay and at the back-end.

Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad both understand the grammar of IPL cricket and Ambati Rayudu with the willow and Deepak Chahar with the white Kookaburra have all been there and done that.

CSK has never been a grooming school. There it's more about the finished product or those in whom the skipper sees the potential like he saw in Simarjeet Singh last year, or someone like Matheesa Pathirana, who could be an 'Impact Player' if the CSK begin with three foreigners. Stokes, Moeen Ali and Conway look sure-shot starters as of now.

For Rohit, it will be a season in which he would like to sing the redemption song. Rohit has a casual exterior but scratch the surface, and he can be as intense as anybody, and being the most successful skipper in the history of IPL, losing isn't an option.

Before last year, Rohit never knew what it feels to be the wooden spooner. This season however, Mumbai Indians appear to be the team to beat, at least on paper.

A lot will depend on the skipper's own batting form and the two marquee men in Ishan Kishan and the world's No. 1 T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav, who would like to brush off the three first-ball ducks against Australia recently as an aberration in the otherwise sterling journey. Jofra Archer's presence does boost the pace attack, but Jasprit Bumrah's absence, to some extent, nullifies the advantage.

But what MI is doing is to prepare a team for the next five years with young guns like Dewald Brevis, Tim David, Cameron Green, Tilak Verma, Hritik Shokeen and Kumar Kartikeya set to serve them for the longest time. This core will be a formidable one in the years to come.

Just like Dhoni and Rohit, Kohli has landed up in every IPL with fire in his belly, but the rub of the green hasn't gone his way.

He has had a 973-run season, in 2016, something that will be difficult to surpass even in these day and age where the shelf life of records is too less. He has played a few finals but, as far as winning the title is concerned, the IPL has had a fickle relationship with one of India's greatest batters.

'India had Kohli, Rohit, Dhoni. Our players were yet to lose their milk teeth': Sarfaraz's bombastic remark

LAHORE, MAR 30: The Champions Trophy 2017 win will go down in history arguably as Pakistan cricket's greatest comeback story. Such was the magnitude of the win that many believe it surpassed their 1992 Imran Khan-inspired World Cup win. From being handed a thrashing at the hands of India and nearly getting eliminated to reaching the final and beating their arch-rivals in the final. They don't write stuff like this anymore. Against everyone's hopes and expectations, captain Sarfaraz Ahmed emerged as the national hero as the entire country of Pakistan celebrated one of their most memorable wins, let alone against India.

Six years since, Pakistan cricket has changed drastically. Sarfaraz is no longer captain and had to fight for his way back into the Test side, whereas Babar Azam is looked up as Pakistan's next big thing in world cricket. For Sarfaraz, to win in the

manner that he and his team did - by 180 runs - against a star-studded Indian line-up promises to be the most cherished moment of his career. In 2017, Pakistan was team full of promising youngsters who stunned India in the grand stage of an ICC tournament final when not a single soul in the world gave them a chance.

"This is a memory (winning the Champions Trophy) which I can never forget. To win a final against India cannot be described in words. Had it been a normal match, it wouldn't have been such a big deal. We had won matches against India earlier as well, in ICC events, bilateral series - in fact, we have won more. But to win against such a team, which could chase down any total was incredible," Sarfaraz said on The Nadir Ali Podcast.

"No runs were enough for them. India had MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Yuvraj Singh, Virat

Kohli, whereas we had players who were yet to lose their milk teeth. We had kids, who today are taking Pakistan cricket to greater heights. Babar Azam, Hasan Ali, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, they were all young players. If you compare their team with ours, there was absolutely no comparison. We had only 2 experienced players in Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik. The rest of the guys were so raw and new."

Pakistan's run up to the Champions Trophy final was a roller-coaster ride. After being dished out a 124-run thrashing against India by DLS method, Pakistan got the better of South Africa edging them by 19 runs - also by DLS - to remain alive in the tournament. With Sri Lanka then defeating India, giving themselves a shot at glory, Pakistan needed to be keen in the final group match, the winner of which would have faced England in the semifinal.

