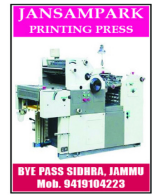




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Terror attack in Rajouri district

### Searches continue, no fresh contact with Terrorists

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 7

No fresh contact was established with holed up terrorists in the forested Kandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, where a massive search operation to track ultras entered the third day on Sunday, officials said.

Five Army personnel and a terrorist, who is said to be part of the group that carried out an attack on civilians in Dhangri village of Rajouri early this year, were killed, while a major-rank officer was injured in



the operation so far. While the five soldiers lost their lives in an explosion triggered by the terrorists when the forces

## G20 Meet: Security beefed up in North Kashmir

JINNEWSERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Security has been beefed up in north Kashmir ahead of a G20 meet in the valley later this month, in view of three back-to-back encounters with militants in which five ultras were killed, officials said on Sunday.

Additional security personnel have been deployed on the ground and drones are being used for aerial surveillance, they said.

Sniffer dogs are assisting security personnel in checking vehicles at various check points established to prevent movement of militants or explosives, they said.

The officials said the



security apparatus has been put on a heightened alert as Kashmir will host the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting later this month.

North Kashmir has witnessed three back-to-back encounters between security forces and militants in

the valley, the officials said.

Police officials said the forces were alert to thwart any possible plan of militants to carry out attacks in the run-up to the event.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure said the intelligence grid was working very hard and the forces have been able to neutralize the threats.

"Our forces are on alert for the summit. Our intelligence agencies are also working hard, our network is very strong. So, we are getting timely information of all the suspicious activities in the area," Nagpure said.

He said the security agencies are confident that the summit will pass off peacefully and successfully "because of our preparedness".

The SSP said the security forces have been able to neutralize the threats as there is a complete synergy among various agencies.

The first of these back-to-back encounters in north Kashmir took place on Wednesday as the forces foiled an infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil sector, in which two militants were killed.

On Thursday, two militants were killed in an encounter in Wanigam Payeen Kreeeri area of Baramulla district.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## BSF personnel killed, six injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch



JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 7

One Border Security Force personnel was killed, and six others suffered injuries as a vehicle ferrying them

plunged into a deep gorge on Sunday in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police sources said that one truck ferrying

## India ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said India is fast becoming a huge medical tourism hub and it is ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care. Addressing the three-day World Congress of 'Diabetes Technology and Therapeutics 2023' (DTechCon 2023) in New Delhi, he said the country is being looked up to by the rest of the world in the field of healthcare after the successful handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Technologically and in human resources, we are much ahead of most other



countries," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

He said India is not only becoming a technology leader, but also a huge medical tourism hub.

"India is ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care," said Singh, who is also a renowned diabetologist.

He said India is in the

frontline of diabetes research in the world and the prevention of diabetes is not only "our duty towards healthcare, but also our duty towards nation building because this is a country with 70% population below the age of 40 and the youth of today are going to be the prime citizens of India by 2047".

"We cannot afford to let their energy get squandered in incapacitating complications occurring as a result of Diabetes Mellitus and other related disorders or its complications," the minister cautioned.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Congress advocating separation of Karnataka from India: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
NANJANGUD, MAY 7

Likening Congress to what he called the "tukde-tukde" gang, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the grand old party of openly advocating the separation of Karnataka from India.

"Yesterday during a campaign in this election, the Royal Family of the Congress said they want to protect the sovereignty of Karnataka. It means they are openly advocating to part Karnataka from India. I never thought that the disease of tukde-tukde gang would reach so high in the Congress," he said,



addressing his last election rally in the runup to the May 10 assembly election in Karnataka.

Modi alleged the Congress is insulting lakhs of Kannada freedom fighters who contributed to India's freedom struggle. "Congress divided brothers. The Congress made the states fight among themselves. The Congress left no stone unturned to fan caste and communal fire in the country," he said.

Taking a swipe at Rahul

## Fairly widespread light to moderate rain likely over J&K: MeT

JINNEWSERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Meteorological department predicts fairly widespread light to moderate rain over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

Amid mainly clear to partly cloudy weather at most places today the MeT office forecast of rain coupled with thunderstorm and lightning at most places of Kashmir and many places of Jammu region on Sunday.

Hailstorm with gusty winds at a few places is also expected, the MeT office said.

It said there could be



rain or thunderstorm at many places of J&K with Hailstorm & gusty wind at one or two places on May 8 and weather will mainly remain dry from May 9-12.

The MeT has also advised farmers to postpone spraying of orchards & harvesting of crops till May 8.

It has also advised tourists to keep warm clothes & eatables ready as weather will be colder till May 8.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Support strong regional parties in next Lok Sabha polls: Abdullah to opposition

JINNEWSERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Veteran politician and former Union minister Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said the main opposition parties should support strong regional parties as he mooted a "one against one" strategy to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"I am not so sure of the Opposition's unity but as far as Lok Sabha elections are concerned I think the states matter now and all the opposition parties must realise that," Abdullah, 85, said.

Giving an example, he said that if in West



Bengal Mamata Banerjee is strong, "we must make sure that she does well, rather than creating hurdles for the TMC leader. Similarly, in Bihar Nitish (Kumar) and RJD, if they are doing well, don't create hurdles for them. Similarly in Uttar Pradesh,

Akhilesh (Yadav of SP) is doing well so let us not create such a situation.

"And I think one of the most important things is that if you really want to beat them (BJP), then there should be one against one. Where a Congress candidate can win, let not another one stand. Where another party can win, let that party have the chance of putting their candidate. That is one way of really beating them at their game," Abdullah said.

Asked whether he had suggested this approach to the opposition leaders, the National

## Major tragedy averted in Pulwama, police recovered from Terror Associate



JINNEWSERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Jammu and Kashmir Police averted a major tragic incident as it apprehended a terror associate in Pulwama and recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) weighing approximately 5 to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Azad backs Article 370 removal but expresses concern over recent terror attacks

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 7

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday promised overall development of Jammu and Kashmir without any religious or regional bias if his party was voted to power in the union territory.

Azad said that in the present political uncertainty, his party is the only hope of the people as he has never done politics on a religious or regional basis and believe that people deserve equal opportunities with dignity.



"We never discriminated between the regions and treated them equally in all manner," said Azad at a party joining function here.

Secretary of Apni Party Kulwant Singh from Math constituency, and social activist Suraj Prakash

Sharma joined DPAP in Azad's presence.

The new entrants said that they joined the party since Azad holds a strong political understanding and he can only take the Union Territory out of the present situation.

Meanwhile, Azad lamented over the growing incidents of violence and said that terrorism is in nobody's interest while referring to the recent encounter of Rajouri in which five army jawans achieved martyrdom.

Azad, however, said that he is still critical of the revocation of Article 370 since it hurts the interests

of the local people.

Azad expressed concern about the regional resurfacing in Jammu region with a growing number of incidents.

"I am disappointed to see militancy is expanding to Jammu. It is detrimental to peace," he said.

Azad said poor governance and lack of accountability in the system is affecting the economy of people which has led to the decline in job opportunities. "Where shall our youth go now? It is our duty to provide them enough employment opportunities but

## Soldier martyred in J&K Anti-Terror operation cremated with military honours in Kangra

AGENCIES  
DHARAMSALA/PALAMPUR, MAY 7

The mortal remains of Naik Arvind Kumar, killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, were consigned to flames with full state honours in his native village in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district on Sunday.

Kumar was among the five soldiers who lost their lives in an explosion triggered by terrorists on Friday in the thickly forested Kandi area in Rajouri where an operation is underway to flush out the ultras.



Earlier in the morning, the Army jawan's body was brought to his native village Suri and his brother Bhupinder Kumar lit the funeral pyre as family, friends, and military officers paid their respects.

The Army jawan is survived by his mother Nir-

Chief Parliamentary Secretary Urban Development and Education Ashish Butail, MLA Sulah Vipin Singh Parmar, President Himachal Pradesh Agricultural Development Bank Sanjay Chauhan, former MLA Jagjivan Paul, Deputy Commissioner Dr Nipun Jindal, and SP Ms Shalini Agnihotri also paid their respects.

Chaudhary and Butail met Kumar's family and expressed their deepest condolences.

Chaudhary assured the family that Kumar's wife will be given a government job and also announced

One Day Apni Party Convention in Paloura 'Non-local mafia system' flourishing in Jammu under LG Govt: Bukhari



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said that the situation in Jammu region has become alarming with the subsequent involvement of non-local mafia in extraction of natural resources and liquor trade.

Altaf Bukhari offered rich tributes to the martyr five Indian Army soldiers who gave supreme sacrifice while fighting against the terrorists in an encounter in Rajouri.

He expressed grave concern over terror incidents in Rajouri and Poonch and termed these terror activities as grave threat to the peace and brotherhood.

He was speaking at a one day workers convention at Paloura which was organized by SC State Coordinator, Bodh Raj Bhagat, and OBC Wing State Vice President, Bhagat Ram.

