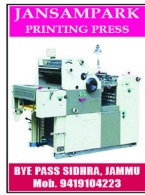




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Mann Ki Baat spiritual journey for me, allowed me to connect with people: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 30

In the 100th episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the broadcast filled the "emptiness" he felt after coming to Delhi in 2014 and described it as an expression of the feelings of crores of Indians which has ensured he is never cut-off from people.

The milestone broadcast was an occasion for Modi to walk down the memory lane as he asserted that it was not merely a programme but a matter of faith and spiritual journey for him.

"Mann Ki Baat has become a festival that celebrates the positivity of India and its people," he said and added he was filled with emotions at the



Light illumination is seen on an iconic monument Gateway of India during the celebration of 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat in Mumbai

thousands of letters he received from listeners on the occasion of its 100th episode.

The prime minister said the programme is a reflection of the "mann ki baat" of crores of Indians and an expression of their

feelings. Be it 'Swachh Bharat', Khadi or 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', issues raised in "Mann Ki Baat" became people's movements, he said.

Modi said the monthly radio broadcast, which mostly steers clear from politics, has become an important medium of learning from others.

"This programme has ensured that I am never cut-off from you," he said. During the 100th episode, Modi also had a telephonic conversation with some people who were featured earlier on the broadcast for their unique initiatives.

Noting that the programme started on October 3, 2014 on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami, he said it has also become a unique festival of goodness and positivity of the countrymen.

Recalling that his mentor Lakshmanrao Inamdar, one of the early RSS functionaries in Gujarat, always advised

Raj Bhawan hosts the celebration of 100th Episode of Hon'ble PM's Mann Ki Baat

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan hosted the 100th Episode of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme, today.

The eminent personalities, young achievers, sportspersons recipients of Padma Shri & Panchayat Awards; National & UT Level awardees; Self Help Group members, citizens from across J&K UT who have been mentioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister,



Shri Narendra Modi, in previous editions of Mann Ki Baat were special invitees at the event. "Mann Ki Baat is the

voice of 140 crore countrymen. It echoes their aspirations, dreams, challenges, success, failure, resolve and the new

beginning. Mann Ki Baat is deeply rooted in our spiritual & cultural traditions and its ideas & ideals," the Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha observed.

The Lt Governor said the Hon'ble PM, through Mann Ki Baat, has established an effective and two-way communication with the citizens and made the Radio an integral part of every family.

"Dialogue is the soul of democracy. The direct communication between a statesman and

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Timely redressal of citizen's complaint is our top priority: Lt Governor

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with the people through LG's Samita online platform today and heard their grievances.

"Timely redressal of citizen's complaint is our top priority and LG's Mulaqaat is an effective medium to achieve this objective," the Lt Governor said while taking appraisal of the 'LG's Grievances' redressal.

The Lt Governor stressed upon coordination and monitoring of the schemes at the district level to fulfill the aspirations of every section of



our vibrant society. "It is a new era of challenges and opportunities and every citizen must be empowered to contribute to nation building," the Lt Governor observed.

On the grievance of a complainant from Jammu regarding encroachment, Deputy Commissioner Jammu apprised the chair on the matter and said that

the issue will be resolved soon after verifying from the revenue records.

On a complaint of Sh Anwar Hussain from Kathua pertaining to cleaning of existing Pond in his village, the Lt Governor impressed on the collective efforts of the residents in ensuring clean and pollution

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG hands over appointment letter to martyr civilian Sanjay Sharma's wife

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letter to Smt Sumita Sharma, wife of martyr civilian Sh Sanjay Sharma at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the J&K Administration to the family of the martyred civilian.

Sanjay Sharma was killed by terrorists in Pulwama on 26th February, 2023. The family members of Sh Sanjay Sharma were also present at the Raj Bhawan.

Indian vaccine market to reach valuation of Rs 252 billion by 2025: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
LONDON, APR 30

Highlighting the country's strides in the pharma and biotechnology sector, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said the Indian vaccine market is expected to reach a valuation of Rs 252 billion by 2025.

Singh, who is leading a high-level official Indian delegation of the Ministry of Science and Technology on a 6-day visit to the United Kingdom, visited the 175-year-old London Science Museum on Sunday. He spoke about setting up similar science museums in India by the government.



The Minister said that the idea of setting up these museums is to help enable the common citizens particularly the youngsters to realise their hidden potential and sometimes even discover their inherent aptitudes of which they themselves may not be aware of. It also ignites curiosity in them which then may help sharpen their scientific temper

and inspire creative innovation.

The Science Museum is a major museum on Exhibition Road in South Kensington, London. It was founded in 1857.

The Minister was taken around the exclusive pavilion set up to trace the history of the Covid pandemic right from the first case that appeared to the first person who got vaccinated. The history has been recorded in chronological order for the awareness and education of people. India's lead role in the management and prevention of Covid has shown to be recognised in the pavilion.

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Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake hits J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

An earthquake of magnitude 4.1 struck Jammu and Kashmir early Sunday morning, National Center for Seismology said. The earthquake struck at 5.15 a.m., with a depth of 5 km. The latitude and longitude were reported to be 35.06 and 74.49 respectively. "Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.1, Occurred on 30-04-2023, 05:15:34 IST, Lat: 35.06 & Long: 74.49, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Jammu and Kashmir, India," National Center for Seismology said in a tweet.

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Weather likely to remain erratic during first week of May in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted that the weather is very likely to remain erratic during the first week of May in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said there are less chances of a brief spell of rain in the evening at some places today and added that a brief spell

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NIA opposes separatist leader Nayeem Khan's bail plea in terror funding case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 30

The National Investigation Agency has opposed before Delhi High Court the bail plea moved by separatist leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan in a UAPA case of alleged terror funding.

Khan, who has been in judicial custody since August 14, 2017, has been accused of "creating unrest" in the Kashmir valley by NIA. He was

arrested on July 24, 2017. Charges for various offences under Indian Penal Code, including sedition and UAPA, were framed against Khan by a special NIA court on March 16 last year.

The central probe agency has submitted that evidence collected in the case clearly establishes a prima facie case against Khan and that he was involved in terrorist and funding activities. NIA has said that certain

letters were found during search and seizure from Khan's residence showing that he was getting students admitted for MBBS Courses in Pakistan. This shows the involvement of applicant in terror funding out of commission earned from getting students admitted to MBBS courses in Pakistan, the agency has alleged.

Various videos have also been relied upon by NIA to allege that Khan

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

4G connectivity boosting digital economy at Indo-China border, 100% coverage planned in a year

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 30

Government-funded 4G tower of Airtel started services last week in Lumpo, one of the last villages in the district near Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh, paving way for access to new age digital economy for the locals. Reliance Jio, the bigger rival of Airtel, is already present till Dirang, 38 km from Bomdila (a district between Tawang and



state capital Itanagar. It expects to connect Jang (98 km from Dirang) by mid May and thereafter connect Tawang (40 km from Jang) by June-end.

The telecom tower will open the local population to a host of services, officials said.

With improvement in road infrastructure, most of the people in Lumpo and nearby villages have their own vehicles but they need to travel hours for accessing banking, education, shopping, government services etc in absence of a data network.

"We have been using mobile phones for the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Nomads face distress due to untimely snowfall in Doda hills, halt onward journey

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Unseasonal snowfall in higher reaches of Doda hills in Jammu and Kashmir has caused distress to the nomadic population, prompting them to halt their onward journey along with cattle to highly snowbound pastures.

Owing to bad weather conditions, the authorities issued an advisory asking nomads not to go ahead with their journey to upper reaches till May 4.

"We are in grave distress due to cycle of fresh snowfalls in upper reaches. We are trapped in this snowstorms. It is a difficult situation for us and our cattle," Nizam



Din Bakarwal said.

As a result of snowfalls, cold wave conditions have engulfed the upper reaches of Doda, Kishwar and Ramban districts, triggering panic among the nomads who have started their bi-annual migration from the plains in the Union Territory and Punjab.

Officials said fresh snowfall has been reported in Kailash Mountain

Range, Kainthi, Padri Gali, Bhaal Padri, Seoj, Shankh Padar, Rishi Dal, Gau-Peeda, Gan-Thak, Khanni-top, Guldanda, Chhattar Galla and Asha Pati Glacier surrounding Bhaderwah Valley since Monday night.

Unexpected snowfall was also reported from Braid Bal, Nheyed Chilly, Sharonth Dhar, Katardhar, Kainthi, Laloo Paani, Kaljugasar, Duggan Top,

Goha and Sinthan Top besides the high altitude meadows of Gandoh, they said.

These high-altitude and vast grazing meadows remain inhabited by the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes during summers but due to harsh weather conditions and unseasonal snowfall, which covered the otherwise green meadows under thick blanket of snow, hundreds of tribal families who are heading towards their summer abode have got stuck up either on the roadsides or in the snow-filled mountains at different parts of the valley and are compelled to survive under open sky with their cattle and

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Modi is the most popular leader in the world after Mahatma Gandhi : Jugal



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Jugal Kishore Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu-Poonch along with Adv Abinav Sharma, Senior BJP Leader & Spokesperson, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra State Publicity Secretary BJP, Coordinator Mann Ki Baat BJP & Corporator Sanjay Baru, District President BJP Parmod Kapahi, Mandal President Keshav Chopra, State Incharge Dept. of Training BJP Parmesh Mahajan, Corporator Satpal Karlupia, Neelam Nargotra, Sucha Singh, Sarpanches & Panches and

Senior Leaders BJP today listened historical 100th episode of "Mann Ki Baat" programme at Grand Nimantran Banquet Ground at Panchayat Gole Gujral Talab Tillo Jammu followed by Public address. Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma while addressing at the occasion said that the journey of Mann Ki Baat a popular programme of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi was started on 3rd October 2014 and today is the 100th historical episode of "Mann Ki Baat" which is listened all over the Nation with great

curiosity. He said that many programmes have been started by many leaders but they are stopped with in certain time limits but "Mann Ki Baat" remained continued with gaining its popularity and now is the world famous programme. He said that the reason behind its popularity is Hon'ble PM himself narrates the good deeds of his citizens who are not seen in the eyes of the society. He said that Mann Ki Baat had a great impact on the lives of the people and boosted their morale values. He said that many programmes like Beti Padao, Organ

Donation and many more are changed to revolutionary mode after their recitation in Mann Ki Baat by Hon'ble Prime Minister. He said that Modi Ji's popular programme Mann Ki Baat has aroused the sentiments of people to serve for the country. He said that Modi is the most popular leader in the world after Mahatma Gandhi. He said that under the stewardship of our great Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi many historic and bold steps have been taken for the betterment of Nation and Jammu Kashmir and it is a proud moment for us that India is holding G 20 presidency. Amit Bhat PTI Bureau Chief Jammu Ca Ranjit Khurana, Retd Granthi, Sar. Gurnam Singh, CPO Gurnam Singh, Darshan Lal, Subash Sharma and prominent citizens are also facilitated at the occasion. Ex-Mayor Dharamvir Singh, Sarpanch Prithi Pal Singh, Avinash Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Rajkumar Babbi, Chamam Lal Bhagat Ex-corporator, Senior BJP Leaders Rajesh Saini, Arun Dubey, Lovkesh Gondhi and others were also present.



Congress committee Jammu conducted a meeting under the chairmanship of Sh. Sanjeev Panda PCC secretary and Sh. Virender Singh Manhas PCC member in which various congress leaders of PCC J&K and DCC Jammu (Urban) participated regarding the burning issues of Jammu particularly the electricity pending bills and installations of smart meters discussed in length. Some people who are not in a position to deposit their electricity pending Bills are suffering badly because their electricity connections are disconnected due to closure of their establishments or business during covid-19 closure period. Now it is decided to appeal to the concerned Deptt. to give some relief to poor people. Following were present S/sh. Sat Pal Sapolia (Distt. Vice-President Urban Jammu), Romesh Sharma (Gen. Secretary Urban Jammu), Vishwa Nath, Janak Raj Mehra, Jagdish chander Bhagat, Prithvi Raj, Rahul Sharma and others.

Shiv Sena Hindustan frames new unit at Pindi Charkan

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Shiv Sena Hindustan, under the chairmanship of all the workers or state chief Pandit Rajesh Kesari, a new unit of Pindi Charkan was formed, in which Sudarshan Kumar appointed as President, Sawan Kumar as Vice President, Balraj Kumar as Chairman, Aman Kumar as General Secretary, Vikas Kumar appointed as Cashier.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesari said that there is strong resentment among people of Jammu region towards ruling govt which has miserably failed to address even basic issues of the people of the area. He said people are confronting with failure of the administration to solve day today problems. He said that it is most unfortunate that the common people have no medium to raise their voice for their basic necessities due to the neglect of neglect of their issues by LG Administration. The people have to come on roads to express their anger and seek redressal of their gen-



uine grievances. The people of J&K in deep anguish and we will have to take up these issues vigorously at every forum," Kesari said. Kesri came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that the latter's economic policies had ruined the nation and pushed people into sufferings. "The Modi government stands out as the one which took worst financial decisions in the Indian history. Kesri claimed that "The Union government failed in assessing future challenges and could not take

proper decisions. Following crony capitalism benefiting corporate friends is the policy of Narendra Modi. Despite telling so many lies, they could not hide the failures due to their lopsided economic policies. The adverse results are clearly visible. The price of all goods has been hiked and people are being forced to pay. The prices of essential commodities have increased and it has become difficult for not only the poor but also the middle class to afford these. The ever increasing inflation is tak-

ing a toll on the common masses of this country," Kesri said. We will take this campaign to every nook and corner of the Union Territory and force the government to provide relief to the people," he said. "The union government's policies are putting common people into trouble. It is the duty of public servant to listen to every one whoever approaches him and accept their grievances and forward the same to the concerned authority but the same mechanism is missing in J&K, added Kesri.

Newly elected president of CCI, other office bearer assumes charge



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Newly elected president of Chamber of Commerce & industry Sh. Arun Gupta along with Senior Vice President Sh. Anil Gupta, Junior Vice President Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary General Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary Sh. Rajesh Gupta and Treasurer Sh. Rajesh Gupta assumed charge of office today at a simple but impressive ceremony at chamber house.

He further added that Apart from looking after the Interests of industry & commerce, chamber has been raising the issues confronting the society. As a responsible organization, chamber shall be guarding & fighting for Jammu cause. While thanking the members for electing him president for the 2nd term

in succession, he solicited the support and cooperation of all the worthy members for making chamber of commerce & industry strong, effective and a role model for others to emulate. Before concluding Sh. Arun Gupta expressed his gratitude to Election President, Sh. Shiv Partap Gupta, Chief Election Observers Sh. Prithvi Raj Gupta, Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta, Sh. Y.V.Sharma, Members of the Election Committee, Sh. Manmohan Singh, Sh. Kulbhusan Gupta, Sh. Vijay Gupta and Sh. Anil Gupta for working assiduously in conducting peaceful, free, fair and orderly elections.

Those who visited Chamber house to greet and bless the new elected President Sh. Arun Gupta and his team include Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Padma Bhushan, Sh. Suresh Sharma, Retd. Judge, Sh. Ravinder Raina, President BJP J&K, Sh. Kavindra Gupta (BJP) Smt. Priya Sethi, (BJP) Sh. Yudhvir Sethi, (BJP) Sh. Vikram Randwa, (BJP) Sh. Sat Sharma, (BJP) Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta (NC) Sh. Ramanabhalla, (Congress) Sh. Yogesh Sawhney, (Congress) Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak, Dr. Rohit Apni Party Sh. Dev Raj Sharma, President Brahma Sabha, Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta, President Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha and his team. Sh. Ramesh Arora, President Arorabans Saba and his team, Sh. Rajesh Jain President Association of Industries Gangyal, Sh. Deepak Dhawan, President Birpur Industrial Association and President of different Trade and Bazar Associations, Sh. Parveen Sharma, Chairman Citizen Cooperative Bank along with his team and others.

NC accords warm farewell to DC Kritika Jyotsna

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APR 30: J&K National Conference, District Unit, Udhampur today honoured the Deputy Commissioner, Kritika Jyotsna, IAS, for her transfer from the district. In this regard, a delegation of NC leaders headed by Sunil Verma, District President, Udhampur, JKNK visited the DC Office and honoured Kritika Jyotsna for her services towards the people of the district. Verma appreciated the tenure of Kritika Jyotsna as DC Udhampur and praised her dedication and hard-work for her services she rendered during her



tenure. He lauded the contribution of Deputy Commissioner in improving public services in the district. He also extended best wishes to outgoing DC for the new assignment.

Kritika Jyotsna also expressed her gratitude to the NC leaders for recognizing her services and also thanked them for their support and cooperation during her tenure. She also expressed her

gratitude to the people of Udhampur for the respect and love showered by them on her. She assured that she will continue to work for the betterment of common people.