'I was thinking about Gaikwad but...': Sehwal names India star who will audition for World Cup in IPL 2023

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: Ishan Kishan had a season to forget during IPL 2022, with Mumbai Indians finishing in what was the bottom of the 10-team table. In what was a disappointing campaign, the Rohit Sharma-led franchise managed to register only eight points in 14 games, winning only four matches and losing 10.

Kishan, in particular, was in shockingly poor form after having been re-purchased by MI for ₹15.25 crore during the IPL 2022 auction. The wicketkeeper-batter managed to register 418 runs in IPL 2022, but his strike rate was on the lower side. Also in international cricket, Kishan has been in poor form after his double century against Bangladesh in December last year, which has also seen him replaced by in-form Shubman Gill.

With Rohit Sharma



and he was adjudged lbw. Speaking Cricbuzz, ex-India opener Virinder Sehwal feels that Kishan will have to open with Gill, but was dismissed for three runs off eight balls. Receiving a length delivery by Marcus Stoinis, around middle. Kishan tried to defend the ball, but failed to connect as it hit his pads

Gaikwad, but Ishan Kishan hasn't scored much runs lately then he hasn't been getting much chances in the Indian team. So he will be aiming to perform well in this IPL, so that he gets selected for the 50-Over World Cup and after that also gets chances to play in T20s," he said.

During his IPL career, Kishan has slammed 1870 runs in 75 games, packed with 12 fifties. If he finds his form, then we could be expecting some massive boundaries from the India international and to add to the dilemma of the selectors ahead of the World Cup.

IPL 2023 is scheduled to begin from March 31, with defending champions Gujarat Titans facing Chennai Super Kings in the season opener, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Madrid Masters: PV Sindhu Enters Quarterfinals After Straight Game Win

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has advanced to the quarterfinals of the Madrid Spain Masters badminton tournament with a straight game win in Madrid on Thursday. (More Badminton News)

Two-time Olympic medalist, Sindhu dispatched Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia 21-16 21-14 in a tittle over half an hour to enter her first quarter-final in 2023.

Second seed Sindhu has been struggling for form



this season since returning to action following a long injury lay off. It is the first time in 2023 that the 27-year-old former world champion has crossed the

eight stage of the Super 300 tournament. Kieran George and Piyanshu Rajawat crashed out of the men's singles event after suffering second round defeats.

While George went down to Denmark's Magnus Johannesen 17-21 12-21 in 31 minutes, Rajat was outplayed 14:21-15:21 by eighth seed Toma Junior Popov of France. Later in the day, Akashshi Kashyap, Ashmita Chahalia, Malvika Bansod and Sameer Verma will play their second round matches.

India's best mental phase that he has been in the past three to four years.

The hunger is intact, but the desperation isn't there. The swagger remains, but the aggression is no longer there to be found.

With Michael Bracewell, Glenn Maxwell and Dinesh Karthik ready to do the heavy-lifting, Kohli will be free to play his own game and also help skipper Faf du Plessis in putting his best foot forward.

This season holds special significance for Hardik Pandya. Having led Gujarat Titans to title triumph in only their inaugural year, the 16th IPL will be a platform for Pandya to soar higher and higher with bigger ambitions.

With coach Ashish Nehra for company, he would want the Rashid Khans, Mohammed Shamis and the Shubman Gill to maintain the tempo of last year from start to finish. An encore would certainly make him Rohit's heir apparent in the ODI format post the World Cup.

The only tactical shift is the absence of Lockie Ferguson and the jury is still out on whether trading him to bring in Shivam Mavi was a good choice or not.

For Aiden Markram, it will be an onerous task to lift a perennially under-performing Sunrisers Hyderabad.

However, the composition is better com-

pared to previous years with talented Indian players like Mayank Agarwal, Rahul Tripathi and Abhishek Sharma in their ranks. Glenn Phillips and Harry Brook are among some top overseas batting recruits.

However, bowling remains a worry with Umran Malik, now well studied by analysts, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's Rajawat. A use their fourth foreign player as per conditions. There is Marco Jansen with his left-arm seamers and Adil Rashid with his wrist spinners. Punjab Kings under Shikhar Dhawan is another team that has never believed in continuity and never got results since their runners-up finish in 2014.