He said that "The LG administration has failed to maintain peace and tranquility in the region which remained intact even during the peak of terrorism in 90s. The people from Poonch, Rajouri, parts of Chenab Valley and Kashmir migrated to Jammu and settled here. The people from all regions lived in peace and brotherhood in Jammu."

Bukhari complimented Jammuites for their contribution to the peace and accommodating the terror hit migrations in Jammu.

"The people of Jammu have big hearts. They welcomed all and allowed them to share water, electricity, land, and jobs. They always maintained communal harmony and peace," he said while lauding Dogras of Jammu.

The peace that was maintained in the 90s is being breached under the LG administration which according to him is not willing to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir for various reasons which suits them.

"If elections can be held in other states of the country, why assembly elections cannot be held in J&K? It appears BJP does not want elections because it fears defeat if polls are held. It does not mean that they should compel people to suffer without an elected Govt. The LG administration's prestigious project Smart City has turned Jammu City roads to look like they are in Afghanistan," he said.

He further stated that "This LG Govt has failed to hold fair selection process for the unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. There is neither

are power hungry and they do not work for the people. Therefore, the Apni Party which represents the two regions equally should be given a chance to form the next Govt."

He said that the people of both the regions demand immediate restoration of statehood, and holding of assembly elections. Referring to the long pending demands of the OBC community in J&K, he said that if the Apni Party forms the next Govt in J&K, the OBC will be provided 27% reservation in Jammu and Kashmir too.

Meanwhile, dozens of people joined the Apni Party. They were welcomed into the party fold by Altaf Bukhari and other senior leaders. Earlier, Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh said that Apni Party is committed to protect the rights of the people. "Altaf Bukhari sahib ensured protection to Govt jobs and land as he raised this issue before the Prime Minister of India," he said.

He said that "We produce electricity but we do not get electricity. However, we are committed to provide 500 units of free electricity during summers and 300 units of free electricity in Jammu, four cooking gas cylinder to each family under Ujjwala Scheme will be provided, marriage assistance will be enhanced up to 1 lakh within one month, mining (natural resources), contractors from outside will not be thrown out of Lakhanpur, we will implement old pension scheme in favour of the Govt employees, we will ensure free supply of clean drinking water."

He said that the Apni Party should be given a chance to form Govt in Jammu and Kashmir. "When no one was ready to support the people, it was only because of Altaf Bukhari who stood up for the people and represented them at the time of crises," he said while criticizing the traditional political parties.

Meanwhile, J&K Vishva Kerma Sabha, President, Shahi Verma also spoke on the occasion, and thanked Altaf Bukhari for announcing that if the Apni Party forms the next Govt, they will give 27% percent reservation to the OBC people in J&K.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include, Provincial Vice President, Jammu, EX-MLA Faqir Nath, Chief Spokesperson, Sr Adv Nirmal Kotwal, Provincial Secretary/District President Jammu urban, Dr Rohit Gupta, J&K Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Hans Raj Bhagat, Vice President J&K Youth Wing, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Tufail Choudhary, Provincial President, Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Legal Cell, Vikram Rathore, Sardesh Rana, Ashraf Choudhary, Vishal Jotshi, Manmeet Singh, Abhinav Gupta, Anshuk Dogra, Rupali Rani, Aman Malhotra, Bishan Verma, Pawan Malhotra, Raj Kumar Vaid, Baba Krishan, Ram Kumar Pappi, Lal Chand, Beg Hussain, Ashok Chib, Rattan Singh, Jarnail Singh, Kanta Devi, Raj Kumari, Kunal, Varinder Langay, Vijay Ponga, Anshuk Khajuria, and others.

He said that "The divide and rule policy of BJP, NC, PDP and Congress Party has given rise to the suffering. The BJP received 25 assembly seats from Jammu in 2014 assembly elections, but they formed Govt with PDP within next 24 hours betraying the sentiments of the people. The BJP and all other traditional political parties

BGSBU Teacher Association calls on Vibodh, projects issues

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 07: A deputation of Baba Gulam Shah Badshah University Teacher Association led by its President Dr. Parvez Abdullah, Vice President Mr Nikhil Gupta, General Secretary Dr. Mohd Azam, Dr Javed(Joint Secretary ), Mr. Zeeshan Aslam(Treasurer), and others called on BJP J&K UT General Secretary Vibodh Gupta and apprised him of the problems which the university is presently facing.

During the meeting, President BGSBU Teacher Association Dr. Parvez Abdullah urged Vibodh Gupta to project their demand of increasing the fund of the university from the current 23 crores to 40 crores, affiliation of all the colleges of Rajouri-Poonch with BGSBU University, appointment of full-time Chief Pay and accounts officer (CPAO), fulfillment of vacant



administrative positions including Registrar, Assistant Registrar and removal of all superannuated people from administrative positions, the introduction of new courses for growth and development of the region and many others with the concerned authorities.

While giving a patient hearing to the delegation, Vibodh promised to highlight their genuine demands with Hon'ble LG

Shri Manoj Sinha and assured quick redressal for the growth and development of the university. He hailed BGSBU as the pride of Peer Panjal and asserted that its alumni have earned prestigious positions in every walk of life across the length and breadth of the country.

Vibodh told that the Narendra Modi government has always been very considerate and enthusiastic towards

empowering educational institutions especially those in hilly and remote areas.

He also lauded LG Shri Manoj Sinha who is also Chancellor of Baba Gulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) for giving a massive push to education and skill development in BGSBU and expressed confidence in the further empowerment of the university under the present government.

JKMEF hold one day conference to create awareness among delegates



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Jammu Kashmir medical employees federation hold one day delegates conference at press club Jammu to create awareness among delegates to strengthen the federation for overall changing scenario and plan future strategies of federation to achieve goals.

The federation passed a resolution on following burning demands of medical employees.

Salary of 2211 head. The Salary of 2211 head is not

disbursed timely. The federation will take all necessary steps to solve long pending Salary issue of Emplyw and other staff working under 2211head and fight till it's logical solution. Creation of post of district pharmacy officer and block pharmacy officer. The federation will take all necessary step for creation of post of district pharmacy officer and block pharmacy officer.

The federation also put its best efforts to raise voice for risk allowance in favour of medical employees.

The federation will also put its best efforts to raise voice for risk allowance in favour

of medical employees. The federation will also raise concern over the non filling of vacant post in health department eg DHS and Director families welfare.

Old pension scheme. The federation already projected its perspective regarding old pension scheme. Now federation forcefully raise voice for implementation of old pension scheme on the analogy of other state.

The federation in August 2022, had organized a solved old body of federation and unanimously put

Mr.Sushil Sudan While Speaking Thanks all Delegates of jammu province and assured that he will Work hard for further strengthening the medical employes federation.

Other who participated in the conference are.Ch Jarnail Singh, Sant Anita Bhagat, Pawan Singh Jarnwal, Parulata Singh, Ch. Aslam, Jaswinder Singh, Mohd.Nadeem, Harpal Singh, Dr.S.S. Sambyal, Sukhdev Dogra, Deepak Jarnwal, Sajad Ali Khan, Mansur Doodwal, Hushyar Singh, Rakesh, Surinder Singh, Fazeel Malik, Neeraj Malagar, Kuldeep Dabgotra, Banu Partap, Bharat Bushan Bhagat.

Picturesque Dhar Mahanpur region has exponential potential for tourism: Col Mahan



JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 07: The tourist destinations across Kathua district have the full potential of boosting J&K's economy. However, there is dire need to develop these destinations in order to attract maximum tourist footfall as well as generating new employment opportunities for the youth of the Union Territory.

This was stated by Col Mahan Singh (Retd) DDC Chairman Kathua today visited Sananghat, Dhar Jankher Panchayat on the invitation of Sarpanch Dhar Jankher and local residents. The Sarpanch and residents of the area raised various developmental issues like road connectivity from Sananghat to Kharana, Banji, Palhara, Mandal Talab etc. They also

being executed in the Dharamahampur Block. He asserted that picturesque Dhar Mahanpur region has exponential potential for tourism. Stressing upon the need of the hour being development of the area, he said that there is a dire need to promote such destinations having potential to increase the footfall of tourists in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, the DDC Chairman was given rousing welcome by Sarpanch Madan Lal, Naib Sarpanch Pawan Singh, PRI Members, Kuldeep Kumar, Raj Kumar, Mukesh Kumar and others on arrival at Ramliya Ground Sananghat. Col Mahan was accompanied by Ram Chand Ex BDO and senior BJP Functionary, Sarpanch Jankher Kewal Kumar, Nirmal Singh Naib Sarpanch and score of party workers.

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Unlike previous years when Tawi Trekkers J&K used to organize a soft trek for all the participants of Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking (DHT) Programmes in Himachal Pradesh, this year the club has decided to organize two treks one up to Gallu temple, a soft trek for school students and the other to Triund meadow (10500ft), a hard trek for college students. The programme shall start with first batch of 45 college students leaving for Dharamshala on 20th May, 2023 to participate in the Triund trek.