Natrang presents play 'Lottery Ka Ticket' in its Sunday Theatre Series



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Natrang today presented a hilarious play 'Lottery Ka Ticket' written by Showkat Thanvi and directed by Neeraj Kant, in its Sunday Theatre Series. The play revolves around the story of one 'Munshi Ji' who buys a lottery ticket and is consumed by the idea of

winning it. He is over optimistic rather obsessed with the idea of winning the money. He plans how he would utilize the cash that he gets after winning the lottery. He also resigns from his job as he thinks that he is going to be rich and does not need a mundane job to feed his family anymore. His wife and brother on the other hand are apprehensive

about all this. They try to warn him about his doings but seeing his enthusiasm they are also pulled in the fantasy. Munshi Ji is living in. The play gives a relative picture of a middle class family that hopes and relies on the concept of 'Easy money' and the idea of becoming rich overnight. These hopes are scattered when the true reality bites in. The play also tells us about the harrowing distress that lack of money or material wealth can have on a family. The play ends with a hilarious note when Munshi Ji's sister-in-law dies but he is still obsessed with the idea of getting the lottery. The artists who participated in the play included Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Abhinamny Choudhury, Naina Ratwal, Kushal Bhat, Sheryaar Salaria and Sumit Bandar. The lights of the play was executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was scored by Aadesh Dhar. The presentation was done by Mihir Gujral and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Congress a spent force now: Rajesh Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Sunday said, "Congress party a spent force now". The Congress is a shadow of what it used to be. Notwithstanding the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it has sorely neglected its organizational strength, and even in the three states - Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal - where it is in power, is riven by internal dissensions or is precariously perched. Despite its massive debacle, infighting among J&K Congress leaders has not ended. As long as the party is beset with this crab men-



tal, there seem no hope for its revival. NDPI leader further added the Congress is unwilling to accept its diminished capabilities and accept the primacy of stronger Opposition parties at the regional level. In West Bengal it opposes Mamata's Trinamul Congress; in Telangana, it is fighting the BRS; in Delhi and Punjab, it attacks the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); in UP, it considers Akhilesh Yadav a rival; and, in Kerala, it is ranged against the CPI(M). Gupta appealing to people not to get swayed by false propaganda of the Congress and stand against the divisive, wrong and anti-people policies of the Congress. Gupta assured that National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) would continue to work for the well-being of the people. He took on the Congress for its failures in every sector and causing unrest among the people over administrative and developmental inertia. There is a long list of how Congress humiliated and jailed the nationalists who campaigned against

its wrong policies," the J&K NDPI leader said. He stressed that Congress should answer why the nation was divided in 1947. "Major parts of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh are under illegal occupation of Pakistan, which Ayaski Chin is under illegal occupation of China. He should tell the people who are responsible for this. They back-stabbed the 'Indians.' They were sympathetic to the parties which supported terrorism and arrested the nationalists among Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, who tried to unfurl the national flag at Lal Chowk (Srinagar) during their rule," NDPI leader said.

Ishant, Pawan organized programme to watch 100th Episode of Maan Ki Baat in Channi Himmat



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: To watch and listen 100th episode of monthly radio programme 'Maan Ki Baat' by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a program was organized at Ward No. 50 Channi Himmat Jammu by Adv. Ishant Gupta State IT Head BJP J&K and Pawan Kumar Dhunna President Ward No. 50 Channi Himmat BJP J&K. Great help and support received from Corporator Ward No. 50 Neena Gupta in organizing this programme.

Narendra Modi said that Mann Ki Baat programme is a medium to connect with 130 crore countrymen. He said 'Mann Ki Baat' is an excellent platform for spreading positivity and recognising the grassroot changemakers. He thanked people across India and the world who have tuned in to Mann Ki Baat 100th episode and said he is truly humbled by the enthusiasm. A common theme across various Mann Ki

Baat programmes has been mass movements aimed at societal changes and one such popular movement was 'Selfie With Daughter.' He said that today we have celebrated many inspiring life journeys of self-reliance through Mann Ki Baat and in that context he spoke to the remarkable Manzoor Ahmad from Jammu and Kashmir who makes pencils which have travelled globally, it is a matter of pride for the people of J&K. He said the strength of our Nari Shakti and a commitment to furthering a spirit of 'Vocal for Local' can take India to new heights. He added that when it comes to fulfilling Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Swachh Bharat, the people of India have done exceptional work. He further said that it is glad to have UNESCO DG AAzulay ask a very relevant question on education and culture during Mann Ki Baat 100th episode. She said UNESCO is working to ensure that everyone in the world has access to quality

who quickly translate this programme into various regional languages.

Adv. Ishant Gupta appreciated the vision of Hon'ble PM Modi by making proper use of technology to interact with all the countrymen via the radio's popular programme 'Mann Ki Baat' that broadcasted on the last Sunday of every month. He extend gratitude and congratulates PM for completing 100 episode of Mann Ki Baat. He said this programme provides platform to the people to share their achievements and initiatives for the inspiration of others. He said each episode of Mann Ki Baat is listened and watched by all the countrymen at large with enthusiasm.

Pawan Kumar Dhunna thanked all the office bearers of Ward No. 50, senior leaders, and prominent citizens of Channi Himmat to practice in the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat and help in organizing this great programme. He said Mann Ki Baat programme is now become a tradition to be watch every month with positivity and enthusiasm. Prominent who present were Suresh Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra, Trishula Gupta, Ashok Gupta, Hitesh Jandyal, Varun, Ashok Gupta, Abhishek Gupta, Om Parkash Sharma and other prominent residents of Channi Himmat.

100th episode of PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' historic, inspiring: Rekha Mahajan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Rekha Mahajan listened to 100 episode of Mann Ki Baat at Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre Trikuta Nagar Jammu here in Jammu District South. Rekha Mahajan listen to the "historic" 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat', calling it an inspiring initiative to connect with the masses. Rekha Mahajan along with Baldev Raj Gupta President of Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre Trikuta Nagar, Shubh Chander Verma Former Councillor, Vanita Kholi President Bharat Vikas Parishad Trikuta Nagar Branch, Rattan Kapoor, and other prominent persons attended the event.

Rekha Mahajan, after listening to the program with BJP members and prominent inhabitants and others in Trikuta Nagar, said through 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi "crafts messages that venture into the nooks and corners of the nation",



building bridges between the people and the government. Rekha added that "Modi's words to achievers have inspired the young generation to take charge of the nation's destiny and build a better future for all," she said and added that "platforming dialogues on different regions, languages, and dialects, he strengthens India's social democracy". Rekha stated that in many ways, the story of Mann Ki Baat is the story of the last nine years, and is the story of changing India. It is the emergence of a 'New India', it is the connection between India and the world - that this is today a different India, a more aware India, in many ways, I would say a more aspirational India which is connecting to the world, Rekha said.

Rekha appealed to BJP cadres of District Jammu South and she thanked people across Jammu District South and the prominent people who have tuned in to Mann Ki Baat 100. Truly humbled by the enthusiasm, I urge all those who heard the program to share pictures of those special moments. You can do so on the NaMo

App, Rekha said. Rekha furthermore added that I'm glad that Mann Ki Baat has covered various stories of women empowerment, such as the women of Deora village in Chhattisgarh, tribal women in Tamil Nadu making terracotta cups, and women rejuvenating Vellore Lake. It has showcased stories of talented individuals across diverse fields, from promoting Aatmanirbhar Bharat to Make in India and space startups. The mission to re-establish our toy industry began with Mann Ki Baat, Rekha said.

Anil Kapahi Re-Elected as Secretary of Amar Singh Club



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Anil Kapahi was once again elected as the Secretary of the Amar Singh Club for a second consecutive term in the first meeting of the newly formed Executive Committee.

presence Rajesh Gupta and Dr Vikram Handa acting as observers for the election of the Secretary. The elections of the Amar Singh Club were held on the 9th of April with two teams contesting under the Leadership of Anil Kapahi and Siddharth Mehta respectively. Eight members from the team led by Anil Kapahi won while three members won from the team led by Siddharth Mehta. The winners included

Anil Kapahi was elected unopposed as the Secretary of the Club for the second time. Anil Kapahi is a leading builder and an Entrepreneur of J&K and has received many awards in the field of Construction. He has also been instrumental in the construction of Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Airports. He is also an Executive member of the Indian Red Cross Society and Member Advisory Committee, Airport Authority of India. The Divisional Commissioner Sh Ramesh Kumar congratulated the newly formed executive committee members and the Secretary of the Club, Anil Kapahi. Vice President, Sh Ramesh Kumar said in future also he hoped that the election to the post of the Secretary would be unopposed and unanimous.

He also appreciated the developmental works carried out by the previous Executive Committee.

Free AYUSH Medical Camp organized at Swami Viveka Nand Charitable Hospital



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Under the guidance of worthy Director Ayush Dr Mohan Singh and under the supervision of DAO Madam Vandana, Head Pharmacist Naresh Sharma, an outreach camp was organized by the staff of Kothi Arjun Singh at Swami Viveka Nand Charitable Hospital today where free check-up of patients along with distribution of free medicines was done in presence of Amarchand (Sr Vice President), BB Gupta General Secretary, Shankar Dutt Sharma, Dr Brij Mohan Gupta, Mohan Singh Chauhan, Dr Ramesh

Gupta (Administrator). During the camp, over 530 kits were distributed among beneficiaries. These kits consisted of Ayurvedic & herbal medicines and immunity boosters which include Ashwagandha syrup, Chyawanprash, Ayush -64 Tablets, Sharbat-UNNAB, Herbal Cough Syrup, Mulethi Amritarisia syrup etc. All these medicines were provided by the Directorate of Ayush Department J&K free of cost along with detailed briefing about the uses of these medicines, procedure prescribed how to take these medicines. Consultation was also provided by the team of

Doctors and other assisting professionals. Speaking on the occasion, DAO Madam Vandana highlighted the benefits of Ayurveda in building immunity in today's era especially when the world is still passing through the pandemic. She recommended everyone to adopt herbal medicines and enhance their body immunity as a part of a proactive measure to fight emerging Virus. She urged the people to take benefits of Ayush medicines in today's life as herbal medicines are the most beneficial supplement for people. Head Pharmacist Naresh Sharma while speaking on the occasion, said that these medicines are totally herbal and Ayurvedic as such it is very helpful for us to fight against virus and other infections too and most importantly these medicines do not have any side effect. He said that we have to adopt herbal medicines that enhance body immunity as part of proactive measures to fight pandemic. Management of Swami Viveka Nand Charitable Hospital complemented the doctors and Ayush Department for holding medical camps and promoting AYUSH saying that there is dire need to organize such camps so that the people can avail benefits of the same.

Mann Ki Baat gave huge impetus to Central Govt's flagship initiatives: Col Mahan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APR 30: DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh today listened to 100th episode of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme at Radio Station Kathua.

The DDC Chairman was accompanied by Raghunandan Singh Babbu, Vice Chairman DDC Kathua.

Col Mahan Singh said that Mann Ki Baat, a direct dialogue with the people of the country founded on the principle of inclusion and people centric governance, has been a source of inspiration for the people and a platform to celebrate ordinary Indians doing extraordinary work.



Col Mahan Singh said Mann Ki Baat reached every nook and corner of the country and is unparalleled in reach and popularity. He also credited the government for giving recognition and brand value to local art and artisans, and for generating a market space for them. He observed that Mann Ki Baat gave a huge impetus to flagship initiatives of the government such as Swachh Bharat, Beti

Bachao Beti Padhao, and turned them into mass movements. He added that the PM's addresses on the show were a 'beacon of positivity' to the nation during the COVID pandemic.

PM's vision Ek Haath mein Koran, Ek mein Computer becoming true: Khatana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Thousands of people today joined the BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana at Eidgah Ground, Sunjanan Road, Jammu to listen 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat by PM Sh. Narendra Modi here.

Er. Gulam Ali said through Mann Ki Baat, PM Narendra Modi has connected directly to the length & breadth of India irrespective of caste, creed or religion. He said that in every episode PM talked to the achievers, entrepreneurs, and the people working on ground which inspired others also. Er. Gulam Ali said that those who ruled India for 7 decades, exploited every section of the society especially Muslims and backward classes for vote bank politics. He said Muslims were branded as terrorists, mafia by previous ruling party while PM Narendra Modi tried to break the



stereotype and gave slogan of Ek Haath Mein Koran, Ek Haath Mein Computer. The slogan transformed the common refrain of looking upon on a community as terrorist or mafia. Er. Gulam Ali said that Muslims of India are and were as patriot as others and have shed their blood and sweat for the progress of the country. He said that names of Hav Abdul Hameed and APJ Abdul

kalam, son of the soil martyr Aurangzeb besides lakhs of other Muslims, give goose bumps to every nationalist irrespective of caste, creed or religion. He further said that Prime Minister has rolled out hundreds of schemes and policies to elevate the lot of pasmandas, backward and Muslims, Christians alike. More than 80 crore people are getting free ration and BJP only can provide an

equitable society. Prominent among others present were Choudhary Gafour Ahmed, Zulfikar Malik, Waseem Khatana, Zahid Malik, Talib Hussain, Rafiq Ahmed, BJP leader, Shukradin, Panch, Choudhary Razaq Ali Putto, Noor Alam, Ex-Sarpanch, Bashir Ahmed, Ashraf Choudhary Ashu, Mantaz Ali, Ch. Salman, Adv. Riaz, Mushtaq Inqilabi

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia attends the "100th Episode of Mann ki Baat" Program with students and faculty of JIMS, New Delhi

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 29

Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, together with students and faculty of Jagannath International Management School (JIMS) Kalkaji, New Delhi, today attended the broadcast of the 100th Episode of the "Mann Ki Baat" program.

Started by the visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 'Mann Ki Baat' radio program was first aired on 3rd October 2014 and has today completed its 100th episode. In the past nine years, the program has reached 100 million listeners, and is broadcasted in 52 languages and dialects including 11 foreign languages.

Addressing the gathering before the onset of the program Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia shared that

over the past nine years, Mann Ki Baat has grown to become a 'people's program' and acts as a platform to unite the nation by promoting culture, diversity and dialogue. He added that the program by its very nature is democratic and enables the citizens to directly connect with the Prime Minister on a monthly basis. The Minister further talked about how the PM has made the program a monthly national tradition, inspiring millions to participate in India's developmental journey.

A platform like Mann Ki Baat has enabled the Prime Minister to build a personal connection with the citizens - wherein he not only shares his personal thoughts but also informs people about different government schemes and initiatives and promotes people's participation in



national-building and governance. Not only this, he has also repeatedly sought suggestions from the citizens for his address - with the help of which the program has become stronger from the ground.

Description: A group of people sitting in a room

Description automatically generated with low confidence. The Minister called the program 'a common identity of India' as it has empowered the Indian population by covering a variety of social issues ranging from water conservation, women and child development, organ donation, entrepreneurship etc.

In his address during the Mann Ki Baat today, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme is a reflection of 'Mann Ki Baat' of crores of Indians, it is an expression of their feelings. Prime Minister said that 'Mann Ki Baat'

gave him a solution to connect with the people and is not merely a programme but a spiritual journey for him. Recounting some special moments, the Prime Minister talked about the face behind the popular "Selfie With Daughter" Campaign, Mr. Sunil

Jaglan, Manipur's Ms. Vijayshanti who is providing employment to women through her unique lotus fibre, and the founder and promoter of Healing Himalayas Foundation Mr. Pradeep Sangwan.

Description: A group of people watching a person on a stage. Description automatically generated with low confidence.

Based on a survey by IIM Rohtak, about 96% of people in India are familiar with the Mann Ki Baat, more than 100 crore people have listened to this program at least one time, and about 23 Crore people watched/heard the program regularly. Mann Ki Baat also positively influences the behavior, thoughts, and state of mind of the citizens. 60 percent of listeners have shown interest in positively contributing to nation-building.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Mann Ki Baat spiritual...

"worshipping" the good qualities of others, including rivals, Modi said 'Mann Ki Baat' has been an exercise for him to worship the qualities in others and learning from them.

Modi said the programme has never let him to be away from people and added that as the Gujarat chief minister, it was natural for him to meet and interact with the common people.

"But after coming to Delhi in 2014, I found that life here was very different. The nature of the work is different, the responsibility is different, and one is bound by circumstances, the rigours of security and time limits. In the initial days, something felt different, there was an emptiness," he said.

Fifty years ago, Modi said, he did not leave home just to find one day that it would be difficult to connect with the people of his own country.

"The very countrymen who are my everything. I could not live separated from them. 'Mann Ki Baat' gave me a solution to this challenge, a way to connect with the common man," he said.

"For me, 'Mann Ki Baat' is not a programme, it's a matter of faith, of worship or 'vrat'. Like when people go to worship God, they bring along prasad. For me, 'Mann Ki Baat' is like prasad at the feet of God in the form of the masses the people," he added.

Noting that he connected with people involved in inspiring journeys, like planting trees, cleanliness, educating the poor, for decades, these efforts of the countrymen have inspired him to keep striving, he said.

Modi said, "The people whom we mention in 'Mann Ki Baat' are all our heroes who have made this programme come alive," he said, speaking to some of them. They noted that their work, receiving a big boost after being mentioned by the prime minister.

During the broadcast, a special message from UNESCO DG Audrey Azoulay appreciating the programme was also played.

She also engaged about India's efforts regarding education and cultural preservation, two issues which Modi has been frequently highlighted at the programme.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including Union ministers, listened to Modi's address at different places as the ruling party went all out to make the 100th episode a mega exercise in public connect.

The BJP had earlier said nearly four lakh venues would be set up for people to listen to the prime minister's broadcast. (AGENCIES)

Raj Bhavan hosts...

citizens ensures that the foundation of democracy is strong, participation of citizens in governance is ensured and their voice is at the centre of policies," said the Lt Governor.

Mann Ki Baat is the true reflection of Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas". It has empowered the common man to become a key contributor in nation-building, he added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant role played by Mann Ki Baat program in strengthening the spirit of Unity in diversity and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Mann Ki Baat since the beginning of October 2014 has touched every section of society & influenced behavioral change to shape a new social revolution. Mann Ki Baat is not only a powerful radio programme but it is also a source of inspiration to realize dreams & resolve of the society, he added.