They have kept on changing captains, unceremoniously dumping coaches after one bad season, and the team never had any stability.

This time they have got Sam Curran in excess of USD 2 million dollars. A good start is key but not getting Liam Livingstone (injury), Kagiso Rabada (national duty) in the first couple of games could upset the team's tempo. Save Arshdeep Singh, the Indian pace unit lacks quality and the PBKS could again be out of the play-off race. The team simply doesn't inspire confidence and the composition indicates lack of proper homework.

NSA Doval to raise London HC violence with UK counterpart

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is expected to raise the incident at the Indian High Commission in London during a protest and the pulling down of Indian National Flag by extremists with his UK counterpart Tim Barrow today during the India-UK strategic dialogue meeting in the Capital.



While the national security establishment is tight-lipped about the dialogue, HT learns that NSA Doval will take up the issue forcefully with his counterpart and ask the Rishi Sunak government to take strong action against separatists who are trying to polarize the Indian diaspora in Britain.

While the Indian High Commission in London has filed a complaint with UK Home office and police for the March 19 incident, which followed the crackdown on separatist leader Amritpal Singh's outfit in India, the Delhi Police has also registered an FIR (number 80/23 dated March 23, 2023) on the basis of a complaint made by an Indian national.

The FIR has been registered by Special Cell under sections 109/147/148/149/120-B/448/452/325 of the Indian Penal Code read

with Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (as the Indian HC is sovereign territory of India) and section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act.

On the basis of FIR registered and the demarche to the British Government, NSA Doval is expected to ask the Rishi Sunak government to take immediate action against the chief perpetrator of the protest and the breach of Indian HC, Avtar Singhji Purba aka Khandra and his sponsor Gurpreet Singh Panu, a proscribed leader of UAPA designated Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) separatist organization. media also learns that Indian intelligence agencies asked the British police and British intelligence including MI-5 and MI-6 to act

against Khandra at least three times in the past, but to no avail. The names of Khandra and some of his associated have been shared by Indian intelligence in the past but the British Intelligence and the Foreign Office have been indifferent to the Modi government's concerns, Indian officials said.

People familiar with the matter said the Narendra Modi government is waiting for the British Government to act.

While India's QUAD partners US and Australia have taken action against the extremist followers of Panu and Amritpal Singh, the UK and Canada governments have been more tardy in their approach, and officials cited above added, the officials cited above added, officials said this could affect bilateral relations.

Prime accused Avtar Khandra, who has been

named in the Delhi Police FIR along with others, comes from a family of radicals -- his father was involved in the so-called Khalistan movement and his mother is related to Gurjant Singh Budhsinghwal, a KLF leader with strong links to Pakistani deep state. He took the "student visa" route to enter the UK and then managed to get political asylum in that country.

Subsequently, he became a presenter in UK-based separatist channel KTV along with Jagjeet Singh Jeeta, and continued to push his separatist agenda. The KTV was shut down by British Telecom Regulator Ofcom after the Indian diaspora filed thousands of complaints against the radical agenda promoted by the separatist channel.

Khandra claims association with SAD (Amritsar), headed by Simarjit Singh Mann, but in the UK, the officials cited above added, the lines between the Pakistani deep state, separatist organisations seeking a Sikh state in India, and others, often blurred.

The Thursday dialogue between Doval and Barrow is expected to be candid and blunt as the Modi government has all plans to make Britain accountable for its inaction against extremists.

United State recognises McMahon Line as international boundary between China, India



WASHINGTON, MAR 30: The United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh, according to a bipartisan Senate resolution which sees Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.

"At a time when China continues to pose grave and gathering threats to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, it is crucial for the United States to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our strategic partners in the region, especially India," Senator Bill Hagerty introduced a resolution in the Senate, said

"This bipartisan resolution expresses the Senate's support for unequivocally recognising the state of Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India, condemning China's military aggression to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, and further enhancing the US-India strategic partnership and the Quad in support of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific," he said on Tuesday.