It was decided in a meeting of the club held at Press club of Jammu under the chairmanship of Patron of the club Ashwani Sharma, former MLA. Prominent among others who attended the meeting included another patron Rahul Sharma; Zorawar Singh

Jamwal, Co Chairman; Ram Khajuria, President; Mridhu Padha, Vice President; Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary and veteran members Vivek Chauhan, Narinder Singh and Navneet Gupta; senior members Sonam Sidharth, Shashi Kant Sharma, Sunil Chakrabarti and international climbers Shivani Charak, Shilpa Charak and Arun Deep Singh.

During this programme in which about 600 boys and girls in two age groups of 10 to 15 years and 16 to 20 years are expected to participate the trekkers shall trek to Bhagshu Nag, Water fall, Gallu temple, Dharamkot (mini Israel) Dal Lake and shall also visit Dalai Lama temple in Macleodganj, Dharamshala Cricket Stadium, Tapovan, Chamunda Devi and Nagini Devi besides Triund meadow situated at an altitude of 10500ft (for college students only). The

highlight of the programme for both the age groups shall, however, be a visit to a tea garden and a tea manufacturing company where they shall learn the complete process of production of tea. It is interesting to mention here that the club has been organizing Himalayan Trekking Programmes in Dalhousie, Chamba, Kullu-Manali and Dharamshala areas of Himachal Pradesh since 1994.

During the last 28 years these programmes have emerged as the most popular activity of the club for students during summer vacations in which over 15000 boys and girls have participated so far. The purpose of these programmes is to take the students away from the heat and dust and also hustle and bustle of city life and bring them close to nature.

Whereas Shawetica Khajuria, the General Secretary of the club is the

Organising Secretary of the Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme, the team of field directors, escorts and camp leaders comprises of trained mountaineers Sonam Sidharth, Shilpa Charak, Shashi Kant Sharma, Sourav Verma, Deep Singh, Sukshman Verma, Sant Chakrabarti, Sakshi Magotra, Arun Deep Singh, Prema Charak and some other escorts certified by Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi, the apex body for adventure sports in the country.

The programme is being organized by Tawi Trekkers J&K under the aegis of J&K Sports Council in co-operation with Mountaineering Association of J&K, Srawing Buds ICSE School, Bantala, Jammu, Ixex Adventure Club, Samba, J&K Mountaineering and Allied Sports Club and Adventure Holidays India, Sarwal, Jammu.

# Modi Govt made farmers self-reliant in eight years of rule at Centre: Johal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Sarabjit Singh Johal, President BJP Kissan Morcha J&K on Sunday said that the Rs 5018 crore budget allotted by Narendra Modi Government for Agriculture and allied sectors is a guarantee to welfare of farmers in J&K.

He was speaking while addressing a meeting of Kissan Morcha at Party Headquarters in Jammu in which members of the Morcha participated. Nand Kishore Sharma, Prabhar Kissan Morcha was also present in the meeting.

Sarabjit Singh Johal conveyed thanks on behalf of the Kissan Morcha for the financial package of Rs. 5018 cr appropriated for agriculture and allied sector and sanctioned by the Union Govt.

He said that the BJP Govt led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been quite instrumental in launching multifarious policies and schemes for uplifting the condition of the farmers and ensuring their overall welfare.

He said that BJP Kissan Morcha is leaving no stone



turned in reaching out to the farmers in every nook and corner of J&K to make them aware about the rolled out schemes to ensure that every farmer right upto the tail end gets benefited by these schemes.

The senior BJP leader asserted that the Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done more work in the last eight years than ever before for empowering farmers and making them self-reliant.

He said the Government at the Centre stands fully

committed to the welfare of the farmers who deserve special attention especially in view of their being the food producers of the nation. He said the government is making every effort to double the farmers' income and boost agriculture economy.

Johal said that the farmers' issues have been best addressed by PM Modi led Govt at the Centre.

He mentioned that the schemes and initiatives by the government like Kissan Sammaan Nidhi, Kissan Credit Card, Kissan Fasal Bima, Soil Health Card,

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), SVAMITVA Yojana, and many more such schemes have been providing benefits to all the farmers of the nation.

Johal asked that the farmers' community and ensure that they avail the benefits of the aforesaid schemes. He asked them to take adequate measures to strengthen the base of the Party.

# AoL conducts utkarsha yoga workshop for Ved Mandir Bal and Balika Niketan kids

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: The four day Art of Living workshop UTKARSHA YOGA concludes at VedMandirBalniketan and BalikaNiketan (Orphanage) Amphalla, Jammu for under privileged children.

Utkarsha Yoga is a meticulously designed program by Gurudev Sri SriRavi Shankar exclusively for the children. The program focuses on allround development of children in a holistic way. The breathingtechniques taught in the program gives the children the essential tools to overcome negative emotions such as fear, shyness, nervousness, anxiety, frustration, jealousy etc. easily.

Art of living program for children, UTKARSHA YOGA as also called ART EXCEL concluded at aVedMandirBalniketan (Orphanage) Amphalla, Jammu in which around4underprivileged children in the age group of 8 to 13 years participated in this fourdays workshop.

During the course the children were trained in yoga, pranayam,suryanamaskar, bhastrika, bharamariand Sudarshankriya meditation. The children also



learned 5 keys of wisdom which are useful for overall development of the children. Soft skills were imparted to the students such as communication skills, public speaking, mind management, time management, eating and sleeping habits, control over emotions in a play way method. After attending the workshop children shared their experiences and expressed the benefits of meditation and Sudarshankriya such as focus and concentration.

The entire program is playful, effortless, engaging and fun-filled, all exercises and processes are designed specifically for this age group which give them a

chance to express, involve and learn by experience, Organized by the workshop Ajay Kapoor State Coordinator - Art of Living Bureau of communications and Projects said. The workshop was conducted by two senior Art of living teachers Anju Gupta and DrAnujaJasrota and assisted by dedicated team of AOL volunteers Anjali, jogeswar and Kajnji well-supported by Staffand Warden namely Munshi Ram and staff of VedMandirBalniketan and Lady Warden of BalikaNiketan. Whether you are an educator or a parent, Utkarsha Yoga program is the best way to introduce your children to

spirituality, nurture human values, inculcate self-discipline, and develop their personality to be healthy and well-rounded. These workshops will be regularly held across Jnk, he further added. The last session was also attended by management of VedMandirBalniketan and BalikaNiketan (Orphanage) in which President Sh. Suresh Kumar appreciated the efforts of art living organization and faculty for conducting such a wonderful workshop for their children. They could see transformation in the kids in 4 days. It was also decided to have regular follow up of kids as well during the workshop.

# Directorate of Tourism, JKCCA organize National Painting Camp at Mansar Lake



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 05: A three days' National Paintings Camp organized by Directorate of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir in association with Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu, at Tourist Complex, Mansar Lake in District Samba of J&K (UT), was inaugurated by Pt. Kewal K Sharma, President JKCCA, today. Sh. Radhey Shyam, Advisor JKCCA, was the guest of honour on this occasion. Ten well known artists from different states/ UTs of

the country viz. Dr. Dr A K Dixit and Deepika Dixit, New Delhi; Pratima Singh, Lucknow; K S Gill, Dharaminder Sharma and Atul Mattoo, Amritsar; Jang S. Verman and O P Sharma, Jammu; Minu Dey, Kolkata; and Ritika Verma, Nud (Samba) are participating in this artist camp in the lap of Nature surrounding Mansar Lake.

While speaking on this occasion, Pt. Kewal K Sharma appreciated the efforts of Sh. O P Sharma, Founder Director JKCCA to hold such national level events in the area of Jammu,

blessed with natural beauty. He said that JKCCA, established in 1999, is working for the cause of preserving, promoting and activating the splendid art heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. He wished all the artists to enjoy the Nature around their camp which would certainly encourage them to capture the natural elements of beauty and depict it in their art works. Sh. Radhey Shyam also expressed his views on this occasion.

According to Sh. O P Sharma, the Founder Director of JKCCA, "The purpose of organizing such events is to promote art & culture in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and draw people from other parts of the country to enjoy the Natural beauty of the area. He said that such activities help in developing national integration and communal harmony as well as promoting interaction between the communities." He added that such activities help in sharing the experiences of participating artists working in their particular styles and mediums, while working at different places of the country.

JKCCA has so far organized hundreds of such activities within and outside the state as well as it has successfully organized fourteen International Art Exhibitions, and many state and national level art exhibitions and painters camps during last many years.

# Sunil Verma led NC delegation congratulates DC for taking charge, highlights public issues



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 07: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) District Udhampur unit headed by the party's District President Sunil Verma called on the Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, IAS, and congratulated him for assuming charge as DC, Udhampur here today. SSP

Udhampur, Dr Vinod Kumar was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Sunil Verma discussed burning issues faced by the people of district Udhampur including those pertaining to sanitation, civic issues, traffic mismanagement, embezzlement of funds, etc. Verma conveyed to the Deputy Commissioner that

the people of the district had high hopes pinned to him for addressing their issues. After listening to the delegation members patiently and deliberating and discussing all the highlighted issues threadbare, the Deputy Commissioner assured the delegation that all the issues raised and brought to his knowledge would be addressed in a phased manner as soon as possible.