The Lt Governor also inaugurated a Photo Exhibition to commemorate the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat.

Timely redressal...

free surroundings of their area. The Lt Governor directed SMC Commissioner to find an immediate solution for the grievance register by Ms Samina Mufti regarding the inconvenience due to pungent smell from a dumping yard.

The Lt Governor also directed the senior officials to attend at least one event of the ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, training program launched under Agriculture & Allied Sector's Holistic Development Plan.

Ms Mehana Batul, Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Sh Atal Dulloo, ACS, Agriculture Production Department; Sh R K Goyal, ACS, Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, DCS, SSPs, Heads of the Departments, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

Indian vaccine market...

Singh said that India is fast emerging as the world's major bio-economy and over the last few years, it has grown by leaps and bounds regarding innovation and technology. He pointed out that India has developed four indigenous vaccines in just two years.

The Minister added that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in the Ministry of Science & Technology has through "Mission COVID Suraksha", delivered four vaccines, augmented the manufacturing of Covaxin, and created the necessary infrastructure for the smooth development of future vaccines so that the country is pandemic ready.

Singh said that the world is now increasingly realising India's superlative capacities in preventive healthcare and we are now in the process of developing several other vaccines in the series. Recently after the first DNA vaccine, the first nasal vaccine has also been successfully manufactured and another vaccine related to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which has helped in the prevention of cervical cancer has also been developed.

The Minister underlined that the Indian vaccine market, which has carved out a place for itself at the global level, is expected to reach a valuation of Rs 252 billion by 2025.

He also called for extended collaboration in biotech startups and vaccine development between India and the United Kingdom. (Agencies)

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake...

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to set up state-of-art Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) in all 20 districts to minimize the damage caused by natural disasters as it falls in a high seismic zone, and is also highly prone to flood damage, according to a government statement.

The process of construction of the EOC has been started in Budgam district which will have a complete disaster management plan under National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2019 and it will be implemented in all districts. The government of Jammu and Kashmir has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NDMA, Government of India for the implementation of an Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) to coordinate disaster calls in Dial No 112. (Agencies)

Weather likely...

of rain with thunderstorm may occur at a few places towards late afternoon or evening with 60 percent chances on May 1.

From May 2 to 3 widespread light to moderate rain, thunderstorm with hailstorm and gusty winds are likely at few places while light snow is likely over higher reaches in Jammu and Kashmir, the MeT office said.

The MeT office said that as of today, weather is very likely to remain erratic from May 2 to 7 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently the weather is mainly clear at most of the places with bright sun appearing in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley. Tourists were seen basking under the sun on the bank of Dal Lake on Boulevard in Srinagar enjoying the weather.

Srinagar recorded a low of 10.5 °C against 7.4 °C on the previous night and it was 1.2 °C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund had a low of 7.8 °C against 7.2 °C on the previous night and it was normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.2 °C against 3.8 °C on the previous night and it was 2.2 °C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.8 °C against 6.4 °C on the previous night and it was 0.8 °C below normal for the picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.0 °C against minus 0.5 °C on previous night and it was 3.2 °C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Kupwara settled at 8.8 °C against 6.4 °C on the previ-

ous night and it was 1.0 °C above normal for the north Kashmir area, the MeT office said.

NIA opposes separatist...

is seen leading a "pro-ISIS rally" and "visiting areas where terrorists were killed." NIA has stated that the videos have conversations by Khan about funding from Hizbul Mujahideen (a defence witness) show that a mega meeting was held at the residence of Syed Geelani in 2016 calling for shutdown after killing of Burhan Wani. At the same meeting, a calendar was also issued for protests and unrest in Jammu & Kashmir. This meeting was attended by Accused No.5 (Khan)," the response reads.

It has further been submitted that Khan has not challenged the order framing charges against him and that the special court rightly concluded that there is sufficient oral and documentary evidence to believe that accusations against him are true.

"Thus, a prima facie case being made out against the Applicant and Section 43D(5) UAPA creates a statutory bar to grant of bail as the offences have been held to be prime fact true and that test has not been met by the accused in the Application for bail," the reply reads.

The matter will be heard on May 03 by a division bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Talwant Singh.

The case alleges that there was a larger criminal conspiracy for causing disruption in the Kashmir valley by way of "pelting stones on the security forces, systematic burning of schools, damage to public property and for waging war against India."

The case has been registered under Sections 120B, 121, 121A and 124 A of the Indian Penal Code and sections 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 39 and 40 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.

While denying him bail, the special NIA judge had noted that a detailed scrutiny of evidence and statements of various witnesses was done at the time of framing of charges and it was concluded that there is sufficient evidence available raising "grave suspicion" regarding Khan's involvement.

NIA had registered the FIR on a complaint by Ministry of Home Affairs alleging that based on "secret information" received from an informant, it was learnt that Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and various separatist leaders including the members of the Hurriyat Conference were raising funds "through hawala" and also had entered into conspiracy to cause violence in Kashmir.

Taking note of the fact that charges have already been framed against Khan, the judge had said that the court cannot re-appreciate the evidence at the stage of bail. (Livelaw)

4G connectivity boosting...

last 10-12 years on the BSNL network but data doesn't work. Airtel 4G has just started and now we are able to transfer files. Goodbye Pay, Phoneb here. Google is also working well now. Online videos are also working." Dorjee, an electrician based out of Lumpo said.

Lumpo is around 115 kilometer from Tawang district headquarters and approximately 3-5 kilometer near LAC in terms of aerial distance. While Airtel has boosted telecom services on the Tawang border, Jio has 10 tower sites on Indo-Bangla border in Tripura and 19 on Indo-Bangla border in Meghalaya as well as on Indo-Myanmar border in Mizoram and Manipur.

Jio has a total of 457 sites on international borders. Airtel has 383 sites. Dorjee said locals are required to send their kids to Tawang town for education as even small doubts related to studies cannot be cleared in the village.

"With 4G services starting here, we will be able to provide online classes for our kids here," Dorjee said. Most of the locals here are blue-collar workers but are well versed with the importance of data and they access it when they travel towards town.

Jio has a total of 457 sites on international borders. Airtel has 383 sites. Dorjee said locals are required to send their kids to Tawang town for education as even small doubts related to studies cannot be cleared in the village.

Zemithang village head Phurpa Leki said that people have been using the BSNL network since the last 10-12 years but it does not support data connectivity.

"We have been getting Airtel signals since the last 1 or 2 years but it doesn't have an internet facility. We have a

few local shopkeepers who collect money then they get mobile recharge done from people at the foothills. We suffer heavy loss due to this. We pay Rs 120-130 and get only usage worth Rs 97. If we get the internet here, we can overcome many issues," he said.

Leki said that sometimes locals get good speed on Airtel and BSNL when locals get to recharge DTH, and mobile phones. The Centre has approved 2,605 4G mobile towers for providing connectivity to more than 3,721 villages in Arunachal Pradesh with a total outlay of Rs 2,675 crore which includes connectivity at Bum La Pass near the line of actual control.

Tawang Extra Assistant Commissioner and in-charge District Commissioner Rinchin Leta said all villages located near LAC will be covered with 4G, and 2G sites in those areas are being upgraded to 4G.

"59 towers in Tawang are being upgraded to 4G. As per Government of India instructions it should be done by December. Entire border area will be covered with 4G towers that are coming up with support of USOF. Towers are being set up at Bum La Pass. In the eastern side of our district near the India Tibet border, Mago and Thingbu villages will soon get 4G. BSNL is setting up a tower and Airtel is also soon going to put its 4G there," Leta said.

He said 4G has increased data speed in the border district which has enabled local administration to provide online services.

"After improvement in net connectivity, we are seeing an increase in online shopping by people here. Earlier people had limited choice here. Local entrepreneurs now order online and deliver it to people in the area," Leta said.

Tawang Sub Post Master NK Sharma said that inland letters have come down in the district but e-commerce parcels have increased significantly.

"We dispatch 80-85 parcels daily. We have seen an increase in e-commerce parcels since the last two years. It has more than doubled. 60 per cent of homes in the town largely shop online," Sharma said.

Airtel has activated 263 towers for 4G services and will add another 445 towers in Arunachal by the end of this year, according to a government official.

BSNL had earlier installed 2G mobile networks with the help of USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) and it plans to install 4G base stations with financial support from the Centre.

The state-owned firm was first to install a mobile network in the tough terrain of Tawang district including at an altitude of 13,700 feet in the snow-clad mountain of Sela Pass.

It is now in process of setting up a mobile tower at Bum La Pass in Tawang located at an altitude of over 14,000 square feet from sea level.

"We have 2G plus 3G BTS at Sela Pass which is located at 13,700 feet from sea level. It will be converted into 4G by December. We have another 4G site planned for Bum La Pass by year end. As of now, we have shortlisted 18 sites for new 4G towers in Tawang. All these will be completed by December," BSNL sub-divisional officer telegraph at Tawang, Ranjan Kumar said. (Agencies)

Nomads face distress...

toddlers without fodder. Shepherd Satish Kumar says they have lost dozens of goats after they got trapped in snowstorm continuously for one week from Sarthal to Guldandana area.

Doda Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan, while assuring all the required help from district administration, advised that the nomads should postpone further journey for another couple of days in view of harsh weather conditions.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department has predicted spells of rain and snow for of May in entire Chenab Valley, however some improvement in weather is likely from May 5.

According to the 2011 census, high-altitude meadows of Chenab Valley which are spread from Bhadwar to Jawahar tunnel (Banihal) and Marmat (Doda) to Paddar and Marwah (Kishtwar), house 30,000 nomads and their lakhs of cattle including sheep, goats, Buffaloes, horses, mules etc during summers but some tribal organizations claimed that the number has increased more than 1 lakh. (Agencies)

NC will transform JMC if it wins ULB elections, will end property tax: Rattan Lal

'ONLY NC CAPABLE OF MITIGATING PUBLIC SUFFERING': BABU RAMPAL



JAMMU, APR 30: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, while asking the party workers to leave no stone unturned to ensure NC's unprecedented success in the upcoming ULB polls, has asserted that the party will improve the civic amenities to the optimum standard besides transforming the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) which is presently in utter mess and chaos.

The senior NC leader stated this while addressing a meeting of party workers of 75 Wards of JMC at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan convened in view of upcoming polls in J&K. Chairing the meeting, he said that if NC wins the aforesaid polls there will be no property tax that is a burden on people's pockets.

The senior National

Conference leader asserted that if NC wins the upcoming Urban Local Bodies polls it shall provide 24x7 power and water supply to the people. He also assured that after its success in the aforesaid elections there will be no property tax in order to ease the people in the present scenario of sky rocketing prices of essential commodities and unprecedented inflation.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that National Conference is known for fulfilling its commitment to work for the upliftment of people of J&K and it fulfilled its aim of welfare and prosperity of the people of Jammu and empowered the people in letter and spirit. He said that after NC not continuing in power the welfare and prosperity of the J&K people especially that of Jammu has been the worst casualty due to the hollow promises made by the Bharatiya Janata Party never to be fulfilled.

He claimed that once the

NC wins the ULB elections it will definitely eradicate corruption and promote transparency in the working of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) the working of which has suffered badly under the present regime. The Provincial President asked party workers to leave no stone unturned in order to ensure NC's unprecedented success in the upcoming ULB polls.

Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President said that if National Conference wins the ULB polls it will improve the civic amenities to the optimum level besides bringing a result oriented policy for the regularization of the Safakaramcharis once for all. Former Minister also said that before 5th August 2019 Jammu used to be called as City of temples when people were getting all basic facilities like drinking water, power and clean roads. But, sadly,

after August 5th 2019 Jammu city was painted as Smart City with people now facing tremendous problems with regard to drinking water supply, electricity as even roads connecting streets are in broken conditions. Instead different taxes are being imposed upon the public on the pretext of providing amenities, but there is none to listen for redressal of public grievances.

Rampal further said that NC was the only political party which has worked for all sections of society and people of J&K have pinned high hopes on it. Others who spoke on the occasion were Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Jugal Mahajan, Binla Luthra, Vijay Lakshmi Datta, Chander Mohan Sharma, Ragbir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Harshvardhan Singh and Ghar Singh.

Among those who were present include Anush Abrol, Ayub Malik, Bushan Lal Bhat, Pardeep Bati, Vijay Lochan, Deepinder Kour, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rahul Mahajan, Surjeet Singh Manhas, Ashok Kumar Attri, Shahim Begum, Ch. Rehmat Ali, Dilshad Malik, Som Raj Taroch, S. Nirmal Singh, Bishan Dass Dalotra, Harminder Singh, Davinder Sharma, Ashwami Charak, S. Parvinder Singh, Haji Maqbool and others.

Modi the 1st PM to have direct interface with people through Radio: Purnima

JAMMU, APR 30: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu along with the people at Booth No. 46 of Ward No. 19 listened to the 100th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat here today.



On the occasion, Rajiv Charak, Prabhari BJP East and Sunil Prajapati, President BJP OBC Morcha J&K were the special guests. Today's programme was organised by Purnima Sharma along with Ashok Lamba, Jasmeet ji, Charanjit ji and Harpreet ji. More than five hundred people joined today's programme at Booth No 46 in listening PM's Mann Ki Baat.

While addressing the huge gathering of people having assembled to listen to their favourite Prime Minister on this historical occasion of 100th edition of the Man Ki Baat, Purnima at the very outset expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for establishing direct interface with the people of the nation. She also congratulated the party cadre and the people for Mann Ki Baat having completed the 100th session. She said that Sh. Narendra Modi Ji is the first Prime Minister of

India to interact with people through Radio in Man Ki Baat. It is not a simple interaction but a sincere effort of the PM to remain connected to the people, listen to their issues and resolve the same, she added. In fact the PM through this programme becomes a guide for the people especially the young generation providing them a proper direction and inspiration to achieve their targets. Purnima Sharma said that radio is the only medium that has penetrated into every nook and corner of the nation including the far flung and remote areas not easily accessible due to tough geographical terrains and the PM chose this medium to ensure to coverage of the whole population of the nation to address them and put their ideas and vision before the people and

explain to them how these are going to have a positive impact on the nation and its people. The senior BJP leader stated that the Prime Minister through this much popular programme interacts directly with the cross section of people in the society be it youth, women, students, or others.

He not only takes feedback from them about the programmes launched by the Govt but also acquaints them about the schemes specifically tailored to suit every section of the society. Citing an example as referred to by one of the party leaders on the occasion, she said that even through one Mann Ki Baat edition the PM explained in the simplest of terms that it is not possible to provide jobs to all across the nation and it is in this direction that youth must come for-

ward to establish StartUps thus making it an excellent source of income besides becoming job providers for the unemployed.

Purnima Sharma said that OBC Samaj is the back bone of BJP and the OBC people are directly or indirectly associated with everyone by their work. She said OBC community of Jammu Kashmir neglected by previous government by diverting their share to other communities. She said BJP is committed to work for the upliftment of socially and educationally backward classes and believe in Sab ka Sath and Sab ka Vishwas. Purnima Sharma concluded her address by asserting that Mann Ki Baat, has strengthened the foundation of India's democracy by improving the dialogue between citizens and the government.

Nalwa along with residents listen 100th episode of "Mann Ki Baat"

JAMMU, APR 30: The 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio address "Mann Ki Baat" was broadcast today with lakhs of people having listened to the popular programme in different parts of the world.

In order to reach out to the general masses, UT President 'BJP Minority Morcha' Ranjodh Singh Nalwa visited Simbal Camp ward No. 2 Booth No. 16C area of Jammu district along with other party functionaries today. He listened Prime Minister's Program, "Mann Ki Baat" with locals. An interactive session with masses was held on the occasion.

Nalwa who was the chief guest also presided over the function which was organised by Gurdeep Singh Babbi and other office bearers on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" program. Hundreds of workers besides a large number of people participated in the

program. "It is a historic moment with the 100th episode being broadcasted live in the United Nations headquarters in New York," Nalwa said.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that over 100 crore people have connected to Mann Ki Baat. It concerns directly people, celebrates grassroots-level change makers and achievements of people and has influenced people towards positive actions," he further added.

"Five key themes associated with Mann Ki Baat that is cleanliness and sanitation, health, wellness, water conservation and sustainability are the core areas of this program and the BJP had planned massive outreach to make the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat a memorable occasion," Nalwa also observed adding that party had organised facilities in every Assembly constituency of the Union Territory for people to listen to the programme and know people oriented developmental and welfare schemes

launched by the BJP led central government.

He further informed that apart from 22 Indian languages and 29 dialects, Mann Ki Baat is broadcast in 11 foreign languages including French, Chinese, Indonesian, Tibetan, Burmese, Baluchi, Arabic, Pashto, Persian, Dari and Swahili. Mann Ki Baat is being broadcast by more than 500 broadcast centres of All India Radio, he explained.

Pertinently, the programme, which started on October 3, 2014, has become a key pillar of the government's citizen-outreach programme addressing multiple social groups such as women, youth and farmers and has spurred community action. Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included, Rajinder Singh (Vice President), Damanjeet Singh (Vice President), Santokh Singh (General Secretary), Syed Asad Malik, Harpaal Singh (Executive Member), Parvaiz Malik, Inderjeet Singh and others.