The resolution, which comes following the biggest clash between the Republic of India and China in the Eastern Sector along the Line of Actual Control in six years, reaffirms that the United States recognises the

McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The resolution also pushes back against People's Republic of China (PRC) claims that Arunachal Pradesh is PRC territory, which is a part of the PRC's increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies.

"America's values supporting freedom and a rules-based order must be at the center of all of our actions and relationships around the world, especially as the PRC government pushes an alternative vision," Merley said.

"This resolution makes clear that the United States views the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the Republic of India—not the People's Republic of China—and commits the US to deepening support and assistance to the region, alongside like-minded international partners and donors," he said.

The bipartisan Senators' resolution condemns additional China's provocations, including the People's Republic of China's use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, construction of villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities and features in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of PRC territorial claims in Bhutan.

Drugs for rare diseases exempted fully from basic customs duty

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: The government on Thursday announced a full exemption of drugs and food imported for personal use for the treatment of rare diseases from basic customs duty, saying it will result in substantial cost savings and provide much-needed relief to the patients.

In a notification, the Union finance ministry said the annual cost of treatment for some rare diseases may vary from 710 lakh to over 71 crore annually. It added individual importers need to produce certificates from central or state officials to avail of the exemption for the diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021. Basic customs duty of 10% is generally charged for medicines. In some categories of lifesaving drugs and vaccines, it is either concessional 5% or zero.

Exemptions were earlier provided to specified drugs for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy.

Officials said the government has been getting representations for customs duty relief for medicines used in the treatment of other rare diseases.

Prasanna Kumar Shiroi, the co-founder of the Organisation for Rare Diseases India, welcomed the move while pointing out that it will largely benefit well-to-do people who can afford to import expensive drugs costing crores of rupees. "Not all affected patients can afford to import drugs worth that much money."

Shiroi, who has been working for the rights of patients suffering from rare diseases since 2008, said it was a cumbersome task to seek exemptions

from customs duty that were earlier provided on a case-to-case basis. "Now approval can be sought from local authorities... that is a big relief." He said the move will also boost the free drugs charitable programmes of pharma companies as customs duty is 10% and for a drug costing 71.5 crore annually, it is a lot. "There are other benefits the government is extending under the National Policy For Rare Diseases including one-time allocation of 750 lakh...there is a lot to achieve still." The exemption on Thursday was announced days after Congress lawmaker Shashi Tharoor's tweet about Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's intervention in getting 71 lakh GST exemption for the cancer medication worth 765 lakh of a girl went viral on Tuesday.

1,135 MPs, MLAs from Karnataka have criminal cases against them since 2004: ADR

CHENNAI, MAR 30: An analysis of 8,893 candidates who have either contested the parliamentary or state elections from Karnataka since 2004 showed that 1,135 have pending criminal cases against them, a report by poll watchdog, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) revealed.

The ADR and the Karnataka Election Watch analysed the MPs and MLAs, along with stating the pending criminal cases and financial declarations made by them.

A total of 801 MPs/MLAs who have held seats either in Parliament or state assembly since 2004 from Karnataka have been analysed by

ADR and the Karnataka Election Watch. Out of 801 MPs/MLAs analysed since 2004, 239 (30%) have declared criminal cases against themselves and 150 (19%) have serious criminal cases.

According to the report, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recorded the highest number of such MPs/MLAs with serious criminal cases, at 22% since 2004.

This was followed by the Janata Dal (Secular) at 20% and the Indian National Congress (INC) at 14%.

A total of 1,135 (13%), out of these 8,893 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, the

report stated.

According to the report, BJP recorded the highest number of such candidates with serious criminal cases, at 16% since 2004.

This was followed by the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) at 12%, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) at 5% and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at 2%. MLAs/MPs from the BJP declared the most number of serious criminal cases in their affidavits since 2004, at 22%, the report stated.

The report further bifurcated the analysed candidates and MLAs/MPs on the basis of serious and non-serious criminal cases.

MCKINSEY TO CUT 2,000 JOBS IN ONE OF ITS BIGGEST LAYOFFS: REPORT

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: McKinsey & Co. plans to eliminate about 2,000 jobs, one of the consulting giant's biggest rounds of cuts ever.