The DC said that in this regard he would direct the officers to work in coordination for equitable development of the district as also to resolve all the genuine demands of the public on priority. It would not be out of context to mention here that he also asked the officers to note down all the highlighted issues and redress the same at the earliest. Meanwhile, Sunil Verma on behalf of the delegation members and the National Conference assured full support and cooperation to Deputy Commissioner to make Udhampur a better place to live in.

Among those who accompanied Sunil Verma include Capt. Pavitar Singh, Akash Verma, Anayatullah, Manmohan Verma, Veer Singh, Sardar Gurmeet Singh Jishi, Master Swaran Singh, Sr Harbinder Singh, Dr. Ranesh Verma, Ch Mohd Ghani, Smt. Radhey Rani, Makhna Devi, Simran & Sajad Ahmed.

# Kavinder meets Dhirendra Shastri, backs Baba's ideology on Hindu culture



JJ NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MAY 07: Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, Kavinder Gupta met Dhirendra Shastri of Bageshwar Dham after he reached Mumbai on Sunday. The BJP stalwart from Jammu and Kashmir asserted that the meeting

with Babaji inspired him a lot as his thoughts on Hindu Culture were true to the hilt and very meaningful. He said that those connecting the word Hindu with a religion are underestimating its magnanimity because Hindu is in actuality a civilization, way of living and cannot be linked with a single religion.

The senior BJP leader said meeting with Dhirendra Shastri was a lifetime experience as his thoughts and preaching are enlightening. He maintained that saints and seers get powers directly from God and it is always a blessing to be in their company. He said that Babaji has been acting as a beacon

of light for the youths of the country and therefore people should not miss any opportunity to meet him.

It is pertinent to mention that Shastriji has arrived in Mumbai to visit ancient Shiva temple in Ambemath. Meanwhile, Kavinder while interacting with media persons here at aerodrome, expressed surprise over Congress' stance on banning Bajrang Dal in Karnataka. He said it is strange that Congress leadership due to desperation to get back power has been giving such loathsome statements testifying the fact that its leaders have gone out of mind.

Kavinder said that for petty political mileage and to appease certain sections for a handful of votes, the Congress leadership has stooped so low that there is no other example in the entire country where any party has swollen its pride in this manner.

# Natrang stages 'Postmaster' based on a story of Rabindra Nath Tagore in Sunday theater series



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: 'Postmaster' based on story of Rabindra Nath Tagore, adapted by Pratap Sehgal and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio Theatre Jammu under its weekly theatre series

'Sunday Theatre. Natrang has not only provided the audience a chance to witness the different plays of highly social & artistic relevance but also has added to their creative and intellectual repository by staging the literary works of the most celebrated writers of the world. The play

'Postmaster' is a story about a postmaster and an orphan village girl named Ratan. The Postmaster gets transferred from Calcutta to Ulapur where he makes no friends and feels lonely. Somehow, he becomes very fond of the little orphan girl, Ratan and vice versa. They develop a bond of trust and friendship. They have meals together and Ratan runs small errands for the postmaster. She later become his pupil when he begins teaching her how to read. One day, postmaster falls ill due to the showers of the season and decides to apply for a transfer back to Calcutta. His application for transfer gets rejected, thus he resigns from the job. At the end, Ratan gets heartbroken to know that her master left her forever. The play speaks about the different layers and sensitivities of human relations. Natrang actors who acted in the play included Mihir Gujral, Shreyansh, Salara, Kanampreet Kaur, Vishal Sharma and Kushal Bhat. Lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas music was rendered by Aadesh Dhar. The show was presented by Mahikshit Singh and coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Raksha Rajya Mantri inaugurates Technical Complex & Automated Driving Track in Pune for enhanced training of BRO personnel

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI MAY 7

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 64th Raising Day on May 07, 2023 at all its detachments across the country. The main function 'Chief Engineers and Equipment Management Conference' was organised at BRO School & Centre in Pune, which was graced by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt. To mark the day, the Raksha Rajya Mantri inaugurated the BRO Technical Training Complex and an Automated Driving Track at the premises. These facilities will enhance the training standards of the BRO personnel and help them to be better prepared for various challenges.

BRO-centric software, developed as part of 'Digital India' initiative, were also launched on the occasion. These software - Recruitment Management System, Electronic Measurement Book & Work Management System - have been developed to automate various aspects of functioning of the BRO for smoother & faster output and increased transparency. In addition, an MoU was signed between the BRO and GRSE for con-

struction of indigenous class 70R Double Lane Modular Bridges. These bridges will help in bolstering the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces.

In order to progressively evolve as an organisation, the BRO conceptualised several documents, including a monograph on 'BRO Vision@2047'; Compendium on Road Slogans; Improvement & Standardisation of Medical Establishments; Quality Control Labs & Design of Bridges and Problem Statements for Innovations for Defence Excellence (GDEX), including use of satellites for monitoring BRO assets. These were also unveiled by the Raksha Rajya Mantri, along with the special BRO edition of Sainik Samachar, a fortnightly journal brought out by Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence. The edition comprises the achievements, ongoing projects and the history of the BRO.

The event also witnessed Shri Ajay Bhatt flagging-in 'EKTA Avam Shradhanjali Abhiyan', a multi-modal expedition which began on April 10, 2023. All the echelons of the organisation were integrated in this adven-

ture-cum-awareness expedition. Consisting of motor-vehicle, two-wheel drives, the expedition saw teams from various border States/Union Territories collecting samples of soil, water from rivers/lakes/water bodies and local saplings. These were planted by the Raksha Rajya Mantri and others at BRO School & Centre.

In his address, Shri Ajay Bhatt complimented all ranks of BRO for their dedication and hard work, stating that the roads, bridges and tunnels constructed by them have not only enhanced the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces, but have also helped in ensuring socio-economic development of border areas. He also expressed satisfaction at the significant progress in Sela Tunnel and Neechipu Tunnel projects.

Termining border area development as a top priority of the Government, the Raksha Rajya Mantri stated that 'New India' is progressing at an unprecedented pace under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. "We have become the fifth largest economy and are exporting military equipment to many countries. This

'New India' is strong and capable of looking after its own interests. We do not and will not bow down to anyone," he said.

Director General Border Roads Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry exhorted all ranks to continue working with vigour and dedication. He expressed confidence that the BRO will rise to the emerging challenges, in tune with the mantra of 'We Will Either Find a Way or Make One'. The BRO, in more than six decades, has constructed over 61,000 kms of roads, over 900 Bridges, four tunnels and 19 airfields under challenging conditions along India's borders and in friendly foreign countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In 2022-23, the BRO completed 103 Infrastructure projects, the most by the organisation in a single year. These include construction of Shyok Bridge in Eastern Ladakh and Steel Arch Siyom Bridge of Load Class 70 in Arunachal Pradesh on Along-Yinkong Road. These and other similar projects of strategic importance were dedicated to the nation by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during the last one year.

## In partnership with MEA, NCGG completed training programme of 58th batch of civil servants of Bangladesh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI MAY 7

The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) completed its flagship capacity building programme (CBP) for 58th batch of civil servants of Bangladesh, which was attended by 45 officers. The programme focused on imparting new knowledge in the field of public policies, programmes, governance, use of technology and new skills to the officers to design and execute effective public policies and programmes to improve the quality of life of citizens.

In his valedictory address, Shri Bharat Lal, Director General, NCGG urged the officers to be responsive to the need of people and stressed on the critical importance of addressing public grievances in a time-bound manner. He appreciated the developmental partnership between the two countries and stated that this programme is an effort to empower the participants to new developmental paradigm and initiatives among other things.

He highlighted the Prime Minister Shri Nar-

endra Modi's mantra of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' and urged the public servants to reduce the gap between the citizens and the government, and do away with the old colonial mindset.

He also pointed out that modern technology is a great enabler in bringing transparency and accountability. One should learn and adopt these modern tools of information and communication technology (ICT) to better serve the people. He cited the examples of Aadhar, and Jal Jeevan Mission, and how subsidies are being transferred to millions of farmers in just one click as technology is facilitating the delivery of services to citizens. Technology has brought tremendous efficiency in public service delivery and we must use it more.

Shri Bharat Lal also stressed the importance of building and maintaining modern infrastructure for the larger public good and focused on the importance of having a continuous system of feedback. He urged them to work closely with people and various other stakeholders, viz. community-based

organizations, self-help groups and other civil society organizations to ensure that policies and programmes are developed in a participatory manner and are also environment, climate and disaster resilient.