Lecture on Berozgar se swarozgar Yojana held

JAMMU, APR 30: The Indian army conducted an interactive lecture at govt college jaurian in association with the J&K government. The scheme aims to benefit the youth by generating self employment, skill development, emphasis on developing



teachers of the college. The discussion was about the new 'berozgar se swarozgar scheme' launched by the government of India in association with the J&K government. The scheme aims to benefit the youth by generating self employment, skill development, emphasis on developing

small scale industries and employment for the local population in both urban and rural areas of the UT. Skill development would be in the field of small scale, technical and economical industries in both urban and rural areas. This scheme gives a chance to the youth in gain-

ing employment or being self employed and further help building their skills. The lecture was an interactive discussion where the students asked about various different aspects of the scheme and the application process for it. The students were adequately guided by the army personnel and looked forward to apply for this scheme to enhance their careers and help in further development of the region.

Councilor Sahil organises program to listen 100th edition of PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat

JAMMU, APR 30: Today, Bharatiya Janata Party Councilor Sahil Gupta organized a program to listen to the 100th edition of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat along with local Senior Citizens and activists at Bishnah Booth Number 33.

Co-convenor of Co-operative Society Sham Lal Gupta also participated with him on this occasion



high, PM Narendra Modi seems to be fixated on his election campaigns as he chose to speak about those in his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. State Spokesperson Aap, Partap Singh Janwal raises some pertinent questions about the PM's choice of the topic. Partap Singh Janwal criticised the 100th episode of 'mann ki baat' by modi, Modi has used the programme to reflect the views and aspirations of the people rather than expressing his own opinions. Partap alleged that the prime minister did not speak on unemployment, high fuel prices, the "deteriorating situation" in Jammu & Kashmir. He alleged that failure in maintaining Peace, Normalcy, Transparent & fair Recruitment in govt. job, Law and order in the J&K. Janwal also raised doubts over the government's 'intention' in running the 'Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao' campaign, On the other sides Beti's & J&K i.e

Patanjali products store inaugurated at Kotli Shah Doula in RS Pura

JAMMU, APR 30: Senior Congress leader and Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma today inaugurated Patanjali products store at Kotli Shah Doula, RS Pura under. Comrade Balkar Singh is the proprietor of the store. This is first kind of store in the area which has been opened keeping with the preferences & interest of the people towards Swedeshi & Ayurvedic products.



Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that it is the need of the hour to choose Ayurvedic products which are free from any kind of adulteration. He said that Patanjali products have won people's trust as there is no compromise in the quality. He also said that this store will cater to the demand of kitchen goodies, including cornflakes, biscuits, packaged food and medicines. Sharma said by opening of such kind of store the owner of the store has given a great boost to self employment among youths of J&K. He said that the ward Comrade Balkar Singh has taken step towards becoming self-reliant by opening Patanjali Store, surely this step will provide employment to many more youths in the future. Sharma said if young entrepre-

neers become job providers instead of job seekers, then they will contribute to the economy of the country. Patanjali is India's own brand and has created vast credibility among its people through the quality and minimal pricing of its wide range of products." Patanjali follows the full compliance for packaging and labelling for its products, as per Ayurvedic norms in India. Patanjali conducts in-depth research and several testing in order to manufacture its world class products, with zero tolerance policy

on quality issues. Patanjali is a unique type of organization where consumers are not considered as mere customers, they are family, added Sharma. Owner of the Store, Comrade Balkar Singh said that customer satisfaction will remain his main goal and residents of the area can also take advantage of special offers on various products. Patanjali stores are proving useful as more and more people are increasingly adopting yoga and Ayurvedic products, Singh added.

“ THOUGHT OF THE DAY ”

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Take measures to check unscheduled power cuts

Jammu region has been experiencing the heat of summer season which has brought back the perennial problem of unscheduled power outages. The onset of summer season has brought the contingency plans of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) under the scanner and its preparedness to meet the demand of power supply. Last year, the power crisis was far beyond imagination. Power cuts ranging from 12 to 14 hours in a day were imposed across Jammu region. Moreover, authorities struggled to find a tangible solution to deal with the prevailing electricity crisis as unbridled power cuts and frequent tripping of transmission lines amid soaring temperature have turned pernicious for Jammuites, especially elderly persons and young children, suffering from various ailments. Despite worsening power crisis, the government appears to be reluctant to purchase additional electricity from outside Jammu and Kashmir at exorbitant rates against the backdrop of a whopping annual revenue loss of over Rs 3,400 crore in the power sector. Government officials claim that several shortages of coal have also triggered power outages in many states and UTs including J&K. Thermal plants across the country have been grappling with coal shortage and early onset of summer due to climate change. In Jammu and Kashmir, the peak demand of electricity was in the month of May 2021 but this time electricity demand increased manifold in March itself due to intense heat wave as March 2022 was the hottest March in India's 122 year old recorded weather history. As against the peak demand of power to the tune of 1300 MW in Jammu region, just 700 MW is being provided at present by the government while Kashmir region is getting 1000 MW against the demand of 1700 MW of electricity supply. So, against the total power demand of 3000 MW in J&K UT, the Government is providing hardly around 1700 MW of power supply. It is expected that power supply position may turn more grim in J&K UT as the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), has given fresh instructions to Power authorities in J&K to maintain supply position in Jammu to the level of 600 MW instead of 700 MW for few days and in Kashmir instead of 1100 MW to 900 MW. Apart from shortage of coal at thermal plants, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced less rainfall in the month of March that also aggravated the situation. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha while addressing a function last month had said, "We are purchasing electricity for Rs 6,000 crore but only getting revenue of Rs 2,600 crore. We are suffering a loss of Rs 3400 crore annually". The unbridled power cuts have badly affected the industrial sector and business houses across Jammu and Kashmir. The people are also forced to hold mid-night protests against the PDD as a series of outages especially during night hours have disturbed their sleeping habits. There is no doubt that Jammu has been paying the price for its nationalism as it generates more revenue for getting a lesser power supply. In Kashmir, overall AT & C losses are nearly 70% while in Jammu it is nearly 52%. During the last financial year, JPCDL billed only 62% of its energy supplied to the consumers, which indicates its billing efficiency as 62%. Moreover, it recovered 3310 MUs, which indicated that its collection efficiency was to the tune of 76.33 %. Kashmir Power Development Corporation billed only 34 % of its energy it supplied to the consumers during the same period, so its billing efficiency remained 34 %. Unscheduled power cuts have become a perennial problem despite the government of India has provided liberal funding to bring reform in the power sector. It is high time that the government of India should initiate tangible measures to ensure that the people are provided some relief in this scorching weather.

India must warn Bhutan of Chinese designs

Thimphu was testing India's reaction to its 2020 three-step mechanism to settle its border dispute even at the risk of trading Doklam for territorial gains in the north. The autonomy displayed by Bhutan had a short shelf life. The Bhutanese have watched in dismay PLA's wanton intrusions in Ladakh and seem convinced that India will not be able to defend Bhutan. So, there's the thinking that striking a border deal with China will not be a bad idea.

MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)

THE recent interview by Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering to a Belgian newspaper created a storm in New Delhi. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck rushed to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to defuse tensions, while Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra gave a firm response to Bhutanese overtures to China over settling its border dispute. Thimphu was testing India's reaction to its 2020 three-step mechanism to settle its border dispute, even at the risk of trading Doklam for territorial gains in the north and other unstated benefits. The autonomy displayed by Bhutan had a short shelf life.

It is an old habit, though, as there was never any doubt about the indivisibility and entwined nature of the only two border disputes China has not resolved peacefully — India-China and Bhutan-China. As a senior staff officer in 1985 at the Headquarters of the 33 Corps near Siliguri, responsible for the security of Bhutan, I recall that the Chinese side was nibbling away at the territory in Doklam. No border talks between Bhutan and China were conceivable without the consultation of Indian officials, according to the 1949 Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

Bhutan was quite uncomfortable with the presence of Indian troops in Ha and Thimphu, though it had been a British protectorate since 1910, but like Nepal, never colonised. Indian troops were urged to maintain a light footprint and mask their training activities. Both the large training team in Ha to train the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) and Palace Guards as well as units earmarked for operational tasks that came for training represented foreign troops on Bhutanese soil. The first signs of change in Bhutan were discerned when King Jigme Singye Wangchuck visited in 2007 to rewrite the 1949 treaty in which Bhutan enjoyed internal autonomy for accepting Indian 'guidance' on defence and foreign affairs.

The 1949 treaty was written under the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru's watch; its 2007 draft was overseen by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the then Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Interestingly, the present King was in attendance. Notably, Article 2 was incorporated in the new treaty which qualified defence cooperation and read: "Small cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to national interest. Neither government shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to national security and interests of the other." It was this clause that enabled Indian troops to enter Bhutanese territory at Doklam in 2017. The then Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley mentioned this point at a media conclave in 2018.

Doklam marked the turning point in Bhutan's behavioural change in its approach to China and the border dispute. The Bhutanese had to



be persuaded to issue two press statements in accordance with their 1988 agreement on 'guiding principles on settlement of border issue' and the 1998 MoU on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the border with China.

When Indian soldiers confronted the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Doklam, the RBA troops at the Jampheri ridge in Bhutan did not join the Indians to form a human chain. Not wishing to annoy China, they let Indian soldiers do the heavy lifting. The Chinese were livid over Indian intervention, even though preventing the PLA from constructing the road to the disputed tri-junction was legitimate, as decreed in the 2012 agreement that the tri-junction issue was to be resolved by India, China and Bhutan.

When I visited Bhutan in 2019, public feeling about Indian interference on a bilateral issue was mixed. For the first time, stirrings of anti-India sentiment were vocal and visible. Chinese scholars have stated that one of the reasons for PLA's aggression in Ladakh was India's move to confront the PLA at Doklam. While India celebrated its success at Doklam, the PLA constructed a network of fighting bunkers, command posts, helipads and allied infrastructure. Not just that, satellite imagery from multiple sources over 2019-20 revealed systematic construction of 1,000 dual-use dwellings built inside Bhutan.

The Bhutanese Ambassador and former RBA chief Major Gen Vetsop Namgyel has denied any encroachment into Bhutan. When China began constructing an alternative road southwards, 8 km east of Doklam, along the Bhutanese border, Article 2 of the 2007 treaty was not invoked by India. When I pointed out in 2019 to a former Indian ambassador to

Bhutan that the Chinese had built civilian barracks inside the Bhutanese territory, he said: "These are civilian constructions, not military."

Maxar Technologies, a US-based space technology company, now shows that the PLA has built a bridge across Amo Chu which would open an axis to the Ha valley. Further, the road is being constructed towards the Jampheri ridge and earthmoving equipment has been seen on the west bank of Amo Chu. Crossing the Doklam nullah is an Indian red line, but it seems Bhutan (and India) has given free passage to the PLA to exploit India's vulnerability in the Yatung (Chumbi) valley.

The Bhutanese have watched in dismay PLA's wanton intrusions into Ladakh and seem convinced that India cannot and will not be able to defend Bhutan. So, the thinking is striking a border deal with China will not be a bad idea. In the interview, Tshering said, "Doklam is a junction point between India, China and Bhutan. It is not up to Bhutan alone to fix the problem. There are three of us. There is no big or small country; all are three equal countries, each counting for one-third." But which is the tri-junction — Batang La or Gyemochen? Tshering said that the border could be demarcated after one or two meetings. This created a furore in the Indian media, forcing Tshering to issue a clarification — "no policy change as nothing new was said." He also denied any Chinese intrusion into Bhutan.

The misgivings created by his interview were sufficient for the Bhutan King to scramble to New Delhi and reassure India that its security interests would not be harmed. Thimphu needs to be gently warned that a PLA fait accompli in the Chumbi valley must be pre-empted.

IRRFAN'S NATURAL INSTINCTS

THE LATE ACTOR'S PASSIONATE ATTENTION TO THE BREATH AND HEARTBEAT OF NATURE, OF OTHER PEOPLE, OTHER CREATURES WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE DEEPEST SPIRITUAL BELIEFS OF OUR COUNTRY. A BELIEF THAT, I AM CERTAIN, WE ALL HAVE A DESPERATE DESIRE TO REAFFIRM AT THIS MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY

ANUP SINGH

HE seems not to be moving at all, still as a tree. His right hand is raised with the string between his fingers and the spool in his left hand at his thigh. Just his hair flickers in the breeze. He stands on a high sand dune in the middle of the Thar desert in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, and the kite he is flying lurches and ripples noisily high above him in the wind. There is a flock of white-plumaged cranes, about 50 of them, circling the kite.

As I climb the dune towards Irfan, I can hear the birds crying and screeching at the kite. The beat of their large wings creates a vibrant shudder in the desert's dense early morning air. Coming closer, I hear Irfan's voice. Even now, motionless, he is speaking, loudly to the birds. "Arey, dost! Tell us something about yourself. Tell us about all you have seen in your journeys flying so high above the earth."

We were in the middle of our shoot at dawn (from late 2016 to early 2017) for 'The Song of Scorpions' when these birds, which we later found out made a journey of thousands of miles during winter every year from Siberia and Mongolia to Jaisalmer, suddenly swooped in above us, calling and screaming. They had refused to move

on for more than 45 minutes now and I was getting desperate as we were losing the morning light when we needed to shoot the scene. We had tried everything to get rid of them, screaming, banging on metal, but nothing had worked. I had given up and gone and sat in a dune's shadow. Then, suddenly, Irfan appeared with the kite in hand.

Without turning to me, Irfan asks me to stay still. Slowly, gently, he tucks at the string and the kite swings towards one of the birds. All the birds now have their attention on the kite and Irfan starts reeling out the string, sending the kite further and further away. He begins to slide down slowly the dune's slope, away from me, and walks off into the desert, still giving out more and more of the string. Soon, Irfan is just a tiny shadow far in the desert. He, then, breaks the string and the kite scuttles away and the birds drift after it, calling to it.

We had tried everything to get rid of the birds and I have no idea why Irfan thought that his kite would finally take them away. But that was Irfan. What, indeed, from the beginning I had admired about him was the gentleness and thoughtful creativity with which he found the right gesture to make — whether it was for a



character he was playing or during a conversation with someone or, indeed, while talking to birds!

While shooting 'The Song of Scorpions', it seems to me that he felt opening himself to the larger world around him. He always had the amazing quality of putting at ease anyone he was talking to, but now he was reaching out to the non-human

elements and creatures. Let me share a few more examples. As he plays a camel trader in 'The Song of Scorpions' (released on Friday), it was very important that he found an intimate relation with camels. Irfan, however, was very uneasy about camels. He said he had heard of camels who had bitten the head off their camelers who were

walking with the reins ahead of them.

We, finally, found one camel that was said to be the most sweet-tempered in the desert. It was called Patang! Initially, Irfan was even scared to stand too close to it, but day after day, he started spending hours with Patang. Slowly, coming closer and closer to it, and then feeding it, and even washing it!

And, then, he started speaking to it, quietly, almost in a whisper. From that moment, their relationship started to change. A few days later, even if Patang was far away in the desert, it would look up and lumber back towards Irfan whenever he called.

I believe this opening himself to the non-human around him had as much to do with the vast, wide spread of the desert, its immense expansiveness, as it did with the spirit of the film that we were in the process of making.

The film, at its heart, is about what poisons us and what could heal us. In the world we live in today, we breathe in a poison of some kind with every breath we take. The poison of bigoted politics, inhumanity and violence. In response, we can choose to breathe back out into the universe the poison we take within us or we can choose to breathe out a song. That's our critical choice today — to breathe

back into our world a poison or a song.

While making the film in the desert, I believe Irfan wanted to face and understand better the poison that chokes us, and why, and what might be the forces that inspire and free us to sing.

Linking himself to this spirit of the film with his whole being, Irfan carefully widened his performance beyond the drama to a dialogue with the larger forces of the film — the wide space of the desert, its winds and plants, the camels and to the voice of a woman that opens an oasis in his character's barren heart.

Here, Irfan has created a rhythm — whether it be a simple raising of his eyes or a hand — that immediately links us to the larger rhythms of our world. His passionate attention to the breath and heartbeat of nature, of other people, other creatures, is a reaffirmation of the deepest spiritual beliefs of our country. A belief that, I am certain, we all have a desperate desire to reaffirm at this moment in our history. At the end of watching the film, I hope the audience will carry a little bit of this lively, compassionate rhythm back into their lives too.

— The writer is a National Award-winning director



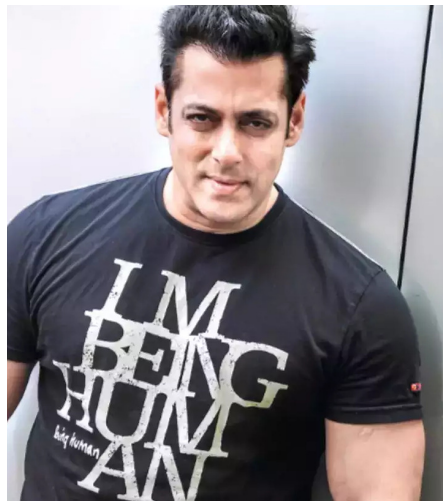
Salman Khan Opens Up On Why He Doesn't Let Women Wear Low-Neckline Outfits On Sets

Salman Khan has talked about his rule against women wearing low necklines on his film sets. The Bollywood superstar shared that the fault lies in men, the way they look at them, calling women's body as "precious".

Salman Khan has talked about his rule against women wearing low necklines on his film sets. The Bollywood superstar shared that the fault lies in men, the way they look at them, calling women's body as "precious".