The firm known for devising staff-reduction plans for its clients is taking the ax to some of its own, with the move expected to focus on support staff in roles that "don't have direct contact with clients, according to people with knowledge of the matter."

Under a plan dubbed Project Magnolia, the management team is helping the move will help preserve the compensation pool for its partners, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing non-public information.

The firm, which has seen rapid growth in its headcount during the past decade, is looking to restructure how it organizes its support teams to centralize some of the roles.

Israel launches airstrikes in Gaza after intercepting rocket: Report

GAZA, MAR 30: Militants fired a rocket into Israel's south Wednesday, the army said, setting off sirens and raising already heightened tensions under the country's new ultranationalist government.

Early Thursday, the Israeli military said it started attacking targets in the Gaza Strip in response to rockets. According to local media, Israeli fighter jets struck a militant site in the central Gaza Strip. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The rocket from the Gaza Strip was intercepted, according to the military. Israel usually responds to rocket fire with airstrikes, raising the possibility of further escalation.

Local residents reported hearing explosions. Israel's rescue service said it received no reports of injuries except for a 50-year-old woman who slipped and fell while running to a shelter.

The action in Israel's skies Wednesday comes after Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group has threatened Israel over the com-



bative stance of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who has promised harsh treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. From the occupied West Bank to the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, many Palestinians revere prisoners as heroes for the Palestinian cause.

Ben-Gvir said the new rocket fire from Gaza won't stop him from implementing his punitive policies against Palestinian detainees. He called for an urgent Security Cabinet meeting to discuss a response.

Israel-Palestinian violence has spiked in recent days as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visit-

ed with a call for calm.

An Israeli military raid on a militant stronghold in the West Bank city of Jenin last week killed 10, most of them militants.

The next day, a Palestinian shooting attack in an east Jerusalem Jewish settlement killed seven people. A separate east Jerusalem shooting over the weekend by a 13-year-old Palestinian wounded two Israelis.

Following the unrest, Israel approved a series of punitive steps against the Palestinians.

Hamas issued a statement Tuesday condemning alleged assaults by prison guards against Palestinian detainees

Covid spike in Delhi: CM Kejriwal to hold review meeting tomorrow

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: The Delhi government is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will hold a review meeting on the matter on Friday, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said. Bharadwaj also assured people that there was no need to panic since the hospitalisation rate was low. He was speaking after holding a meeting on Thursday to review the COVID-19 situation in the national capital amid a spurt in cases.

The meeting saw the attendance of senior health department officials, medical directors of state-run hospitals, epidemiologists and virologists. "We reviewed the situation. We have asked hospitals to advise coronavirus tests to those who are symptomatic. People visiting hospitals should wear masks," he said.

The minister said the health department will brief Kejriwal on Friday on the situation following which he will issue directions to the government.

"The chief minister will also be briefed about the Covid situation in other states and how they are tackling the rise in cases," he added. Bharadwaj also said genome sequencing of samples is also being carried out and nothing worrisome has been found till now. The meet came a day after Delhi's COVID-19 cases climbed to 300 for the first time since August 31 last year, while the positivity rate rose to 13.89 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department.

Bharatiya Janta Party banks on welfare schemes, PM's popularity in Karnataka

NEW DELHI, MAR 30: New Delhi Welfare schemes, a focus on development, and the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will work in the party's favour in the coming elections in Karnataka, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders said, adding that the recent rejig in reservation and sub-categorisation of quotas for people from the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and other backward classes will help the party's back anti-incumbency to retain power in the state.

As Bihar the governments then came up with schemes for these targeted sub-groups such as the Maha Dalits, the Ati Pichda (most backward classes). Last week, the Karnataka



This functionary added that the decision to bring in more castes into the ambit of caste-based reservation and raising the quotas for various castes will reap dividends for the party. SC and ST voters make up 24.5% of the electorate in the state, while OBCs Lingayats and Vokkaligas account for 14% and 11% respectively. Muslims

make up roughly 16% of the state's electorate.