He also pointed out that the learnings from this 2-weeks capacity building programme in the form of new ideas and best practices, and use them as a template for the larger good of society. Officers of Bangladesh appreciated the design of the programme and opportunity to listen to and have discussion with highly qualified domain experts and eminent people came as resource persons. So far, with the support of MEA and in close cooperation with the Indian Mission in Dhaka, NCGG has trained about 2,055 civil servants of Bangladesh.

The National Centre for Good Governance was set up in 2014 by the Government of India as an apex-level institution under the auspices of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. NCGG is mandated to work in the areas of public policy, governance, reforms,

training and capacity building of civil servants of the country as well as of other developing countries. It is also work as a think tank of the government.

In partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), NCGG has taken up the responsibility to build the capacities of civil servants of developing countries. So far, it has imparted training to civil servants of 15 countries viz. Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Seychelles, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Cambodia. These trainings were found to be highly useful by the participating officers of different countries. Also, NCGG has been involved in the capacity building of civil servants from various states in the country. These programmes are much sought after and as desired by the MEA, NCGG is expanding its capacity to accommodate a higher number of civil servants from more countries as demand is on the rise. For the year 2023-24, NCGG has effected 3-fold increase in this highly sought after programmes.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Searches continue...

gained the next morning after he along with his another associate was confronted shortly after midnight.

The other terrorist was believed to have been injured in the exchange of fire which lasted for several hours but managed to slip away, the officials said, adding the operation code named "Trinetra" was continuing when last reports were received.

"There was no fresh contact with the terrorists after Saturday's encounter. The area witnessed heavy rains in the evening (Saturday) but the operation is on and the area remains under tight security cordon with all escape routes plugged," a senior security official said.

He said Army, police and CRPF personnel are deployed in the operation area and are engaged in a massive combing operation to track down the terrorists.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with Army Chief General Manoj Pandey and Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Ace of Spades Division headquarters in Rajouri on Saturday.

Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi also visited the encounter site before the arrival of the defence minister and was briefed about the developments in the 'Operation Trinetra'.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu, which were declared terrorism-free more than a decade ago, have been rocked by a series of deadly attacks since October 2021, resulting in the killing of 35 people, including 26 soldiers. (Agencies)

### G20 Meet: Security...

A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was killed in an encounter in Karhama Kunzer area of Baramulla on Saturday.

While there was a brief lull with no gunfights in the valley over the past few weeks, Wednesday's encounter took place a day after Additional Director General of Police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar had chaired a joint meeting with the officers of police, intelligence agencies and security forces to discuss overall security arrangements for the G20 event.

During the meeting, all SSPs were instructed to conduct anti-terrorist operations on specific inputs. The officials were also instructed to coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies to gather information about any potential security threats and take necessary actions to neutralise them.

While reviewing the security arrangements for the G20 event, the ADGP emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to ensure fool proof security for the summit.

The officials also discussed the deployment of security personnel, traffic management, and crowd control measures to be adopted for the peaceful conduct of the summit.

The meeting focused on the deployment of security personnel, counter drone measures and other critical aspects of security planning.

He directed the officials to ensure that the security arrangements are put in place well before the summit, and the deployment of security personnel should be done in a manner that does not cause inconvenience to the local residents and tourists.

The ADGP emphasised the need to be vigilant and take pre-emptive measures to prevent any untoward incident during the summit.

Kumar also stressed the importance of river and lake domination in ensuring the security of the summit. He also emphasized the need for the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) to be put in place to provide a strong security cover for the water bodies around the summit venues.

He said that an NSG team will be used for counter any fidayeen attack along with Special Operations Group - the counter-militancy unit of JK Police.

Specialised NSG teams will be deployed at all venues to check drone activities, he added. (Agencies)

### BSF personnel killed...

jawans and official gypsy fell into a deep gorge leaving seven personnel injured.

"Locals and police rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation," they said adding that injured were rushed to the hospital.

One of the injured succumbed due to critical head injury, said police.

### India ready to...

He said in the field of telemedicine, the country has some of the best start-ups in the world.

"These startup groups have developed AI (artificial intelligence) doctors," the minister said and cited an example of its application.

Singh said his team selected about 60 remote villages in his Lok Sabha constituency - Udhamapur in Jammu and Kashmir - and engaged a telemedicine van called 'Doctor on Wheels'.

The team ran it for three months in all 60 villages and the best of consultations were provided in a very short time, he said.

Singh said India is fast becoming more tech savvy, particularly after Narendra Modi took over as the prime minister because he is personally promoting science and technology innovations.

"This is evident from the fact that there were just around 350 start-ups before 2014, but after Modi gave the clarion call from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his independence Day address, and rolled out special StartUp scheme in 2016, there has been a quantum jump in start-ups to more than 90,000 with more than 100 unicorns," Singh said, adding that India is also rated number 3 in the StartUp ecosystem of the world.

He said, similarly, Modi opened up the space sector for private participation leading to more than 100 Start-Ups in the space sector within just about three years.

Similarly, biotech start-ups went up from around 50 in 2014 to nearly 6,000 today, Singh said. (Agencies)

### Congress advocating...

Gandhi's London statement, he said the Royal Family of the Congress is at the forefront when it comes to working against India's interests as they 'openly incite foreign powers to interfere in India to influence politics'.

During his visit to London, Rahul Gandhi had said at a discussion: "Democracy in India is a global, public good. It impacts way further than our boundaries. If Indian democracy collapses, in my view, democracy on the planet suffers a very serious, possibly fatal blow. So, it is important for you too. It is not just important for us. We will deal with our problem, but you must be aware that this problem is going to play out on a global scale."

"Trying to make political capital out of Rahul's remarks, the BJP later accused him of seeking the interference of US and European nations in India's internal affairs."

Modi said the spirits of terrorists and criminals get high when Congress comes to power. "In Congress rule, terrorists and criminals are convinced that Congress has a hand on them. We have seen time and again that for the sake of appeasement, Congress openly comes down in support of terrorists," he said.

Modi said the politics of appeasement is behind hearing insult on Bajrang Bali. "Congress people abuse the entire Lingayat community and abuse the OBC community. They only see vote bank politics in everything. The politics of appeasement is behind what the Congress did regarding Bajrang Bali," he said.

Modi said the Congress and JDS governments insulted Karnataka's rich heritage at every step and Hindu faith was also seen through the prism of appeasement politics.

"There is no such corner of Karnataka where our rich heritage is not seen, but the governments of Congress and its ally JDS insulted this heritage at every step. Our faith, our heritage were also seen in vote bank appeasement politics," he said.

"What did you not do with the temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya? Be it Kashi Vishwanath, Kedarnath, Ujjain Mahakal Mahalok, Congress does not like when we decorate such pilgrimages," Modi added.

Modi said India has been an ancient global power in terms of spices, but under Congress rule, the country started losing its identity even on turmeric. "But we promoted our spices all over the world. Today the demand for our spices has increased all over the world," he said.

The Congress leaders also mocked him during his visit to Bandipur Tiger Reserve for celebrating the achievement with the people, Modi said, adding: "They used derogatory words against the Lingayat community and the OBC community... Congress always indulges in the politics of appeasement," he alleged.

Modi said Congress party's biggest 'Garibi Hatao' guarantee given by their top leader (then prime minister Indira Gandhi) has become a big lie. "Today, Congress is distributing false guarantees. However, they should tell what happened to the 'Garibi Hatao' guarantee they gave around five decades ago. Their biggest guarantee given by their top leader has become a big lie," he said. He said in the last nine years, India has come out of being a 'Fragile Five' economy to become the fifth largest economy in the world. "During this time, India made new records in exports and FDI. However, Karnataka wasn't able to take advantage of this when Congress and JDS gov ruled Karnataka," he added.

When India's defence sector started getting stronger, Asia's biggest helicopter manufacturing factory was set up in Karnataka, Modi said.

"When India became the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, Karnataka became the startup capital. When the railway work in India got speeded up manifold, then the railway work got speeded up in Karnataka... these are some of the achievements of the BJP which makes you (people) all proud, but the Congress and JDS don't feel proud of it," he said.

### Fairly widespread light...

Weather turned cool as both minimum and maximum temperature dropped to 3.5 degree Celsius below normal in Jammu and Kashmir following rains that lashed plains while upper reaches received snowfall on Saturday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.5 degree Celsius on Sunday which was 4.2 degree Celsius below normal of 10.7 degree Celsius. It also received 6.8mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till 0830hours.

The maximum temperature was also running 5.1 degree Celsius below normal of 23.6 degree Celsius in Srinagar.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low of 5.2 degree Celsius, 4.0 degree Celsius normal of 9.2 degree Celsius, while Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of 2.1 degree Celsius which was 3.4

degree Celsius below normal for the famous tourist hot spot.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.2 degree Celsius and Gulmarg had a low of 0.4 degree Celsius which was 4.8 degree Celsius below normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of 6.3 degree Celsius which was 3.0 degree Celsius below normal of 9.3 degree Celsius on Sunday, the MeT office said. (Agencies)

### Support strong regional...

Conference president said they should think about what they should do. "I hope they will consider this." The three-time chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar also spoke about the alleged misuse of central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income Tax Department.