It was Salman's 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' co-star Palak Tiwari, who shared that the 'Dabangg' actor had one rule about how women should dress on 'Antim: The Final Truth set'. She recalled that Salman had said that all the girls should be covered, like good proper girls.

Salman was on a chat show 'Aap Ki Adalat', where the host Rajat Sharma said he has 'double standard'. Salman said: "Tab aap ek decent picture banate ho toh sab jaake dekhite hai pure parivaar ke saath. Koi double standard nahi hai. I think aurto ki jo bodies hai hai woh kahi zada precious hai. Toh woh jitni dhaki huyi hongii mujhe lagta hai ki better hai". "Yeh ladkiyon ka chakkar nahi hai yeh ladko ka chakkar hai. His jisaab se ladke ladkiyon ko dekhate hai, aapki behene, aapki biwio ko, aapki maa ko.



TIGER SHROFF On 7 Years Of 'Baaghi': It Gave Me An Identity And A Life In Industry



As his debut film 'Baaghi' completed seven years of its release, actor Tiger Shroff penned down a heartfelt note for the film, saying that the film gave him an identity and a life in the industry. Taking to Instagram stories, Tiger shared a picture of himself and also thanked his mentor Sajid Nadiadwala on the occasion. He wrote: "7 years of a film that gave me an identity and a life in the industry. Thank you to all the audience and my fans who are like my family for accepting me. This franchise takes all my blood, sweat and tears but all worthwhile #baaghi."

"And forever grateful to my godfather/mentor #sajid-nadiadwala... For giving me a platform to showcase myself best I can. And my first director and one of my favs...this wouldn't have been pass without you paaji u," he added.

Meanwhile, Tiger is currently shooting for his upcoming action thriller 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' in the UK along with the entire film team.

He is also gearing up for an interesting line-up of films including 'Ganapath', amongst many others unannounced.

KATY PERRY TO BE TEMPORARILY REPLACED BY 'BIG-TIME' STAR ON 'AMERICAN IDOL'

Singer Katy Perry is expected to be temporarily replaced on 'American Idol' by a "big-time" star. The 38-year-old singer and her "American Idol" co-star Lionel Richie are both scheduled to perform at King Charles' coronation concert in May, and Luke Bryan has told fans to expect some big-name replacements on the TV show, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"It's big time. It's big time. The people that we have filling in, contestants have used their songs many, many times. A lot more than mine!" Luke, 46 - who has been a judge on the show



since 2018 - told Entertainment Tonight. Katy and Lionel, 73, will both perform at the much-anticipated concert on the grounds of Windsor Castle. And, Katy recently revealed that she's

"so grateful" to have been invited to sing at the upcoming event. The pop star is already an ambassador for one of the monarch's charities, and she's now looking forward to the concert. Speaking about her invite, Katy told ExtraTV, "It was very regal, it was like a curseive I have never seen. I loved it. It was so beautiful and it was so grateful to get the honour because actually I am an ambassador for the British Asian Trust, which primarily focuses on ending child trafficking, which is a huge issue of our time and it just aligned with all my values."

Unicef. And as a mother I know first-hand these innocent children need help, they need to be helped. So I'm just going there as an ambassador and they asked me to sing and it all aligned." Meanwhile, Orlando Bloom thinks it's "cool" that Katy will perform at the coronation concert. The 46-year-old actor - who has Daisy, two, with the pop star - is already looking forward to seeing Katy perform at the historic occasion.

Orlando - who also has Flynn, 12, with his ex-wife Miranda Kerr - told Entertainment Tonight, "My girls' gonna be singing, that's fun.

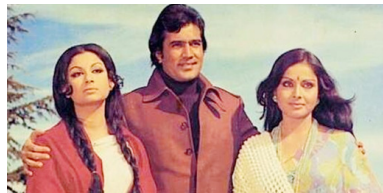
Krushna Abhishek makes fun of his decision to stay away from The Kapil Sharma Show: 'Gusse mein kuch nahi rakha'



Actor-comedian Krushna Abhishek is back on The Kapil Sharma Show. He will be seen in the show this weekend as his much-loved character of Sapna. In a new promo of the episode, Krushna is seen poking fun at his decision to stay away from the show.

The new promo begins with Krushna making an entry on Maine Pyar Kiya song "Dil Deewana". Actor Bhagyashree, who is a guest on the show, and was the leading lady in the movie, joins Krushna in his dance. After his performance, he takes a dig at Archana Puran Singh. He says, "Archana ji ka kya hai, vo toh bas Saturday Sunday aa kar baith jaati hain yahan. Hum logon ka toh contract rehta hai na (Archana ji just comes and sits here every Saturday and Sunday. But for us, we have a contract). The moment Das dada calls her and tells her that we are shooting, she just arrives on the set."

When Sharmila Tagore was pelted with snowballs during Daag shoot: 'They said this is our play'



Legendary Indian filmmaker Yash Chopra's romantic drama film Daag marked 50 years on Thursday. The film, starring Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore and Rakhee in the lead roles, is considered one of the most landmark romantic films of Indian cinema. Daag, marked Yash Chopra's debut as a producer.

Talking about her collaboration with the Kabhi Kabhie director, actor Sharmila Tagore said, "I think it's wonderful that it's now 50 years since we made Daag, yet the movie and the songs remain so popular. In fact, recently Manoj Bajpayee (I made Gulmohar with him) was constantly singing Ek Chehre Pe Dusre Chehre Lagate Dete Hai Log. I had to tell him

day and I woke up to a landscape covered in snow; a stunning view from my hotel window but that also meant that I had to walk to work as no car could come to us through the snow; I remember that I would get ready in make-up-hair and everything and barely walk 5 steps when something had hit me really hard and it was a snowball." The film also starred actors Madan Puri, Kader Khan, Prem Chopra and A.K Hangal in pivotal roles. She added, "I turned around to protest, I found a bunch of giggly girls and they said 'Yeh toh hamara khel hai, hum toh khelenge'." I tried to explain to them but they wouldn't listen (laughs). And I had to walk the distance to the location which was thankfully not too far being constantly hit with snowballs; I think I also threw some at them but my aim was not half as good as theirs! But anyway, I think I quite enjoyed that by the end of it; it's another matter that I had to change at the location because I was drenched; so they made sort of a make-shift room where I changed my sari! Anyway it was a great experience playing their game 'Yeh toh hamara khel hai, hum toh khelenge'."

Vikramaditya Motwane recalls working with Vivek Agnihotri on Goal: 'Original script is one of the best things I've written but'



Filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane has carved out quite a niche for himself through both his acclaimed theatrical films and hugely popular streaming series. As it was pointed out in a recent interview, he has worked with everyone from Sanjay Leela Bhansali to Vivek Agnihotri. He reflected on his collaboration with Agnihotri, who has since developed an outspoken public persona as a conservative voice. Motwane said that the original script that he wrote with Anurag Kashyap for the film Goal, starring John Abraham and Arshad Warsi, remains close to his heart. But the final film wasn't quite what he'd written. Asked how the collaboration came about, Motwane said with a laugh, "So, UTV was producing the film, and Vivek had approached them with this story idea that he wanted to do about football, and they said okay. But he wanted a really good writer, so they called up Anurag, and he said, 'Look, I know nothing about football, but this guy (Motwane) knows everything about football.'"

Motwane was then approached with the project, and was told what was required of him. But as someone who'd loved football since he was eight, he told them that he'd write an original script for them. Asked if he was given a DVD to watch, implying that they wanted to unofficially rip off a foreign film, Motwane said, "Something like that." He continued, "So, I wrote it, and they were happy. The film got made, but not exactly in the way that Anurag and he wanted, to put it mildly. But it is what it is. At that time, it was like beggars can't be choosers, you get paid for work. I still believe the original script of mine is one of the best things I've written. I loved it. I'm crazy about football, and for me, it was a big passion thing about a sport I've loved." Agnihotri is now best known as the director of the controversial film The Kashmir Files, which became a box office hit last year, but also drew strong criticism for its exploitative tone.



Alia Bhatt says she did - 't lose preg- a- cy weight 'u- - aturally: 'My mother-i- law made me go- d ka ladoo that I ate for 6 weeks'

Alia Bhatt is a new mother as well as a celebrity and has a lot of pressure to deal with in terms of both her career and personal front. One of the things that most often get talked about with respect to new mothers is their pregnancy weight and how they attempt to shed that post-delivery. Alia is no different, and said that even her weight loss was discussed on social media and people assumed she had lost her weight unnaturally, when she hadn't. Speaking to Vogue India, Alia said, "My job is a visual medium so I do

need to present myself in a certain way, sometimes also for continuity. Even so, I wasn't hard on myself because I was so proud of what my body had done when I delivered Raha. I know everyone believes that I lost weight unnaturally but the truth is that I can't even get my wisdom tooth extracted at the moment since I'm breastfeeding and can't be given anesthesia. Many folks are under the impression that individuals who work in the visual medium do unnatural things to their bodies to get back in shape post-delivery. That's why I felt like it was important to docu-

ment parts of my fitness journey on Instagram. I didn't put any pressure on myself. The doctors advised me to only push harder in my workouts post 12 weeks, and I did that." Alia then went on to add that she is yet to get back to her pre-pregnancy weight and stated that she makes it a point to not check her weight obsessively. "And I'm still not back to my pre-pregnancy weight. I'm almost there; just a kilogram away. But I did everything naturally, both during and post-pregnancy. I started going on 15-minute walks and doing breathing exercises as it

improves blood flow. I avoided checking my weight every day like many people do when they work out religiously. I would step on the scale maybe once in two weeks. You need to be consistent and let change happen at its own pace. My mother-in-law even made me these good ke laddus that I ate for six weeks. People need to understand that putting on weight during pregnancy is not a result of eating too much; it's because you're making life inside you and that life needs that extra weight. It has to be in sync with your BMI, of course, and you should consult a pro-

fessional if you have questions but you're supposed to put on a certain amount of weight. It's completely okay," added the actor. In the same chat, Alia also spoke about her daughter Raha and how she doesn't stop her baby from crying when she feels like as even for kids, it is unnatural to stay happy and be positive all the time: "As a new mom, you don't want your baby to even frown; you just want them to be happy all the time. But I'm very clear about not having anyone tell Raha that she shouldn't cry."

Bipolar disorder: lifestyle changes to manage mania and depression symptoms



Living with bipolar disorder can be challenging as a person suffering from it goes through extreme shifts in mood. One can find themselves in either of the two phases - being too happy or too withdrawn. A person during manic episodes may be over-excited about life, bursting with energy, joyful, doing new things - at times irrational, talking too much and behaving impulsively. The same person during the depression phase, may withdraw from joyful activities, isolate self, be indecisive, suffer from low energy and lose sleep. In between these two extremes, there are phases when their mood could be absolutely normal. (Also read | Bipolar disorder: Warning symptoms you should know; types, causes, treatment)

Bipolar disorder is a mental health ailment characterised by significant alterations in mood that involves extreme highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression). (Freepik)

Bipolar disorder is a mental health ailment characterised by

significant alterations in mood that involves extreme highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression). (Freepik)

It is important to make appropriate lifestyle changes when suffering from bipolar disorder to help manage moods. Mania can lead to poor judgment, risk taking behaviour and disinhibition which may make a person prone to accidents or financial loss. On the other hand, depression can make one suicidal and lonely.

These mood changes may impact an individual's sleeping habits, energy levels, daily activities, judgment, behaviour, and cognitive abilities, says Dr Sonali Bali, Consultant - Psychiatrist, Paras Health, Gurugram. "What to do during mania and depression

Before applying lifestyle changes for managing bipolar disorder, it's important to understand an individual's personality, severity, and exact type of the disorder and their psycho-social environment. In general, proper activity scheduling (record of

health ailment characterised by significant alterations in mood that involves extreme highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression).

The depressive episodes are characterised by persistent, pervasive sadness of mood along with a lack of interest or pleasure in usual activities. On the other hand, manic or hypomanic episodes are characterised by excessive cheerfulness or uncharacteristic irritability and increased energy.

These mood changes may impact an individual's sleeping habits, energy levels, daily activities, judgment, behaviour, and cognitive abilities, says Dr Sonali Bali, Consultant - Psychiatrist, Paras Health, Gurugram.

What to do during mania and depression

Before applying lifestyle changes for managing bipolar disorder, it's important to understand an individual's personality, severity, and exact type of the disorder and their psycho-social environment. In general, proper activity scheduling (record of

daily activity as per specific time slot) is required to maintain emotional regulation. If a person is having depressive disorder, then there should be activities to

sistent sleep schedule, aiming for seven to eight hours of sleep per night," says Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali.

MANIA AND DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS IN BIPOLAR DISORDER CAN BE MANAGED BY INTRODUCING APPROPRIATE LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

activate their physical energy and brain chemicals like walking, cycling, team play activities, etc. It's advisable to avoid any alcohol activity during this phase. If a person is having a manic phase, then grounding should be the main goal in lifestyle changes for which meditation, taking care of plants, gratitude journaling, etc can be useful." Dr Shweta Sharma, Clinical Psychologist & Founder, Mansa Global Foundation for Mental Health.

"Taking proper sleep is required (7-8 hours) in both states. Maintaining regular Psychotherapy sessions is a must. Learning social skills is also important in their lifestyle. Regularly journaling about your small achievements before sleeping on day-to-day basis. Keep a check on your triggers and reach out for help while doing all this. There is one important point that needs to be in mind, meditation or yoga is not the best advice for depressive episodes but helpful for the manic phase, adds Dr Sharma.

Lifestyle changes for bipolar disorder

1. Maintain a regular sleep schedule
"Good and enough sleep is crucial for individuals with bipolar disorder. Lack of sleep or irregular sleep patterns can trigger manic or depressive episodes. Try to maintain a con-

2. Regular exercise
"Exercise is known to have many mental health benefits, including reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression. Regular physical activity can also help manage mood swings and improve overall well-being," says Dr Kapoor.

3. Balanced diet
"A balanced diet can help stabilise mood and improve overall health. Focus on eating nutrient-dense foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Limit or avoid processed and sugary foods," says Dr Bali.

4. Manage stress
"Practicing relaxation techniques, such as yoga or meditation, can help reduce stress and anxiety," says Dr Malasa Gajjar, Consulting Physiologist, Jindal Naturecure Institute, Bangalore.

5. Avoid drugs and alcohol
"Substance use can interfere with bipolar disorder treatment and increase the risk of relapse. Avoiding drugs and alcohol can help stabilize mood and reduce the risk of manic or depressive episodes," says Dr Kapoor.

6. Keep a mood journal
"Keeping a journal can help you track your mood swings, identify triggers, and monitor the effectiveness of your treatment plan. Share your mood journal with your mental health provider," says Dr Bali.

AMAZING FOODS THAT CAN HELP EASE ANXIETY



During times of stress and anxiety, we tend to go overboard on salty snacks and sugary treats. While it activates the pleasure centres of our brain and may even make us feel better for a short window, but in long term, these high-fat foods end up doing more damage than good and make us prone to depression and anxiety. Processed meats, high sugar foods, tea and coffee can increase cortisol production and exacerbate anxiety symptoms. On the other hand, there are certain foods you can trust on to bring your anxiety levels down. Cashews, berries, oranges, dark chocolate, turmeric are some of the superfoods that can help ease anxiety. (Also read: 5 foods that trigger stress and anxiety)

"What you eat can have an impact on your emotional well-being. Certain foods can help support and soothe anxious feelings, while others may be agitators. Using food as medicine is a smart first line of defense for mild forms of anxiety. But as always, check with your healthcare practitioner to see what treatments are right for you. It is important to note that while these foods can be helpful in managing anxiety, they should not replace proper treatment," says Uma Naidoo, a Harvard Medical School-certified psychiatrist and nutrition specialist (Cornell University) in her recent Instagram post.

- Berries have antioxidants that can protect the body and brain from oxidative stress that can worsen anxiety.
- Brussels sprouts are rich in vitamin C, which can support the adrenal glands that produce stress hormones.
- Omega-3 fatty acids found in wild salmon have anti-inflammatory properties and may help reduce anxiety symptoms.
- Turmeric contains curcumin, which has been shown to have anti-anxiety effects.
- Probiotics in pickles can support gut health, which has been linked to improved mood.
- Avocados contain healthy fats and B vitamins that can help reduce stress and anxiety.
- Flavonoids in dark chocolate may have mood-boosting properties.
- L-theanine, an amino acid found in green tea, can promote relaxation and improve sleep.
- Swiss chard is a good source of magnesium and potassium, both of which can have calming effects on the body.

DOES EXERCISE CAUSE YOU HEARTBURN OR ACIDITY? TRY THIS OUT TO AVOID IT!

EXERCISE SOMETIMES CAN CAUSE HEARTBURN OR ACIDITY. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN AVOID IT!

Exercise is good for overall health, losing weight, and feeling energetic all through the day. However, what if you get acidity or heartburn post-workout? When you exercise intensively, the acid is pushed towards the esophagus during the movements and leads to irritation or burning.

It is quite common to feel heartburn after a vigorous workout session. It is more common in people who do a lot of bending and twisting exercises or

who had a very heavy meal a couple of hours before exercising. Avoid foods that cause acidity. Even though intense movements do push the acid from the stomach into the esophagus, the formation of acid is triggered only when you eat oily and spicy foods. So you must avoid eating such foods or limit your portion. Drinks such as coffee, carbonated beverages, and alcohol also cause heartburn and should be avoided. Do not lie down immediately

after exercise
It is natural to feel exhausted after a heavy workout routine. However, even then you must not lie down immediately after the exercise. Let the body's blood circulation and overall functioning settle or it may cause heartburn. You should wait for at least half an hour before lying down after the exercise.