"Earlier, the benefits of reservation used to be limited to castes with more heft, depriving smaller groups. In states such

government reached out to Lingayats and Vokkaligas by announcing an additional 2% (each) reservation for them. The two castes are included in the state's OBC list. While the government scrapped quotas for Muslims (saying reservations for them would come from the 22% quota for economically weaker sections), it increased the reservation for STs from 1% to 7% and SCs from 15% to 37%.

This will have a "huge impact," the functionary claimed. The social engineering formula, will also give the BJP an edge over the Congress that is counting on the 16% Muslim votes in the state, this person said. "The Congress, when it

was in power, neither added newer castes to the existing list nor did they increase the overall percentage of reservation... however, in an unconstitutional way they earmarked 4% reservation for Muslims."

Amid reports that the party is facing resentment from the Lingayat community for replacing community strongman BS Yediyurappa with BS Bommai as Chief Minister, a second senior functionary said the party has been able to address this.

"Both the former CM and the current CM have joined forces to ensure the party's victory with a big mandate. The party's biggest strength is the faith that people have in the governance

model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so there is no question of the party facing a challenge on the leadership front," this leader said.

Responding to a question on whether the party will continue with Bommai as the chief minister, the second leader said, the party will contest the polls with the PM as the face and use the duopoly Yediyurappa and Bommai. "In states where the BJP is in power, it is standard practice to go to polls with the incumbent CM. Even in states such as Assam where the CM was changed after the polls, the party did not announce the new name till after the polls," a third leader said.

CS applauds J&K Admin for completing appointment of around 10000 Lumberdars/ Chowkidars

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 30: In one of the largest reformative measures started few months back, J&K Administration has nearly completed appointing about 10000 educated and young persons belonging to different villages of the UT on the significant grassroots level posts of Lumberdars and Village Guards (Chowkidars).

The information was revealed in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and attended by DG, CID; Commissioner Secretary GAD; Commissioner Secretary IT & Information; Divisional Commissioners; Secretary PD&MD; Secretary, Revenue and all Deputy Commissioners of the UT either physically or virtually.

Dr Mehta applauded both the Divisional and District Administration for achieving this feat in a record time. He impressed upon the authorities to ensure that a training schedule is framed for these youngsters in order to sensitize



them about their vital role as the grassroots level, frontline workers who have of the for the welfare and well-being of their villages.

He enjoined upon them that all these youngsters deserves to be given due respect and recognition as they would act as a bridge between the common masses and higher authorities. He advised them to create a WhatsApp group of these basic workers so that there is continuous communication between them and the District and Divisional Administration.

The Chief Secretary maintained that since all of these persons are educated and young with very good reputation in their villages their services with respect to ground level verification about implementation of different welfare programmes in the villages would be authentic, genuine and seamless. He exhorted upon them that their role in reporting of malpractices like encroachment of state land by people and other incidents of laxity or unprofessional conduct on any part of government official in their respective

villages would be vital in taking action against the delinquents.

Dr Mehta also highlighted that the role of these basic workers in times of accidents and disasters in their areas would give Administration an instant information about the same for their early intervention and start of rescue operations. He made out that these people would also act as link between people and the administration to raise their genuine grievances before the authorities for the timely redressal of such grievances.

The meeting was apprised that there are total 7056 sanctioned posts of Lumberdars and 2718 posts of Chowkidars in the UT. Out of these 2220 previously appointed Lumberdars and 1165 Chowkidars were found eligible to continue doing their work after verifying their character and antecedents. It was further revealed that 4832 Lumberdars and 1553 Chowkidars were found worth replaceable and process was initiated to do so as per the rules in vogue.

Two-day training on newborn care concludes in Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MARCH 30: The District Health Society Doda organised a two-day district level training of Navjait Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK) for Medical Officers and Staff Nurses at District Training Centre Khellani in Doda District which concluded today. The training session was inaugurated by CMO Doda, Dr Ab Hamid Zargar.

The objective of the training was to train health professionals in basic newborn care and resuscitation at every delivery point and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to handle neonatal cases efficiently. Guest Speaker and Trainer, Dr Mohammad Rafiq Lone (MO-Pediatrics) imparted basic education about the NSSK programme.