"It has been done in the past. Can't be only these (BJP) people are doing it. They are doing it 100 times more than what others did. But I hope future governments do not use these agencies just to browbeat the Opposition."

"We must not use these agencies to browbeat our Opposition. The Opposition is necessary in this nation. And, therefore, using these agencies in this manner in a democratic country is totally wrong and should not have been done," he said.

He said the Opposition is a must for any democratic country and added "that is how democracy will flourish and India will become much stronger in the world." He also lamented that India has fallen to 161 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index and said, "This shows how much we have destroyed the freedom of the press... It does not augur well for democracies. The press keeps a check on you and that check is necessary for a democratic country." (Agencies)

### Major tragedy averted...

6 kg, the police said on Sunday. The arrested terror associate was identified as Ishaq Ahmed Wani, a resident of Arigam, Pulwama, the police said.

The police have registered a case into the matter. "Pulwama Police averted a major tragedy by apprehending a terror associate Ishaq Ahmed Wani/O Arigam #Pulwama and recovering an IED (approx 5-6Kgs) on his disclosure. Case registered," Kashmir Xtra Police tweeted on Sunday afternoon.

Further investigation into the matter is underway. (Agencies)

### Azad backs Article...

Unfortunately nothing such is done," he said. Appreciating the people of Jammu for building rich secular values, Azad said that they should be cautious against all those forces who have no contribution to its development but play petty politics for their personal gains.

### Soldier martyred in...

that the Government Senior Secondary School Marhoun will be renamed in honour of the slain soldier. The state government has provided financial help of Rs 5 lakh to the family. (Agencies)

# Clean, Maintained lanes true symbol of Smart City: Sat Sharma

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Former State President, BJP and Ex-Minister, Sat Sharma (CA) alongwith District President BJP Jammu Pramod Kapahi and Corporator Ward 40 Neelam Nargotra inaugurated drain and paver tiles work in Bharat Nagar area of Talab Tillo in Jammu West Assembly segment. BJP Media Secretary Dr Pardeep Mahotra, JE JMC Shabbab and several others were also present including local residents, political activists and JMC officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that it was indeed a long pending demand of the inhabitants which has been met today and he said that the mission behind this was to provide a conducive and clean atmosphere to the society. He said the works of many lanes and drains were taken up during his tenure as MLA and now majority of them are constructed which has helped a lot in achieving the mission of "Jammu-West" as model



constituency. He stated that efforts are still being made to provide every possible assistance to the masses at their doorsteps for which he appealed to the inhabitants to contribute in keeping their surroundings neat and clean. He also stated that providing a neat and clean environment is the motive of Narendra Modi led Central Government and Clean, Maintained lanes are the true symbol of a

Smart City, he added. Pramod Kapahi and Neelam Nargotra said that development has reached to every nook and corner under the BJP regime.

They said such works were never done before in the Congress led Governments but BJP following the vision of PM Modi is working on ground to provide best possible assistance to the public.

They also hailed the works done by Former

MLA to improve the overall condition of Jammu West and said that under his leadership, Jammu West excelled a lot in terms of development. Ex Corporator Chaman Lal, Praveen Ghai, Rahul Nargotra, Vikas Kumar, Mohan Lal Gupta, Sonali Gupta, Dr Karan Singh, Ajay Gupta, Atul Mahajan, Vishal Mahajan, Supervisor Bhat and several others were also present on the occasion.

# Gujjars are epitome of nationalism & secularism: Khatana

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has said that welfare of Gujjars, Bakewal and pasmanda samaj is the first priority of PM Narendra Modi led govt. He said Gujjars nationalism and commitment to the secular ideals is unquestionable.

Addressing a massive gathering at Gujjar Basti Rajpura, Kanachak on international border, Er. Gulam Ali said that Gujjars and Bakewals are a hard-working community and today and night to make both ends meet.

He said there are black sheep in every community but while community should not be branded as such. He further said that PM Narendra Modi has introduced more than 70 schemes for the welfare of pasmanda samaj besides providing political reservation to ST community in



J&K. Er. Gulam Ali said that it is only BJP which has provided justice to Gujjars while others used them for vote bank politics for 7 decades.

He said that Gujjars voted for Cong, NC, PDP for 70 years but for a few select families, the fate of common Gujjars, SCs, STs and other socially backward classes remained the same. "Gujjars should make a distinction between their well wishers and their enemies," said Er. Gulam

Ali, adding "Govt of India has opened Gujjar, bakewal, SC Hostels and is providing every facility to educate the pasmandas. We should take the benefit of these schemes."

Appreciating the cooperation between the nationalist Gujjars and security forces, he said that Gujjars sacrificed about 6000 lives in combating terrorists sponsored and aided by Pakistan. Govt of India too is proud of their contribution. He said that Hindu-Muslim Gujjars affinity is

known all over India and his nomination as MP is being celebrated by all. Locals also narrated their difficulties and problems including bad road conditions, movement permissions, health care facilities and absence of school in the area.

MP Khatana assured to take up the issues with the concerned authorities and directed SDPO Domana Vishal Shoor to resolve the issue of movement immediately.

# Javed Rana cautions against divisive politics, calls for unity



J I NEWS SERVICE

BHOGPUR (PB), MAY 07: Javed Rana, senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) leader and President of the party for Fir Panjal Zone raised serious concern over divisive politics, saying this has taken toll on unity across country.

He was speaking while campaigning for Congress candidate of Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency Smt Karanjit Kour Choudhary

in Bhogpur town in Jalandhar district of Punjab State.

The senior National Conference leader said that seeking votes on religion is a dangerous trend, which is not only against standing norms of Election Commission of India but also opposite to time-tested amity and brotherhood. He said divisive politics was against ethos of the country, which is abode of all, irrespective of religion, region or culture.

He drew comparison between British and the prevailing divide and rule policy of the BJP, saying this has created a dangerous situation.

He, however, exuded confidence that people will foil all such attempts by keeping the flame of secularism shining despite provocations.

The former legislator questioned the BJP led NDA government's failure in keeping up the promises made to the people of

India, especially the youth. He said where are Rs 15 lakh packs that had to go in the accounts of each Indian or over two crore jobs for the youth. He said instead of creating jobs, this government creating unemployment as a result of GST which has hugely impacted small scale industries besides trade and commerce. He said the big industry was running out of the country.

Javed Rana also expressed concern over increasing suicides by farmers, saying they were ignored by the present dispensation at the Centre.

He said the government ignored rural India, which is why the country is facing multi-faceted challenges, the critical situation of the farmers being the crucial ones.

The senior NC leader said that people of Punjab state are directly in need of a change in governance and the people of Punjab should support secular parties.

# Retrofitting Works under Jal Jeevan Mission Started in Panchayat Jindrah



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: Under the aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission, today Anil Sharma, Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Jindrah in presence of Ashish Sharma Executive Engineer Jammu Rural Wing Public Health Engineer and AEE

Raj Kumar Khajuria Kick started retrofitting work of water supply Scheme in Panchayat Halqa Jindrah .

During the inauguration program, Anil thanked the PHE Department for providing clean drinking water facilities even rural and remote areas of J&K which is possible only with the

dedication of ground staff and able supervision of senior officer of the PHE department .

He further informed that under the JIM (Jal Jeevan Mission) works worth approximately Rs 800 Crores, rupees eight crores will be taken up that includes construction of

Sump Tanks, CSR and other Mechanical works .

He assured the local villagers that every effort would be made to provide best possible service to them including round the clock power supply , better Roads , and Educational and Health Institutions in the Panchayat . The prominent people who attended the program include Head Master (retd.) Gangadutt Sharma , Omkar Singh , Master (retd.) Chander Moli Sharma , Head Master (retd.) Ranjit Singh , Haaji Mohammed Basheer , Keemat Raj , Sudhest Verma , Omprakash , Mani Ram , Beeli Ram , Pooan Chand , Saar Ali , Mohamed Junaid and Salim Mohammed .

# Rabi crop losses due to untimely rains need to be compensated: Pathania



J I NEWS SERVICE

MAJALTA, MAY 07: While touring various parts of Udhampur and interacting with affected farmers at Jaganoo, Rannagar, Majalta, Khoon, Batta Balian who have suffered due to incessant and untimely rains at the peak of harvesting season, Mr Ranbir Singh Pathania, BJP Spokesperson, vouched for compensating crop losses.

These unseen crop losses have broken the back of farmers. Rabi crops constitute the economic lifeline of agriculturists. Due to

untimely rains, either the farmers have not been able to harvest them or wheat grains have re-sprouted or turned black. This has caused serious disappointment amongst the community.

Mr. Pathania was all-praise for the various initiatives and achievements of government for propping up agriculture and agriculturists. Better access to quality seeds, fertilisers, better marketing facilities, awareness, weather predictions, etc have changed the very gamut of agriculture in UT of J & K.