Stay away from certain exercises
At times certain exercises can cause heartburn and acidity. For that, you need to watch

which exercises trigger acid reflux. More often downward dog pose or performing inversions can cause acidity as these are the exercises against the natural gravity of the digestion. If intensive workouts or core exercises cause acidity then you should shift to normal exercises like cycling and swimming.

Baking soda can help
You can try natural remedies like baking soda. Add 1 tsp baking soda to a glass of water and drink. Baking soda is known for

neutralizing stomach acids as it amps up the intake of salt in the body.

Keep yourself hydrated
Drinking less amount of water can also cause acidity. Make sure that you drink adequate water and stay hydrated, especially during summer when you perspire more. Disclaimer: This piece of article is for basic information purposes only. It's always advisable to consult a doctor for any type of health issue.

Top 3 rules to follow when eating fruits for maximum benefits

Incorporating fruits into your daily diet is a healthy lifestyle practice. Fruits are natural and rich in sucrose, fructose, and glucose, providing the body with essential energy and nutrients for immunity. They contain a variety of vitamins, minerals, and enzymes, each with its own unique benefits. However, it's not just about eating fruits; there are certain rules one must follow to maximize the benefits of consuming fruits. Whether you're trying to improve your diet or just looking to make some healthy changes, these rules will help you make the most of your fruit intake. So, let's dive in and discover the secrets to unlocking the full potential of fruits. (Also read: Feel fresh and beat the heat: 6 summer fruits to eat for glowing and healthy skin)

All fruits are extremely healthy in their own right, but it is advisable to eat fruits that are local to you. Contrary to the belief that imported fruits might be healthier, these fruits are plucked much before they are ripe, thus diluting their nutritional value. Additionally, once they arrive at the markets, they are sprayed with chemicals to quickly and unnaturally ripen them.

Eating a high protein diet damage your kidneys: Myth or fact?

We consume protein in various forms - be it dairy products, meats or eggs. Many lentils and vegetables also contain protein in lower quantities. It is one of the macros of nutrition that everyone consumes in their diet in one form or another. Some people also choose to supplement their diet with additional protein in the form of Whey Protein. But, does it have a negative impact on your kidneys? Let's find out.

High protein diet does not damage your kidneys

Dietary Protein consumption has no proven effect on the health of your kidneys. Even if you consume a moderate amount of protein, there will be some health guru around who will tell you that you will damage your kidneys, don't believe it. A lack of basic understanding of the functioning of your body will have no positive impact on your lifestyle or health.

Know if eating a diet rich in protein damages your kidneys. Image courtesy: Shutterstock

Protein is an essential part of the human body. It is the building block of your anatomy and is required in making hormones, enzymes, tissues,



the growth of nails, growth of hair, the health of bones etc - essentially everything that you're made up of. The demand for protein in your body is so much that it becomes extremely difficult to overdo it. Here are some products that you can try: S. Boulardii Probiotic - S. Boulardii Saccharomyces Boulardii Gastrointestinal, Mens & Womens

Probiotics - 440 Mg, Shelf Stable Immune Support, Ultimate Flora Probiotic
FIXUPHEALTH 500 mg Calcium and Vitamin D3 Tablets, for Bones and Muscle Care Unique Calcium - Vit D Bone Complex for Better Absorption Effervescent Tablets Orange Flavor - (20 Tablets)
Too much protein will cause diges-

tive issues before the kidney comes into the picture, so stop worrying about too much protein. Consuming enough protein to cause digestive issues is an extremely high quantity and reaching that number for an individual is extremely improbable. Protein is beneficial for your health
The normal diet of an Indian person is not just deficient in protein but

protein is almost non-existent. We as people do Not protein, but these things can

PROTEIN BENEFITS, SIDE EFFECTS OF EATING A PROTIEIN DIET, CAUSES OF KIDNEY DISEASES, PROTEIN MYTHS, DOES EATING PROTEIN AFFECT YOUR KIDNEYS, PROTEIN FUNCTION, IS PROTEIN BAD FOR YOU, DANGERS OF EATING TOO MUCH PROTEIN, PROTEIN AND KIDNEY HEALTH, HIGH PROTEIN DIET, HEALTH SHOTS,

not need to cut protein out of our diet but rather add more sources to assure better bodily function. There is no evidence to prove that protein damages your body. But unsurprisingly there are multiple studies that tell us the opposite, i.e. the positive impact of protein.

There is a study which was published in the International Journal of Sports Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism in March 2000 which had participants who were body-builders and other well-trained athletes with high protein intake. They went into a 7-day nutrition record analysis as well as gave blood and urine for analysis. The study found that protein intake does not impact kidney

damage your kidneys
Now if it's not protein that is damaging the kidneys which we thought it was, what is causing it? Well, there is nothing that does more damage than oxidative stress caused by elevated levels of insulin and blood glucose in the kidneys as well as the damage to the capillaries because of high blood glucose levels. What triggers insulin and blood glucose levels is the sugar and refined carbohydrates in the diet. So if you're so worried about kidney damage, you might want to consider reducing sugars and refined carbohydrates that have no function in your body rather than targeting protein which is the building block of the human body.

BJP listens to Mann Ki Baat on more than 5000 booths in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE

In a report from Jammu, April 30, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir listened to the popular AIR programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at more than 5000 public programmes across the region.

More than 6 lakh people listened to the public programmes organized by the BJP activists and much more strength of people listened to the programme in their homes. Common people, including religious, trade, chamber and other organizations participated in the event like a festival.

Along with Jammu region, the 'Mann Ki Baat' was listened to in Kashmir in massive programmes. This is due to the popularity of Modi ji as testified by so heavy participation of people in this programme.

BJP National General Secretary & J&K Prabhari Tarun Chugh along with J&K BJP General Secretary Sunil Sharma and senior leaders listened to PM Narendra Modi Mann Ki Baat at SKICC Srinagar,

Kashmir.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina listened to PM Narendra Modi Mann Ki Baat 100th episode at Brig. Rajinder Singh Park Bagona (Vijaypur, Samba), calls it a social revolution. He said that party had organised facilities in every Assembly constituency of the Union Territory for people to listen to the programme and felicitate the people to connect to the historic programme.

J&K BJP General Secretary (org.) Ashok Koul listened to PM Narendra Modi 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat at Achabal, District Anantnag in Kashmir.

MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma listened to PM Narendra Modi 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat at 'Grand Nimantran Banquet' Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana listened to 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat.

Former Minister Sat Sharma CA listened to PM Narendra Modi Mann Ki Baat 100th episode at Jammu.

Former Dy. CM Dr Nirmal Singh listened to Mann Ki Baat 100th episode at Dhar Mahanpur in District Basmohli.

Haseena Begum Kupwara leads way in organic farming

CERTIFICATION AS MODEL ORGANIC VILLAGE OPENS NEW VISTAS FOR DISTRICTS' PROGRESSIVE WOMEN

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: Haseena Begum, of Hyhana village Kupwara, has become a role model in organic farming for aspiring women entrepreneurs of Kupwara with her success as an empowered agripreneur.

Haseena Begum, wife of Mohammad Shafi, was earlier running a small hotel on rented building in village Hyhana and living a hard life.

After being encouraged and motivated by the officials of the agriculture department to start organic farming, Haseena embarked on this new venture with all her devotion and vigour which ultimately transformed her life.

She says after being introduced to the concept of organic farming, she started vegetable cultivation to cater to the daily requirements of her hotel. She had very poor financial health and had to borrow Rs18000 for purchasing seeds for the vegetable farm.

She also sought guidance from Agriculture Department to maintain the farm under constant supervision. And, in first year only she had produce of 18 quintals of vegetables including Squash, Beans, Cabbage, Tomatoes and Garlic which she sold for Rs 1 Lakh.

Haseena Begum is now happy with her vegetable farming venture and have saved enough to even own the

hotel building. She has now emerged as a role model for other women in village and is leading a self-help group of 25 women engaged in organic farming in Hyhana.

An official of the agriculture department says that the area under organic farming of vegetables has grown from 15 ha to 85 ha spread across 5 villages with enthusiastic participation of farmers.

Notably, Hatmulla-Deedikoot has been certified as Model Organic Village by PGS India in December 2019. The development opened the doors of these progressive women to national markets and helped them to fetch better prices for their produce.

Organic farming has been gaining currency all over the world as it is being considered vital to the concept of sustainable development.

Agriculture Department in Kupwara has introduced organic farming of vegetable initially on 15 Hectare land after launching extensive IEC campaigns to convince the Farmers to limit the use of synthetic inputs and instead use organic fertilizers, crop residues, organic farm waste and Animal manures.

The department is providing additional support to farmers through Vermi-Compost Units for production of organic fertilizers and marketing of the produce through Refrigerated Vans.

Col Mahan extends warm farewell to DDC Rahul Pandey



JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APR 30: DDC Council Kathua headed by its Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) today gave a warm send off to Rahul Pandey, outgoing Deputy Commissioner.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman appreciated the work of IAS officer as District Development Commissioner during last one and half year. He said numerous developmental projects have successfully completed in the entire district with active involvement of Pandey.

DDC Chairman also expressed satisfaction on implementation of various Central Sponsored Schemes in the District during the tenure of Officer, particularly digitalization of revenue records under 'Apni Zameen, Apni Nigrani' scheme, which has brought transparency in working and made it easy for the land owners to obtain their land documents.

Col Mahan applauded people friendly approach of Rahul Pandey and wished him good luck for future endeavours.

Raghunandan Singh, Vice Chairman, S.D.S Jamwal SSP Kathua, DDC Members Naryan Dutt Tripathi, Sandeep Majora and Karan Atri, BDC Chairpersons Raghbir Singh and Khazan Singh and others were present during the occasion.

7-day Basic Course hosted for Scout Masters, Guide Captains at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 30: A 7-day Basic Course for Scout Masters and Guide Captains has been organised by the Bharat Scouts Guides Jammu and Kashmir UT here in the Sports Stadium Doda from April 25 to May 1, 2023.

A total of 74 participants working as teachers including 42 males and 32 females, drawn from the schools of the District, are attending the week-long course.

A Camp Fire function organised today was attended by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Vishesh Paul Mahajan as the Chief Guest and SSP, Abdul Qayoom as the Guest of Honour.

A scintillating Cultural programme was presented on the occasion, which was appreciated by all the people present.

The participants of the course were imparted training by R.P. Kotwal and his team under the guidance of Wing Commander M.M. Joshi, National Commissioner Scouts and H.L. Dogra, State Treasurer Scouts Guide. Leader of the Course R.P. Kotwal imparted training under Bharat Scouts Guide programme which included First Aid, Drill Marching etc.

Beopar Mandal Udhampur accords farewell to outgoing DC

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30: Beopar Mandal Udhampur today organized an impressive function to accord farewell to the outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Kritika Jyotsna.

The function was attended by Chairman Beopar Mandal, Vikram Salathia, President Beopar Mandal, Jatinder Varmani, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jöginder Singh Jasrotia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral and other officers of Civil Administration and representatives of Beopar Mandal attended the function.

Representatives of Beopar Mandal extended their best wishes to outgoing DC for her new assignment. DC also expressed her gratitude to the Beopar Mandal for hosting impressive function and thanked for their active support and cooperation.

Faz-Lul Haseeb assumes charge as Deputy Commissioner, Shopian



JI NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 30: Faz-Lul Haseeb today assumed the charge of Deputy Commissioner Shopian at Mini Secretariat.

He was warmly welcomed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner. Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and other officers and officials of the district administration.

On the occasion, outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar was also present.

Later, Faz Lul Haseeb held a brief introduction with revenue, accounts and planning officers of the district administration.

Director Agriculture, Kashmir visits Kapran, Verinag areas



JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Kapran, Verinag areas and took stock of various agriculture activities in these areas.

Speaking to the farmer gatherings at different places, the Director Agriculture said that department is committed to the development of agriculture sector in the far flung areas of the valley. He said that department has already taken many initiatives for promotion of agriculture activities in the tribal areas of the Kashmir division. He said that under Holistic Agriculture Development Program special attention has been paid to the farmers of tribal and far off areas.

Chaudhry Iqbal said that department is working on a robust agriculture marketing policy wherein all the efforts are made to ensure that a wide range of marketing options are available to the farmers so that they could fetch maximum returns for their produce.

Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction and said that 'Kashmir based Agriculture produce commodities are now available at national and international markets, our agriculture produce is finding its place in new national and international markets and this is very encouraging, he added.

J&K BJP celebrates 6th foundation of Nanaji Deshmukh Library

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 30: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir celebrated 6th foundation of Nanaji Deshmukh Library & Documentation Department at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The programme was organized by Department Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra along with team.

MP (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former MP (Rajya Sabha) Shamsheer Singh Manhas

Padam Shree Shiv Kumar Nirmohi and Padam Shree Mohan Singh Salathia, Dr. Neelem Sareen, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Dr. Sushma Kumari, Brig. Anil Gupta, Major Gen Govardhan Singh Jamwal, Raj Rahi, CS Katal, Underjet Kesar, Randheer Singh Rajpura, Rajeshwar Singh Raju and others were the attraction of the programme, who were felicitated on the occasion.

Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, Dy. Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, Secretary Vaseen Khanna, Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, BJP Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District President Rekha Mahajan, Ashu Mahajan, Zoravar



Singh, Dil Bahadur Singh, Shailja Gupta, Mookherjee Sharma, Govind Sareen and other senior leaders were amongst.

CS Katal and Randhir Singh Rajpura also mesmerized the audience with their exceptional vocal and oratory skills in poems and "Karak" of Baba Jitto. They also recited poems based upon achievements of PM Modi.

Ghulam Ali Khatana said that the BJP's library hosts ocean of books and asked the public to use its services. Kavinder Gupta said that even in today's time of internet, the books hold the relevance and all must make a habit of reading books.

Shamsheer Singh said that a person should never stop learning till last breath as it improves the overall persona of that very person.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra shared the journey of Library since its inauguration by Amit Shah ji. He said that the Library aims to develop the personality of a political worker along with other wisdom seekers.

He said that the Nanaji Deshmukh Library is open to anybody whether a student, scholar or any common person who is in quest for knowledge. He said that the Library house many rare books ranging from history to politics to religion and many other subjects, many of which may be not accessible at any other place. He thanked all those intellectuals and social workers whose works form a part of this Library.

Mohan Singh called for the promotion of Dogri language in his address. Prof. Nirmohi said that more such libraries must be opened in every place. Prof. Nirmohi donated a whole set of books to Library. ST leader Chouhan presented Shree Quran Sharief to the Library.

Mediation always existed in Indian culture as a dispute resolution: Justice Tashi Rabstan

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 30: An extensive forty hours Mandatory Mediation Training programme for the Advocates of various districts of Jammu province spreading over five days concluded today at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu with the valedictory address delivered by Justice Tashi Rabstan Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairman, Mediation and Conciliation Committee.

In his address, Justice Tashi said that considering the shortage of trained mediators the present training programme was devised for the Advocates of Jammu Province. Justice Tashi who has been heading the Mediation and Conciliation Committee from last about 8 years said that the Mediation rules framed by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh are exhaustive and referral judges are required to identify and refer the cases having potential of being

settled through the process of mediation. He further said that now-a-days many big companies having enormous economic activities are witnessing upsurge in disputes which they want to be settled through the process of Mediation.

Justice Tashi appreciated the participants in the training programme for showing keen interest besides actively participating and interacting with the trainers during the said programme. Justice Tashi impressed upon the trainees to work with dedication and ensure that the mediation becomes result oriented.

Speaking on the occasion V.K. Bansal, Principal Judge, Family Court, Tis Hazari, Delhi and Senior Trainer said that this was his 5th of 6th programme as a trainer in Jammu and Kashmir and was more than happy to receive an invitation from MPCS, Supreme Court of India for being deputed as a trainer to Jammu and Kashmir.

He further said that he was

overwhelmed by the reception and hospitality extended to him and appreciated the enthusiasm with which the trainees participated in the programme.

Dr. Aditi Choudhary, Director Delhi Judicial Academy also acknowledged the participation of the trainees in the programme was beyond her expectation and queries raised by them during the programme gave a food for thought to the trainers. She hoped that the participants would prove to be an asset for carrying on the mission of mediation in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Training Programme was spread over a total of 12 sessions and day one started with the inaugural session followed by technical sessions on various aspects of mediation that included Ground Rules, Principles of Learning and Training, Conflict Management and Resolution, Role Play, ADR with special reference to Section 89 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and its

types.

On the second day of training various aspects including Role of Lawyers and the concept of Mediation and Conciliation Rules, were discussed. The focus was on meaning and process of communication, its effectiveness including its types and modes. Special emphasis was laid on various communication skills like active listening, body language, questions and empathy with neutrality.

On 3rd and 4th day of the training, priority was given to the concepts of Bargaining, Negotiation, Impasse including its causes, stages, management and strategies, false and avoidance impasse.

During these two days the participating advocates were practically involved in experiencing various techniques learnt during these sessions. At the end of day 04, various professional ethics including ethical principles for a mediator, role and responsibilities of a referral

judge u/s 89 of Code of Civil Procedures 1908, were targeted.

The concluding day, commenced with the concept of ethical principles for Judicial and Advocate mediators followed by an informative documentary.

The highlight of all the days of training program was the Role Play on Mediation by the participants which also boosted their morale for mediation process.