Dr Lone cited that two-thirds of infant mortality is due to neonatal mortality and saving the life of a neonate a minute after birth is critical. He mentioned that sepsis, premature births and hypothermia are some major causes of infant mortality. Dr AH Zargar addressed the participants and briefed them about the purpose of the training session. He encouraged them to take advantage of it and said that it would help fill gaps, refresh knowledge and address major causes of neonatal mortality.

J&K poised to achieve the historic milestone of completing 2 lakh works under MGNREGA

JI NEWS SERVICE

NEARLY 6 FOLD INCREASE SINCE 2018-19

JAMMU, MARCH 30: In a historic achievement J&K is well on target to complete around 2 lakh works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) this financial year.

This information was given out in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta to review the performance of Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj schemes implemented in the UT of J&K.

Besides the Administrative Secretary, RD&PR the meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department; Jal Shakti; Forest; PWD; Labour & Employment; IT & Information; Revenue; Health; Y&S&S; Secretary in RDD; HoDs of Agriculture and Rural Development Departments. The meeting was informed that

as compared to previous years the Department has this year set a very high target of 2 lakh works for it and the Department is expecting to achieve it also. It was revealed that in the current financial year so far the Department has generated more than 282 Cr person days of work for the inhabitants of the rural population. It also came to fore during the meeting that during the past years the number of works completed used to be far less than what has been achieved this year so far. It was given out that during the year 2018-19 the number of works completed under MGNREGA were mere 26,352 and increased substantially in the coming years. The number nearly doubled and reached to 54,311 works in the next year of 2019-20 thereby taking a leap reaching 67,278 in 2020-21, 84,705 in 2021-22 and this year 7056

scheme already crossed 1,71,824 mark in the number of works completed taking a plunge of more than 200% so far, the meeting was informed. This remarkable number of completed works has been achieved at the expenditure of Rs 931.16 Cr. It was further given out that the percentage of women person days hovered at around 30.35% thereby extending an opportunity to the women for their empowerment through employment. The meeting was also apprised that nearly 9 lakh persons belonging to around 6.84 lakh households worked under this scheme to earn their livelihood. It is pertinent to mention here that the average wage rate per day per person was hiked last year from Rs 213.94 to Rs 226.78 and the payments are made exclusively through online mode directly into the accounts of the workers. Most of the payments

had been made in a span of just 15 days after completion of work, the meeting was apprised.

Regarding the next year plan it was revealed that the Department has proposed around 2,71,474 works which includes 1,07,249 (40%) of works related to natural resources management, 80,522 works of creation of individual assets for vulnerable sections, 82,334 works of rural infrastructure besides others.

The Chief Secretary applauded the Department for this unique achievement and asked them to raise their bar of expectation in the coming years besides efficiency of achieving the targets. He enjoined upon them to utilize this opportunity under the LG administration in bringing about necessary reforms regarding the transparency, responsibility and accountability in the system thereby achieving new heights in serving the people freely as per their expectations and requirements.

JKTPO Participated in 23rd Edition of IndiaSoft at Pragati Maidan

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 30: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the guidance of Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal and supervision of Managing Director JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, participated in 23rd Edition of IndiaSoft organized by Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) at Pragati Maidan,



New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Anupriya Patel, inaugurated the IndiaSoft.

Ms Grisel Eulalia Reyes Leon, Deputy Minister of communication, Cuba and

the Indian electronics and IT industry's global reach, offering a rare chance for multinational corporations searching for cutting-edge solutions like Fintech, cyber security, smart solutions, electronic hardware, cleantech, machine learning, Artificial intelligence, Augmented reality.

JKTPO sponsored and facilitated the participation of nine IT companies of Jammu and Kashmir and set up J&K Pavilion in the event. Exhibitors showcased their unique

product/ service line which included smart learning, Information technology, Application development, Business and Knowledge process outsourcing, Information Technology Skill Development.

Adopt Best Management Practices to increase quality Trout seed production: Dir Fisheries

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MARCH 30: The Director Fisheries, J&K, Mohammad Farooq Dar conducted an extensive tour of District Budgam and inspected Trout Hatchery, Khag Trout rearing Unit, Beerwah and Carp Fish Farm, Narbal.