The agriculture and allied sectors in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are poised for significant growth and boost with the launch of a slew of technological advancements and extension programmes.

These interventions, incentivized through various schemes and projects, have already led to improved quality and quantity of produce in the region. However, the challenge remains in integrating smallholder produce with market systems that are

both effective and transparent. This will ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their goods while consumers get good value for their money.

Mr. Pathania while taking up the case of Kirchi to Seoj Dhar road, Thial to Chountra Mata road and missing link of Pinger to Manwal road. These roads connect exquisite tourist destinations and various temples which can be of a great significance in boosting up the local tourism and the road connectivity in the area.

Those who were present included Capt Gopal Singh Mankotia (Mandal Pardhan), Mohan Lal Sharma (Mandal Pardhan), Shiv Ram, Baldev Singh Mankotia, Anil Sharma, Ved Pal (Mandal General Secretaries), Kuldeep Singh, Onkar Singh, Surinder Singh Sarpanch, Shukar Din, Charan Das, Onkar Singh, Ashok Kumar Bhagat, Suneet Singh, Tirath Ram, Suresh Kumar and a wide galaxy of local leadership.

# CUK documentary on drug abuse in valley bags award

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: Deptt of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), Deptt of Students Welfare (DSW) and Health Centre, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in collaboration with Institute of Mental health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Chief Medical Officer, Ganderal, Government Medical College, Srinagar, Guide the Professionals with media partner Radio Chinara 90.4 FM produced documentary "Second Chance: Story of Hope & Recovery" was adjudged as winner of 'Special Jury award' at the Chandigarh University International Film Festival 2023. The documentary was directed by Dr. Asif Khan, Sr. Asst Prof. DCJ and the team comprising students and the production assistant. It is

regarding the issue of drug and substance abuse prevalent in the valley and talks about the menace with inputs from the experts, doctors, students, psychologists and patients.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, congratulated the whole team for highlighting the burning issue of drug abuse and asked the students from other departments to raise issues of public importance including violence against women, rising crime rate, increasing road traffic accidents and other issues, for their immediate redressal.

Dean Academic Affairs and Dean School of Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool also congratulated the team for achieving the feat. He said the students, across all the disciplines, should identify and work on the multiple issues confronting the people,

not only in J&K, but across the country. Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, in his message, appreciated the team and said the university is willing to provide all the support and cooperation to the students intending to highlight the issues of public importance so that the same could be worked upon by the concerned quarters in the administration.

Dean DSW and Finance Officer, Dr Mehraj ud Din Shah, also hailed the team for bagging the award and asked them to continue their fight against the social evils.

Dr. Asif Khan, Sr. Asst Prof. said, "The documentary sensitises the people about the effects of substance abuse and aims to reach out to the affected." He thanked the CUIFF for the award. The documentary is available on the link

# God Realization only solution to all miseries of Mankind :Saint H S Chawla

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 07: A spiritual congregation was held at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, Shastri Nagar Jammu under the divine presence of Saint H S Chawla ji Member Incharge, Branch Administration, Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi. In his spiritual message to a mammoth gathering of devotees from diverse regional and social backgrounds from different parts of society, he said that that sole purpose of all humans is to know the self, his true identity and get salvation by the blessings of True Master Satguru, the embodiment of all pervading God, Nirankar. Man being attracted by the material attrac-



tions, remains engrossed in worldly achievements throughout the life forgetful of the spiritual wealth. Sh chawla reminded the devotees of the well said quote " Maya Mar Na Mann Mara, Mar Mar Gye Sharir"

means neither the material attractions ever come to end nor the lust/ desires to attain them ever stop. Which ultimately binds the human beings to be caught in unending cycle of birth and rebirth. He further said blessed and fortunate are those who have sought refuge in holy feet of true master Satguru and also appealed others to follow the noble path of spirituality shown by the saints and sages from time to time and which is a clarion call of Sant Nirankari mission that God knowledge is possible through Brahm Gyan and one should enlighten self before departing from the mortal world.

Ajli Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu presented the vote of thanks.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

## JINDRAH IMAGES

## Rail project pushed to backburner

Unfortunately, the BJP-led Central government has shelved the much-ambitious 223-km-long Jammu-Poonch railway line project by declaring it financially unviable. The decision has come as a major embarrassment for the BJP leadership in Jammu and Kashmir as this mega project costing Rs 22,771 crore had been the part of BJP's election promises during 2014 Lok Sabha and subsequent elections and even the BJP's star campaigners had promised construction of the rail line. Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch railway line was important from a strategic point of view as it was to connect the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch which share Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, with train. It was proposed that the train would pass through all major towns of Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts and it would benefit large numbers of populations especially those living in Rajouri and Poonch districts. Interestingly, Member of Parliament (MP) from Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat Jugal Kishore is unaware of the development. The MP had said in Lok Sabha that the survey for laying of Jammu to Rajouri and Poonch railway line has been completed and provision of funds should be made available soon for laying this new railway line. The Railway Ministry in response to a series of queries seeking the status and overall details of this prestigious project, disclosed that the survey for new line Jammu to Poonch was completed in 2017-18. The project could not be taken forward being financially unviable. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for this line. The survey has been shelved with the approval of the Railway Board, the ministry disclosed while responding to an RTI application. In another reply, Firozpur Division of Northern Railway disclosed the latest updated survey report for Reconnaissance Engg. cum traffic Survey for a new line between Jammu-Poonch via Akhnoor and Rajouri was submitted to the Railway Board in September 2017. According to the survey, the total cost of the project was Rs 22,771.55 crores with rate of return (-) 4.54 percent per annum (with electric traction). The decision has provided enough fodder to the opposition parties to take the BJP-led government at the Centre head-on. Congress claims that the vital railway link was proposed by the UPA on the intervention of Rahul Gandhi to give faster connectivity and boost economic development in border districts in 2012. The party believes that the reports of abandoning the project are quite disturbing and the government should review its decision immediately and sanction the project in the larger interests of people. The railway project would prove to be of great strategic importance in the wake of escalated tensions with Pakistan and China. There is no second thought that the government might have taken the decision purely on the basis of its financial viability but it is also the duty of the government to ensure that the people should get better connectivity and transportation facilities.

# Let's learn to appreciate human resources

WHAT MUST CHANGE IS THE CULTURE OF EMPLOYERS IN INDIA — EMPLOYERS IN LARGE OR SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS, OR EVEN EMPLOYERS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS. WORKERS ARE HUMAN BEINGS. THEY WANT DIGNITY, KINDNESS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN. TREAT YOUR WORKERS WELL, LOOK OUT FOR THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY, PAY THEM WELL, AND THEY WILL BE LOYAL TO YOUR ENTERPRISE AND LEARN AND CHANGE ALONG WITH YOU.

ARUN MAIRA

INDIA'S greatest need for sustaining economic growth and maintaining social harmony is the generation of decent employment. The number of castes and communities demanding reservation of jobs is increasing. Reservation for an economically weaker class, cutting across divisions of caste and religion, has also been accepted. States, even richer ones like Haryana, want private sector jobs reserved for their local people.

Rampal is employed as a horticulture worker in the grounds of my upscale apartment complex in Haryana. I met him one morning on my walk in the manicured park within our gated complex. He was wearing a smart uniform, a helmet and safety boots. He was neatly trimming bushes and trees. He cut me a dried bamboo walking stick from the green bamboo grove he was tending.

I asked him how long he had worked in our complex and where he had worked before. Rampal had migrated from Madhya Pradesh 18 years ago to Punjab, where he worked in the garment industry, stitching clothes. He came to Gurugram a year ago because the work in Punjab was not secure. He had been earning about Rs 17,000 a month in Punjab and was now being paid Rs 10,000 in the park. Then why did he move, I asked. He said working conditions were better here and he was treated with greater respect. He worked only eight hours a day, six days a week. He could earn an additional Rs 10,000 a month by walking dogs of apartment owners, who paid Rs 5,000 per dog for an hour's work — half an hour each in mornings and evenings. He also had more time with his family than he had before — he has three small children. He would like to earn more, he said, because costs were rising, and it was difficult to make ends meet.

Rampal has worked in three industries — manufacturing, farming (gardening), and servicing (dog-walking). I asked him how he had learned his new skills. I was especially curious about how he had learned to keep his dogs in order because my niece, who employs a dog walker, said her pet is undisciplined in the house but



very well-behaved with his dog walker who, she said, has "a way with dogs". What was Rampal's way, I asked him. Looking at my stick, he said dogs do not learn discipline with a stick. They learn with kindness. Then he philosophically asked, if that is how animals learn, what about us human beings?

Gurugram is booming with the growth of modern manufacturing and service industries, and attractive apartment complexes and shopping malls for upper-class people. It generates a variety of incomes and employment — for wealthy investors in venture capital and property firm and managers in MNCs, and for domestic workers, delivery workers, security guards, and estate workers (like Rampal) who service their needs. Recently, delivery workers of an online grocery service in Gurugram went on strike to demand that their pay not be reduced.