While concluding the training programme Amit Kumar Gupta, Coordinator, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh thanked and expressed deep gratitude towards Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chairperson and Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Members, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh for conceiving this training programme. He also thanked Director, J&K Judicial Academy for extending logistics support.

Kathua Admin hosting LG's Special Governance camps for WPRs from May 1-4

PARTICIPANTS TO GET HOST OF SERVICES, REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APRIL 30: District Administration Kathua is going to convene LG's Special Governance Camps for West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) of 1947 from May 1-4 in Kathua, Nagri-Parole, Marheen and Hiranagar to extend handholding to the community members.

These camps are aimed to provide essential services to the WPRs, including documentation, healthcare, education and livelihood support.

As per the schedule, the camp in Tehsil Nagri-Parole will be held at Airwan, while in Tehsil Marheen the venue of the camp is Banquet Hall, Haria Chak.

Similarly, in Tehsil Kathua, the camp will be held at Office Building of Patwar Halqa, near District Employment & Counselling Centre Kathua.

Likewise, in Tehsil Hiranagar, the venue of the camp is Town Hall Hiranagar. People can also contact the concerned Tehsil Office for all the details of the camps.

Through these camps WPR community will get an opportunity to interact with government officials and to learn about various welfare schemes and programs available for them.

The camp will have special focus on Skill Development, Social Assistance, Self Employment, Financial Inclusion, besides guidance for sports and studies.

The District Administration has appealed to the West Pakistani Community residing in the district to attend the LG's Special Governance Camp and take advantage of the services offered during the event.

Lt Governor inaugurates Sant Eshwer Foundation premise in Udhampur

ADDRESSES ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION OF BHARTIYA VIDYA MANDIR VIDYALAYA



JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated Sant Eshwer Foundation's premise in Udhampur and addressed the Annual Day Celebration of Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Vidyalaya, today.

The Lt Governor lauded the Sant Eshwer Foundation for its immense contribution in the field of public service, and providing quality education to children from rural and marginalised community. "Sant Eshwer Foundation, estab-

lished by Shri Khairati Lal Khanna Ji, is caring for the poor and needy people in improving their livelihoods.

Foundation run Bhartiya Vidya Mandir at Udhampur is empowering and improving educational status of Children of 20 villages," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor stressed upon the teaching community and the educational institutions for adopting a future-oriented, value-based and aspirational education system.

"Education is the most powerful tool for social transformation.

It is important for our boys and girls to develop, right from their school years, scientific temper, critical thinking, wisdom & values to enrich their personality," observed the Lt Governor.

"Quality education ensures all-round development, economic progress of family & society. Education is the main pillar of nation's development. The efforts of Sant Eshwer Foundation, their dedication & commitment to selfless service can show the way to prosperity and contribute to economic growth," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the key role of the National Education Policy in providing a roadmap to establish India as a knowledge economy.

Earlier, the Lt Governor interacted with the students who had displayed their models and prototypes based on the models.

A colorful cultural program was also presented by the students of the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Vidyalaya.

Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Sh Lal Chand, DDC Chairperson, Udhampur; Sh Sarinder Mohan, Trustee & Sh Kapil Khanna, President of Sant Eshwer Foundation, prominent citizens, teachers and students were present.

DC visits District Hospital Anantnag Stresses for adequate sanitation & Health facilities



JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, APRIL 30: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syed Fakhrudin Hamid today made a visit to District Hospital Anantnag.

On the occasion, he interacted with the patients and attendants and enquired about the services and facilities being provided.

He directed the Medical Superintendent for augmentation of health services besides installation of roster wise duty schedule of Doctors.

The DC while directing the Hospital authorities for proper sanitation of the hospital both indoor and surroundings, said that the hospital is catering the south kashmir and is having a good footfall of patients. Hence, services provided needs to be augmented.

While interacting with the attendants in hospital, DC directed the hospital authorities for providing adequate seating arrangement for both patients and attendants.

He further said that Cleanliness of the surrounding is the duty of every citizen and we must strive to make the district Anantnag garbage and litter free besides directed the MC Anantnag to ensure regular sanitation drives and hassle free movement of the traffic in the town. The DC was accompanied by the Hospital authorities.

GMC B'la to launch ABDM 'Scan and Share' Patient Registration Method on Monday

INITIATIVE WILL UPGRADE SEAMLESS & SECURE DIGITAL REGISTRATION OF PATIENTS/ MEDICAL RECORDS

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 30: In order to ensure the digitization of medical records and patient registration in Health Institutions, Government Medical College Baramulla is all set to launch Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) on Monday, 1st May 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

According to the notification issued, GMC Baramulla has taken the lead in the digitizing patient registration and medical record under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with the launch of the 'Scan and Share' patient registration method.

This unique and innovative approach allows seamless and secure digital registration of patients.

The benefits of this technology in healthcare would enhance the patients' experience by reducing unnecessary waiting times and making access to medical records quick and easy.

Pertinently, this launch marks an important milestone for GMC Baramulla and the ABDM, and is expected that the initiative will have a positive impact on the healthcare sector in the region.

The 'Scan and Share' method involves using a QR code provided by the hospital which is scanned using ABDM enabled apps like Aarogya Setu, ABDM app and PayTM from the patients' mobile phone that automatically generated a token at the registration counter against the patients name besides uploading their medical records onto a centralized server. The patient receives an OPD ticket against the token number while its displayed over a screen in the waiting area.

The concerned functionaries of GMC Baramulla have asserted that the launch of this new method is a significant step towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in GMC Baramulla and supports the administration's vision of making healthcare more affordable and accessible to all.

Electoral Roll Observer visits Doda, inspects polling stations

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 30: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare and Electoral Roll Observer, Sheetal Nanda, today visited all three constituencies of Doda to review status of polling stations of the district.

She visited various polling stations of AC-53 Doda West besides inspecting the polling station having DME. During her visit, Commissioner Secretary interacted with BLOs, Polling Officers and other Officials to assess functioning of the polling stations for Summary Revision process.

Maiden 2 day 'Sinthan Festival' concludes at Sinthan Kishtwar

Over 12000 tourism enthusiasts attended event on second day

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, APRIL 30: The two day Maiden 'Sinthan Festival' concluded today at Sinthan Maidan Kishtwar which was organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in close collaboration with District Administration Kishtwar, Indian Army and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The culmination ceremony was attended by DIG Doda -Kishtwar Dr. Sunil Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav; SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal; CEO Kishtwar Development Authority, Inderjeet Parihar and Deputy Director Tourism (Adventure & Publicity) Jammu, Abdul Jabbar.

The two day event witnessed cultural and adventure activities which were enjoyed by the visiting guests and tourists.

Much enthusiasm was witnessed for the maiden Paragliding activity, Tug-of-War, snow based activities, musical fiesta of live performances by Waqar Khan, Shubham Shiva, Zahida Tarannum and other local star performers.

The Finale of First ever 'Kishtwar Idol' was also held on the occasion and the winners were felicitated by the dignitaries present.

It is pertinent to mention here that Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar had organized the first ever mega singing competition which provided a platform to local talented singers and performers. He also initiated the District level 'Inter College Dance Competition' which concluded on 29th April amid loud cheering from the audiences.

The two day festivities were organized for the first time at Sinthan Kishtwar which is also the Gateway to Kashmir valley from Kishtwar District.

Scores of visitors from all over Jammu & Kashmir attended the mega festival with around 4000 footfall on Day 1 of the event and more than 12000 footfall on the culmination day of the Mega Cultural Bonanza.

The Locals also participated in this mega event in huge numbers and expressed gratitude towards District Administration Kishtwar and Tourism Department, J&K for successfully organizing such a mega tourism event at Sinthan Kishtwar.

District Administration Kishtwar had made elaborate arrangements for direct transportation from Kishtwar town and ensured wide pre-event publicity of the event. Camping facilities, snow-based activities were also organized during the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar congratulated his team of officers, Tourism Department and all stakeholders for successfully collaborating and organizing such a mega level event which has created strides across J&K and in the national tourism circuits.

SDM Karnah visits different areas; takes stock of post rainfall situation



JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 30: Sub Division Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather today visited different areas of Karnah sub division and took stock of the situation arisen after recent rainfall.

During the visit, SDM inspected 2x1MW Hydel Power Project Fingla at Haridial, the power supply from which have been affected due to damage of Thrust Bearing Unit.

On the occasion, SDM directed the concerned officers for restoring power supply from the Power Project within three days positively.

SDM also visited different areas/roads and took stock of damages occurred due to recent rainfall.

During the visit, SDM was accompanied by Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Tangdar, Naib Tehsildar Chamkote & other field functionaries.

At Teetwal, the SDM attended the inaugural ceremony of Gurudwara Sahib.

Tourism Directorate Jammu organises FAM Tour to Suchetgarh for special delegates of Deaf short film festival held in JU

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 30: Under the aegis of Department of Tourism, J&K, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu on Sunday organised a 1 day trip to Suchetgarh Border for delegates attending maiden "Deaf short film festival" held in Jammu University in collaboration with M/s The Association of the Deaf and Aphasic Jammu UT, J&K.

The day-long trip was planned with the objective of providing a recreational activity and providing persons with disabilities with the opportunity and platform to step forward and be a part of an inclusive society.

Around 100 spectators, aged and children were taken to Suchetgarh aboard special buses arranged by Directorate of Tourism Jammu to witness an electrifying parade by BSF. The boisterous audience before the ceremony visited the Octroi Post to witness the International Border. Later, the delegates danced their hearts out to some foot tapping patriotic songs. When approached by the media, Director Tourism Jammu Vivekanand Rai, said that Suchetgarh in Karnah Sub division alone, said Dr Sagar.

He further said that district administration is contemplating to construct Karnah House near Chowkhal or at any other suitable place where Karnah based passengers during harsh weather conditions in winters can be accommodated.

A good DPR is being prepared and will be approved under any scheme.

DC Kupwara asks Karnah residents to come forward for homestay to boost border tourism

4 Road projects worth 20 crores approved for Karnah under NABARD; DPRs for Karnah house, Chowkibal shelter being prepared

JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 30: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Dofidole Sagar Dattatray has asked to residents of Sub Division Karnah to come forward with homestay and paying guest facilities to cater to growing footfall of tourists to Tangdhar and Teetwal.

The DC was addressing a mega grievances redressal camp at Tangdhar.

Maintaining that tourism has grown manifold in Kupwara district in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, the DC said that in 2020-21, 40,000 tourists visited Kupwara district. In 2022-23, 3,75,000 tourists visited Kupwara district and during the current financial year 2023-24, 2,50,000 tourists have visited Kupwara district which is a record, out of them 30,000 tourists visited Teetwal alone.

"This year 60000 to 70000



tourists are expected to visit Kupwara district. To cater to the growing tourist rush we have to ensure their smooth stay, proper sanitation, cleanliness and good food for them, he added.

We have to make efforts to bring Srinagar bound tourists to Kupwara and Kupwara bound tourists to Tangdhar and Teetwal as border areas like Tangdhar, Teetwal, Kern and Machil has tremendous tourism potential especially border tourism, site seeing and adven-

ture tourism, said Dr Sagar. There is an urgent need to make available rooms for increasing demand of accommodation through the homestay initiative. More homestay, paying guest accommodation and construction of small hotels in Tangdhar, Teetwal and other places are need of the hour so that visitors can get comfortable accommodation, he elaborated.

The DC said that unemployed youth of the district should avail the maximum benefit of the

Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and open new vistas of self-employment for them and good accommodation for visitors.

He said the soft loans are being given to the unemployed youth for starting their own ventures including upgradation and renovation of good homestay, small hotels and paying guest facilities. Loans to the tune of Rs 10 lakh are being given with a subsidy of 35 to 40 percent subside. The DC said that one homestay room can fetch Rs 800 to Rs 1000 per night.

He said locals and PRIs are equal partners in promotion of tourism. It is their duty to motivate people for homestay, construction of small hotel accommodations.

This idea of expanding homestay will aid in the upliftment of the rural population by providing alternative rural livelihoods.

This will also lead to higher income generation among the rural people.

The concept of homestay and paying guest houses will promote local culture, cuisine, and handicrafts and enhance employment opportunities for local residents. The DC said that the district administration is committed to promote tourism in border areas. "For promotion of border tourism 4 road projects with project cost of Rs 20 crores have been approved under NABARD in Karnah Sub division alone, said Dr Sagar.

He further said that district administration is contemplating to construct Karnah House near Chowkhal or at any other suitable place where Karnah based passengers during harsh weather conditions in winters can be accommodated.

A good DPR is being prepared and will be approved under any scheme.

Congress associated with '85 per cent commission', says PM Modi in poll-bound Karnataka

KTAKA, APR 30: Coming down heavily on the Congress on the issue of corruption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the grand old party had always been associated with '85 per cent commission', and its 'shahi parivar' (royal family) was out on bail in connection with scams worth thousands of crores of rupees.

Addressing three rallies in 'Old Mysuru' (South Karnataka), where BJP is considered to be weak and is focusing on winning more seats in this Vokkaliga-dominated region with an aim at returning to power with a majority, he hit out at opponents JD(S) and Congress, calling them a 'sign of instability'.

He cautioned the people that they could not afford to give the state's fortune into the hands of the Congress, a party "whose main aim is to serve a family sitting in Delhi", and the JD(S) which is "completely a private limited company of a family".

Addressing a public meeting in Kolar, Modi while targeting Congress on corruption, trained

guns at its president M Mallikarjun Kharge for his 'venomous snake' barb at him, and said that the snake was the charm of Lord Shiva's neck, and for him the people of the country were a 'form of god', and he was fine with being compared to the snake on their necks.

"There is a reason why the country has lost trust in Congress and its 'shahi parivar'. Congress's identity has always been associated with 85 per cent commission. During Congress's rule its top leader and then prime minister used to say with pride that if he sends Re one from Delhi, 15 paise reaches them (people) on the ground. Congress's claws used to snatch away 85 paise of the poor," he said.

The Prime Minister said, "This is not BJP's allegation, but it is the public acceptance of the Congress's former prime minister. Congress that eats 85 per cent commission can never work for the development of Karnataka."

Modi's attack on the Congress comes as a counter to

the Kharge-led party's strong campaign against the ruling BJP in Karnataka over allegations levelled by a contractors' association that the state government's leaders were taking '40 per cent commission'.

The Prime Minister said "hundred per cent" of the amount sent by the BJP government today "reached the beneficiaries". In the past nine years, with the strength of 'Digital India', Rs 29 lakh crore had been credited into the bank accounts of the poor under various schemes, he claimed.

"If Congress that eats 85 per cent commission had continued, Rs 24 lakh crore out of this could not have reached the poor," he claimed, adding that BJP came to power only nine years ago and stopped this. He asked people to "imagine about the lakhs of crores of rupees that Congress leaders had filled in their lockers before that".

"Even today, Congress's 'shahi parivar' and people close to it are out on bail in a scam involving thousands of crores of rupees. Those facing charges of corruption, and are out on bail, are today coming to Karnataka and preaching. Congress, whose top leaders are facing charges of corruption, and members of whose 'shahi parivar' are out on bail cannot take action against corruption," he added.

Noting that the Congress was facing the most difficulty due to his actions against corruption, the Prime Minister said that was the reason that the party's "hate" against him had increased day-by-day.

"They have further increased their attack against me. Congress people are issuing threats these days. They are saying 'Modi teri gahr khudegi' (Modi, your grave will be dug). Now in Karnataka's election, Congress's biggest issue is the snake and its venom," he said.

Congress and its leaders were comparing him to a snake and were asking for votes from the people, Modi said, "but snake is the charm of Lord Shanka's (Shiva) neck, and for me the people of the country are the form of Lord Eshwar, they are

decided to end the decades of jod-tod (coalition) politics. Congress and JD(S) both are signs of instability. In which-ever states Congress governments are remaining, there its identity is of rivalry between its leaders. You are too seeing what is happening in Rajasthan and Chattisgarh," Modi said.

He added, "People in those states are fed up. Development has come to a halt. All the poll guarantees of Congress have become a bundle of lies. There are internal rifts within the Congress."

Hassan is the home district of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and is a JD(S) bastion. JD(S) had won six out of seven Assembly seats in the district in 2018, while BJP had won (Hassan segment) making it the saffron party's first win in the Vokkaliga-dominated district in the recent past.

Claiming that Congress's 'B-team' JD(S) is "dreaming", the PM said it wants to somehow win 15-20 seats, and wants a share in the "loot".

"In Karnataka, Congress and JD(S) are showing off that they are opponents. You can look at the statements of Congress and JD(S) ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls; they were abusing each other, and when the election results were about to be announced, they joined hands. Such show-off fights continue between Congress and JD(S) like WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment)," he said.

Before coming to Hassan, Modi addressed a rally in Channarayana, and accused Congress and JD(S) of encouraging corruption. He alleged that both parties saw Karnataka as an ATM, and that they found opportunity in instability.

Channarayana is where JD(S)'s second-in-command and Deve Gowda's son H D Kumaraswamy won the 2018 assembly election defeating BJP candidate C P Yogeeshwara, and is again seeking re-election against him.

Atishi says Delhi L-G seeking report on Kejriwal home renovation 'unconstitutional' 'undemocratic'

NEW DELHI, APR 30: Delhi PWD Minister Atishi on Sunday wrote to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena saying his directions seeking the seizure of records and directing executive action in connection with renovation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence is "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic".