The Director reviewed the implementation of the various fisheries developmental schemes being implemented in District Budgam and reviewed the Trout seed production and functioning of the Departmental Fish Farms and Seed Production Centres in the district.

The Joint Director Fisheries (South), Kashmir apprised the Director that about 6.0 lac of Rainbow



Trout Seed has been produced at Trout Hatchery, Khag.

Besides meeting the requirements of the north-eastern districts of Kashmir viz Barammulla, Bandipora and Kupwara for stocking the feasible Trout streams as a

part of conservation measure for Trout in the natural water bodies and for attraction of Tourists for angling purpose, the quality Trout seed from the hatchery is also distributed to the Private Trout growers for rearing in their Trout

farms. It was given out that about 1.5 ton of Trout has been sold to the public thus accruing revenue of Rs. 7.0 lac from the Trout Hatchery.

He visited all the components of the hatchery and also inspected the repair work of the feeding channel and installation of screens/Dam boards being taken up by PWD (R&B) at the Trout Hatchery.

While inspecting the Trout Rearing unit, Beerwah, the Director Fisheries was briefed that 5 qtls of Trout has been sold from the farm. It was informed that a Carp Fish Farm, Narbal acts as a Carp seed rearing centre for raising the seed to the fingerling size and subsequent distribution of stunted fingerlings to farmers for rearing in their carp units.

The District Officer informed that the land and water efficient technology for fish farming has also been introduced in the District and one Biofloc unit has been established in the private sector.

The concerned Officer apprised the Director that about 100 Fish culture units have been established in the District including 16 Trout and 02 Carp units during the current financial year.

He informed that more youth are coming forward to adopt fish farming as an economic enterprise.

A total 825 fishermen are registered with the department in District Budgam who earn their livelihood from fishing activity

Advisor Bhatnagar inspects Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai

Takes stock of healthcare, other facilities in the area

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 30: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today inspected the Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai-Subh Mahadev and inspected the ongoing construction works there.

He also took stock of healthcare facilities besides assessing other basic utilities in the area. He also reviewed progress on road construction project from Chenani to Mantalai.

On the occasion, representative of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) gave a brief account about the present status of ongoing developmental works in the area. Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this prestigious road project will be the game changer for Udhampur district as it will generate lot of employment avenues as well as contribute significantly in economy of the district.

Advisor Bhatnagar also emphasized the need for timely completion of the projects.

Later, Advisor visited Allopathic Sub centre, Mantalai and interacted with the staff and patients there. He also visited the newly constructed building of NTPHC Health Center and took stock of facilities there.

He directed the officers to immediately take over the building and start health services there as the center caters to more than 15 adjoining villages.

During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar also interacted with the local officials and discussed the important issues pertaining to development of the area.

Later, Advisor Bhatnagar visited Sudhmahadev and interacted with locals assessing their issues and concerns. He also paid obsequence at the Sudhmahadev temple.

Poonch Admn seals 7 e-service providers for overcharging

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MARCH 30: Acting on complaints of overcharging by private digital service providers, the district administration sealed seven establishments dealing with government e-services.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Inder Jeet, a team of officers led by Naib Tehsildar Poonch, Maroof Khan and Naib Tehsildar Bandichichyan, Randhir Singh under the supervision of Tehsildar Haveli, Anjum Khan Khattak conducted surprise inspections and sealed those found overcharging.

The government has prescribed a rate list for all government e-services for the welfare of the general public. Deputy Commissioner Poonch advised all e-service providers to adhere to prescribed rates to avoid adverse action from the administration.

The frequency of market inspections will be increased in the coming days.

In a separate market checking drive during Holy Navratri and Ramzan, a team of officers from Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Department Poonch headed by Assistant Director (FCS&CA), Ranjit Singh along with Food Safety, Legal Metrology and other officials conducted rigorous market checking of various food business units. A fine of Rs 4700 was imposed for violations such as non-display of rate lists and overcharging. Deputy Commissioner Poonch formed a committee last week to curb hoarding and profiteering in Poonch markets during Navratri and Ramadan.

On the occasion, the team warned food business operators not to violate food safety regulations and maintain sanitary conditions.

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