In the letter, she urged the L-G to "with-draw his communication" and "restore the scheme of governance intended by the Constitution for Delhi and its people".

"We hope that you will not force the elected government to approach the court once again in respect of your actions," Atishi maintained.

Amid a row over crores of rupees spent on renovating Kejriwal's official residence, Saxena has ordered officials to secure the records of expenditure and sought a report on the matter within 15 days.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been attacking Kejriwal and the AAP, claiming Rs 45 crore was spent on the renovation of



the chief minister's residence at 6, Flagstaff Road here during 2020-22.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) hit back, saying the BJP was trying to divert attention from real issues by raising this matter.

A Raj Niwas order, issued on April 27, cited reports on alleged "gross irregularities" in the renovation of the CM residence by the Public Works Department (PWD).

In her letter to the L.G, Atishi said his communication is "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic".

As the PWD minister of the city, she noted that she is primarily responsible for all government business pertaining to the depart-

ment.

She asserted that the L-G's letter seeking the seizure of records and directing executive action is wholly outside the jurisdiction and authority of the office of the Lieutenant Governor, and bypasses the minister and the council of ministers concerned, who are democratically responsible for the business of the Delhi government.

"As per Rule 4(2) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993 (ToBR), I find myself compelled by my constitutional duty to the people of Delhi, in whose name I hold my

mandate, to write to you regarding my concerns with the unconstitutional and undemocratic nature of your communication dated April 27," the letter said.

The minister also noted that the letter written by the L-G is politically motivated.

"Needless to say that the insinuations and allegations made in the letter are baseless and devoid of merits and have been made for political reasons," she added.

Citing the Constitution's scheme for Delhi's governance as incorporated in Article 239AA and explained by the Supreme Court in 2018, Atishi said the apex court had observed that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers, and he has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power.

Noting that though the L-G is empowered to seek information about decisions taken by the council of ministers under Rule

Maha Aaditya Thackeray seeks answers from BMC on street furniture 'scam' of Rs 263 crore

MUMBAI, APR 30: Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray has written a letter to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner and administrator Iqbal Singh Chahal, seeking answers from him over the Rs 263 crore worth "possible scam" in buying street furniture.

In his letter written on April 26, which Thackeray tweeted on Sunday, he sought access to the report of the three-member fact-finding committee formed after the allegations were made and also to the reports of quality

tests of all the bidders conducted by the Veer Jijamata Technological University. He also alleged that the "entire process seems to be a particular contractor friend of the BMC".

"In the past few months, many irregularities in processes and financial transactions have come to light from the BMC. I would like to seek further clarity on the street furniture mess that the BMC has created in my city, more so the hard-earned money of my city, to benefit one contractor friend of the BMC and those in government," the Worli MLA said targeting the Eknath Shinde-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dispensation.

"One contractor has bagged the Rs 263 crore tender for street furniture. Many questions asked by me as a Mumbaier have remained unanswered by the BMC," he said. Last month, Thackeray alleged a Rs 263 crore worth of "scam" in the Mumbai civic body's plan to buy street furniture, including benches.

Complaint lodged with CBI to probe 'corruption' in Metro Rail project during previous DMK regime : Annamalai

CHENNAI, APR 30: Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on Sunday said he had lodged a complaint with the CBI on a project implemented during the previous DMK regime (2006-11), over which he had recently levelled corruption allegations.

Speaking to reporters, the BJP leader said his party was committed to fighting against corruption and it would reflect in its proposed statewide yatra titled 'En Mann En Makkal' (my son, my people), ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"You have started seeing it in Tamil Nadu also," he said, apparently referring to the recent release of the 'DMK Files' by him, in which he had listed the assets (and their valuation) allegedly belonging to leaders of the ruling party in the state.

Responding to a question, Annamalai said he had lodged a complaint with the CBI about the Chennai Metro Rail Phase I project.

He had alleged that "kickbacks of Rs 200 crore" had been channelled by a multinational company through two shell firms to "Chief Minister M K Stalin for DMK's 2011 election fund".

The BJP leader had said at the time that he would lodge a complaint with the CBI, seeking a probe.



Referring to the recent discussions that the AIADMK's top leadership had with BJP chief J P Nadda and top leader Amit Shah in Delhi, Annamalai said he was asked by the party brass to take part in that meeting and he participated.

A few days ago, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and other senior leaders including S P Velumani visited Amit Shah and Nadda in Delhi, along with Annamalai.

"We had discussions. Our goal is 2024 LS polls. People are angry with the DMK government. We are seeing how this regime has become anti-people." The goal is to win all 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in

Tamil Nadu as well as the lone seat in neighbouring Puducherry. The talks were on those lines, he said.

"The challenge before us is to transform into votes (favouring NDA) the mood that prevails in Tamil Nadu against the ruling DMK," he said.

To a question related to seat sharing between the AIADMK and BJP, he said there was still a lot of time left for the LS polls and hence it was premature to talk about that.

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JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, JAMMU OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SHAKTI (PHE), DIVISION SAMBA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No: PHES/10of 2023-24 Dated: 27-04-2023

For and behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, Short Term (Item Rate Based) E-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Division Samba, online from approved reputed/registered contractors/firms dealing with Job for hiring of private vehicle for the use of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Division Samba under two cover system, Cover 1 consisting of technical bid and Cover 2 consisting of financial bid having sufficient experience. The detail of works is as below:-

S.No	Name/Make of the Vehicle	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Performance Security/ EMB (IN Rs.)	Tender Due on	Period	Tender Receiving Authority
1	Providing of Light inspection vehicle as required of recent and latest make Model on hire charge basis including PVI for an average run of 2000 Km per month, (Mileage exceeding 2000 Km shall be paid extra at the quoted rates). Salary of driver, Toll Tax and expenses for repair and maintenance etc. of Vehicle shall be paid by the Firm complete initially for a period of one year. The quoted rates should be on monthly rent basis for official use of Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Division Samba for inspection of Govt. works (The payment shall be made to the successful bidder who shall be allotted the work for providing Light Inspection Vehicle by the O/o Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Division Samba (2115-Non Plan Tanker Services).	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 15000/- (Should be deposited at the time of bid submission)	09.05.2023 upto 16.05.2023	From 09.05.2023 to 31 st March 2024 for the Financial Year 2023-24.	Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Division Samba

Position of funds:- Budgeted under 2215- Tanker Service (Non-Plan)

- Date of publishing from 27-04-2023 (16:00 Hrs)
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 27-04-2023 (16:30)
- The bids shall be uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 27-04-2023 (16:30 Hrs) to 09-05-2023 upto (16:00Hrs).
- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders has been dispensed with as per Govt. Order No. A-24 (2017) dated 07-06-2018. The successful bidder shall be declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- A copy of Call Deposit Receipt duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba shall be submitted by the bidders. However, before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as L1 & shall be kept on record.
- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- The technical bids received shall be opened online on 10-05-2023 (15:00Hrs) or any other convenient later date in the office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba.
- The financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba of such of the bidders who qualify the technical bid.
- The bidder whose bid is not accepted or accepted at a higher rate than the bid received from the bidder, if any bidder/tender withdraws his bid/letter before the stated period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the Bid/Bid/Order, the same may be considered as forfeited.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding document online.
- The opening authority reserves himself the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- All the bidders have to furnish BCR, 's' amounting to the extent indicated in the above clause.
- The quoted rates should be inclusive of all taxes.
- The bidder whose bid is not accepted or accepted at a higher rate than the bid received from the bidder, if any bidder/tender withdraws his bid/letter before the stated period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the Bid/Bid/Order, the same may be considered as forfeited. For and on behalf of

The Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory and Kashmir.

No.-PHES/1302-31
Dated: 27-04-2023

S/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PMGSV DIVISION
RAMBAN

DIP/J-839/23

Chief Justice concludes 2-day tour of Doda district

EMPHASIS TIMELY COMPLETION OF NEW COURT COMPLEX BHADARWAH, HOLDING LOK ADALATS FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 30: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotsiwar Singh, along with Justice Wasim Sadiq Nagral, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Administrative Judge of District Doda, today concluded their 2 day visit of Doda district.

On day one yesterday, Chief Justice along with Administrative Judge, Principal District Sessions Judge, Sunil Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, SSP Doda, Abdul Qayoom, other Judicial Officers, Rector Bhadarwah Campus and others were present on the occasion.

He emphasized the role of discipline and knowledge in the lives of the youth in building a strong nation. Encouraging the students and the audience to choose the right path and adherence to law, he interacted with them and had detailed



discussion on various relevant issues.

Later, Chief Justice visited court complex Bhadarwah and interacted with Judicial Officers of the district and reviewed the working of judicial system. He also distributed wheel chairs and Hearing Aids at court complex Bhadarwah. Chief Justice also inspected the progress on work at the new court

complex at Sarna and directed the concerned agency that the project be completed within the timeline.

On day second, Justice Kotsiwar and Justice Nagral inspected Court Complex Doda and inaugurated lawyers' chamber at district Court Complex here.

Besides reviewing functioning of courts, they also interacted with lawyers

and judicial officers here and took a detailed review of the working of different courts and the mechanism of serving justice to the people.

During his address, Chief Justice emphasized on the need to ensure fair and speedy disposal of cases with special emphasis on priority to the old cases. He reminded all the members of the legal fraternity of their important role they have in making our systems just for welfare of the common masses. He interacted with the Members of the Bar, who projected various demands before him. The Administrative Judge assured the Members of the Bar that their genuine demands would be addressed without any delay.

Justice Nagral spoke about the role of the advocates in ensuring justice to the people. He thanked the Chief Justice for inaugurating the lawyer chambers as he described them the places where ideas of justice are conceived.

J&K BANK COMMISSIONS ONE BRANCH, THREE CRMS IN JAMMU

J I NEWS SERVICE



SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: Going forward on the ease of banking through digital channels and reaching to the unreached with banking outlets, J&K Bank commissioned a new branch at Dharat in Nowshera taking the network in the District Rajouri to 39 besides dedicating Cash Recycler Machines (CRM) at Sunderbani, Doda and Bari Brahmana in Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan inaugurated the CRM in Doda in presence of Zonal Head (Doda/Kishtwar) Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Branch Manager Satpal Singh amid a gathering of large number of people and esteemed customers of our bank.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Doda appreciated the Bank for providing the hi-tech banking facility to the people of the area and urged the public to avail the banking services at their own convenience.

Zonal Head Fayaz Ahmad Bhat reiterated that the Bank's focus is to expand its digital and alternate channels infra-structure to ensure customer convenience through ease of banking.

Meanwhile, Zonal Head (Rajouri/Poonch) Satish Kumar e-inaugurated the Branch at Nowshera in presence of Branch Manager Shivailik Tuli with elected public representative Sangeeta Sharma amid a gathering of valuable customers at the branch premises.

While urging the public to avail financial services, Zonal Head said "As responsible financial institution, our role everywhere is to ensure economic empowerment of the people

by ensuring ease of business and customer comfort".

He assured the people of best customer services at the branch. He also e-inaugurated a new CRM at Sunderbani on the occasion.

Furthermore, the Bank's Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated the CRM at Bari Brahmana in presence of Cluster Head (Samba) Sanjay Kumar Below amid a gathering of valuable customers, local traders and residents besides Bank officials.

Informing the people on the occasion about benefits of digital banking, Zonal Head urged them to use Bank's digital platforms. Notably, residents of all these areas hailed the Bank's efforts aimed at making banking services easy and accessible for the people irrespective of their location and status.

District Administration Udhampur bids adieu to outgoing DDC

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30: District Administration Udhampur organized a grand and impressive farewell function here the other day to bid adieu to the outgoing District Development Commissioner, Kritika Jyotsna.

While extending their best wishes to the DDC, the officers said that the DDC will be missed a lot by the District Administration Udhampur in particular and the District as a whole.

All the officers present in the function lauded the working style and leadership qualities of the District Development Commissioner and extended their best wishes for her new assignment.

The DDC thanked the officers for organizing such an impressive farewell and also appreciated the officers for putting in their best efforts in carrying out the official duties and assignments and also for their active support and cooperation during her tenure. She also expressed her gratitude to the people of Udhampur for the respect and love showered by them on her.

Later, the team of District officers presented a memento to the outgoing DDC as a token of respect.

Among others, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmad Rafi, Chief Planning Officer, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar, Assistant Commissioner Development, Ranjeet Kotwal, Deputy District Election Officer, Gurdev Kumar and other senior officers from district administration and police department were present on the occasion.

NH144A WIDENING PROJECT

DDC Rajouri visits South Point of 700 meter tunnel at Nowshera; resolves local issues



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 30: The District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Sunday visited the south point of the 700 meter tunnel being constructed at Nowshera under Package V of the NH144A as addressed some concerns raised by the local residents.

During the visit, it was brought to the notice of the DDC that there was a proposal for a flyover on the south portion of the tunnel, but the link road from Nowshera was not connected to the flyover, causing concerns among the local residents.

After a threadbare discussion with the stakeholders, it was decided that a link would be provided to address this issue. The DC also directed the concerned officer from the BRO to resolve the issue keeping in view the aspirations of the general public.

The widening project of NH144A is a major step towards the development of the district and will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy by improving connectivity. The tunnel will provide many benefits to the people of Rajouri, including reduced travel time, improved safety, and a more efficient transportation system.

The DDC also interacted with the locals during his visit and reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure the successful completion of the project and provide necessary benefits to the general public in terms of connectivity.

Senior Veterinary Pharmacist, Mohd Rafiq accorded warm send-off



J I NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, APRIL 30: The Department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora today hosted a farewell to bid adieu to retiring employee Mohammad Rafiq, Senior Pharmacist who attained superannuation on April 30 after discharging his duties for over three decades.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora Gh Ahmad Lone besides other senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and other officers of the department lauded Mohammad Rafiq for his efficient, prompt and sincere services. They also praised the working capacity of the outgoing officer and hailed his contribution to serve the public. They lauded outgoing employee for his contributions in good governance, promoting people friendly work culture to the people and countless activities for effectively delivering his duties.

While acknowledging the outstanding contribution of these officers, CAHO Bandipora conveyed his best wishes to Rafiq and prayed for his good health and success post retirement. He appreciated him for his dedication and honesty during their three-decade service career.

In his emotional address, Mohammad Rafiq extended his gratitude to officers and staff of his department for the support and sincere efforts.

DC inspects developmental projects at Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, APRIL 30: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inspected several developmental projects and took stock of pace and progress recorded on these work projects. These projects are under the



execution of R&B department.

While inspecting, the In-charge Badminton court, the DC instructed the concerned to complete the finishing work of the Badminton court within days.

It was informed that near about 83% of work has been completed where as the project cost of the Badminton court is 98

lacs.

Later, the DC also visited Tehsil office Kulgam and took stock of progress made on development of meeting hall.

The concerned from R&B informed the DC that 75% work has been completed and rest of pending work will be completed within few days.

Director SCERT seeks SWOC Analysis from DIET Principals to Rebrand SCERT

SAUS 'EACH PENNY COUNTS WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING A STRONG EDUCATION SYSTEM'

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: Director State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Professor Parikhsat Singh Manhas, today had an exclusive maiden meeting with Principals of Kashmir Division's District Institute of Education and Training (DIET).

The meeting, which took place in the SCERT auditorium at Bemina, was attended by all 10 Principals from various DIETs.

Seeking analysis report regarding Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges (SWOC) from the DIET Principals to revamp the SCERT brand, he asked for a



fund utilization report of the previous financial year and took serious note of funds that had not been utilized.

"Each penny counts when it comes to building a strong education system," Professor Manhas said. "I urge the DIET Principals to provide a detailed report on fund utilization of the previous financial year so that we can identify the areas where we need to improve and avoid any wastage of resources in future, he added"

ization of funds in the new financial year, he asserted"

"Cautioning against deliberately lapsing funds, he emphasized the collective responsibility to ensure that allocated resources are put to their best use. To ensure proper utilization of funds, Professor Manhas asked the concerned to draw calendars for various activities

in advance and send them for his perusal beforehand.

"As educators, we must lead by example and shun the practice of doing things at the eleventh hour," he said. "There is a need to adopt a hybrid approach, utilizing both online and offline modes, to ensure that our activities are efficient and effective."

Smt Pushpa Devi Mengi

"TENTH DAY/ KRIVAUATHALA"
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved "Smt. Pushpa Devi Mengi" W/o Late Sh. Dev Dutt Mengi

"TENTH DAY" will be performed on "29th April, 2023(Saturday)", at "10:00am" at her residence in "265/5 Channi Himmat, Jammu".

"KRIVAU" will be performed on "2nd May, 2023 (TUESDAY)" at "12 noon" at her residence in "265/5 CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU"

"UTHALAL" will be performed on "9th May, 2023 WEDNESDAY" at "PANCH MANDIR SEC-2 CHANNI HIMMAT (4:00PM - 5:00PM)"

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Late Smt. Kantia Gandotra & Sh. Pritam Pal Gandotra
Smt. Saroj Wahi & Sh. Ashok Wahi
Smt. Vinod Sun & Sh. Vininder Sun
Smt. Renu Verma & Sh. Ashok Verma
"SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW"
Shri. Kuldeep Rattan Mengi & Smt. Sumita Mengi
Shri. Someshwar Mengi & Smt. Anju Mengi
Shri. Rameshwar Mengi & Smt. Rita Mengi
Mobile no 900552022, 9419244724, 8603501345
SHIKSHA NIKETAN
R.M PUBLIC SCHOOL
PUSHP VATIKA

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