They could hardly make ends meet with the Rs 10,000 or less they were earning, and that too in working conditions that were becoming harsher and less safe with demands on them to reduce delivery times. The strike fizzled out; the workers accepted less wages because 'what else is there', they asked.

We have been aware for at least 15 years, during UPA and NDA rule, that India must change the pattern of its economic growth, not

just increase the size of its economy. Otherwise, the country will not be able to sustain growth or maintain social harmony. The policy response so far has been the 'ostrich' strategy. Bury your head in statistics to prove that there is no problem; and hope that, given more time, the problem will go away when increasing wealth at the top trickles down to incomes and social security on the ground. Meanwhile, make it easier for employers to exploit workers, to motivate them to employ more workers. Also, prevent workers from forming unions to have their human needs heard — for dignity, safety, reasonable working hours, and adequate wages and social security to take care of their families.

Skill development has become organised as an industry to meet lofty targets for skilling hundreds of millions, turning out large numbers of workers with standard sets of skills to fit what employers project they will need for industrial establishments in manufacturing, and in industry-like establishments in the organised service sector. The skilling industry is expected to produce little cogs that fit neatly into a large industrial machine. In this paradigm, humans are chewed up in the machine with work squeezed out of them, and discarded when the machine has no further use for them.

The relationship between

humans, work and the economy must change for India to upskill its large potential workforce amidst radical changes in technologies and shapes of industries around the world. India needs workers who can learn faster. Human beings are the only 'appreciating assets' an enterprise has. Humans can learn new skills and appreciate their own value if they are motivated to. Machines cannot. Technologists counter that artificial intelligence (AI) machines will soon learn how humans learn and artificial intelligence will equal human intelligence. Seems odd that a human-rich and capital-poor country should want to displace intelligent humans (whose intelligence is suppressed within industrial establishments) with intelligent machines.

It is not India's labour laws that need changing. Nor the culture of Indian workers, who can be the best in the world, as they prove to be when they work in other countries. What must change is the culture of employers in India. Employers in large establishments, employers in small establishments, even employers of domestic workers. Workers are human beings. They want dignity, kindness and opportunities to learn. Even dogs do, Rampal said.

Treat your workers well, look out for their social security, pay them well, and they will be loyal to your enterprise and learn and change along with you.

## CLEANING AND HEALING HIMALAYAS

I HAD ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF TREKKING AND TRAVELLING. INTERACTION WITH SHEPHERDS MADE ME REALISE HOW THESE SIMPLE PEOPLE HAD A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE THAN URBAN EDUCATED PEOPLE, INSPIRING ME TO MAKE CLEANING THE HIMALAYAS MY LIFE'S MISSION

PRADEEP SANGWAN

My father was an Army officer. It was his dream that I should join the Indian Army. I was sent from my village Jhohju Kalan in Charkhi Dadri district of Haryana to Rashtriya Military School, Ajmer. I appeared for the NDA exam in 2004 but couldn't clear the interview. I then enrolled for BA in DAV College, Chandigarh, but dejected after the NDA rejection, I had given up on pursuing education seriously.

I had been good at sports in school and was also fond of trekking, travelling and music. My initial interaction with the mountains was quite casual, not serious enough to turn into a fascination. After graduation, I went to Mumbai for a diploma in event management but came back wanting to do something different.

In 2009, I decided to open a small café at Kothi village, the last village on the Manali highway towards Rohtang Pass. My father was a typical Indian parent with usual expectations

from his kids, but still, he gave me the initial chance to do something with my life. That was the only time my father ever funded me for a project. The next three years, I connected with many travellers there. Their stories inspired me a lot. A community of shepherds used to camp opposite my café. I would find their lifestyle quite fascinating. I started spending time and going with them, eventually getting distracted from my café, that had been doing reasonably well, even featuring on 'Highway on My Plate'.

I wanted to shut down my café and go into exploration full-time. My father lost it this time: "You are not going to do anything in life," and totally stopped supporting me.

Over the next two years, I explored the Himalayas, trekking to all major trails. There had been a boom in the travelling industry, particularly after movies like 'Three Idiots' and 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani'. I got many offers for a travel start-up but wanted to do something different and meaningful. The turning point



came during a trek from Chandratol to Surajtal (in Spiti). We had to abandon it midway due to bad weather, forcing us to seek help from some Gaddi shepherds. I stayed with them for three days, observing their sustainable lifestyle despite living in such harsh conditions, unlike affluent and educated urban people who came demanding their bonfires and pizzas, giving nothing back to nature and leaving the trash behind instead. The disparity

between the two communities was striking and disturbing. That was when the idea of starting Healing Himalayas concretised in 2014, a platform for trekking and travelling with purpose.

I again went back home and told my father about my plans. But he pressured me to get engaged to a girl of his choice. I gave in but soon realised my mistake. I called up the lady and told her about my life goals. My father threw me out. I

just had a Bolero and a few clothes. That was in 2015. I went to Delhi and worked for a friend for Rs 30,000 a month for four months so as to earn some money to register my foundation.

In 2016, I registered Healing Himalayas and headed back to Himachal. The initial years were tough. I sold off my vehicle to fund cleaning drives. I would borrow money from friends, sometimes crashing with them, often eating langar

at Manikaran. I had been working hard and passionately but had no idea about making my foundation self-sustainable. In 2018, during a cleaning drive at Kheerganga, we requested some trekkers to carry some of our trash bags down. One of them was the head of CSR funding at Dunninghumbly. He called me soon and gave us our first CSR donation of Rs 3 lakh that sustained us for a year.

I had been a dreamer initially, but I was learning the ropes as I went along, acquiring knowledge about environment, pollution and government policies. There were hardly any funds or volunteers initially, but I worked solo.

There were many problems. We would bring down waste; sometimes the civic body had no infrastructure to process it. There were transportation issues and taboos about garbage collection. We then started material recovery facilities (MRF) or waste collection centres, involving locals. We held cleaning treks from March to November almost every weekend.

We have cleared over 8 lakh

kg of non-biodegradable waste from the Himalayas. The foundation has five MRFs now wherein we collect 4.5 tonnes of waste per day.

At 37, I am the youngest among four siblings, an elder brother and two sisters. My only regret is that despite being the most educated in my family, I haven't been able to do anything for them. My father, a khap pradhan, had to sell off his land. Perhaps, someday I will be able to buy it back for him. My father is very proud of me now and sometimes participates in my cleaning drives.

The first mention about Healing Himalayas in 'Mann ki Baat' in December 2020 gave us recognition. Funds started trickling in. Film producer Pragna Kapoor had helped build our first MRF.

Sony Pictures funded a CSR project, enabling us to build four more MRFs and 17 cleaning drives.

The second mention in the 100th episode last month has given us validation. Challenges will be easy to resolve now. I hope to build MRFs in all districts of Himachal.

## Priyanka Chopra Describes Filming 'Love Again' As Terrifying Experience

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas was forced to cope with a "daunting atmosphere" on 'Love Again'. The 40-year-old actress stars in the new romantic comedy film alongside Sam Heughan and Celine Dion but admits it was tricky to generate the emotions required as the picture was filmed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was nuts at that time. It was tough, but it was a scary time in the world. As actors, we're the ones that have to take off our masks on set. I was terrified, honestly, in the beginning. It was a very scary, daunting atmosphere, and we were doing a romantic comedy - we had to bring lightness and fun to set in this daunting atmosphere," she recalled to Entertainment Weekly, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"We really leaned on each other to create a fun environment on set with each other. We would laugh and crack jokes and tried to find the joy so that

we could inspire and infuse ourselves as well. But it wasn't easy."

Priyanka stars in the film as Mira Ray, who - struggling to cope with the death of her fiancé - sends romantic messages to his old phone number, which has been reassigned to journalist Rob Burns (Heughan). Rob is drawn to Mira's beautiful texts and seeks Celine Dion's assistance to find her in real life when he is tasked with writing a feature about the 'My Heart Will Go On' singer.

Sam admits that the pandemic was one of the main reasons he accepted the chance to play the male lead in the film. The 'Outlander' star said, "I think we were all ready for it. After the lockdowns and being in isolation, everyone was ready to feel joy again. That's why this was such a well-timed movie to make. I think we all, certainly after the pandemic and everything else that's going on in the world, needed this kind of movie and this kind of message."



## KIRTI KULHARI CHOPS OFF HER LONG TRESSES, GETS A CREW CUT



Bollywood actress Kirti Kulhari has stunned everyone after chopping off her long tresses into a crew cut. She said she has not done it for a role but for herself and feel empowered.

Kirti took to Instagram reels, where she shared a video montage of herself in her new look.

She captioned it: "New endings, new beginnings. Decided to do this a month back and here I am, having done it. I work in an industry where being a heroine comes with its own set of restrictions and limitations."

Kirti Kulhari: We Inspire And Empower Women By Showing Them They Deserve The Best In Life, Even If They Are Messed Up Or Imperfect

"Long hair or at least shoulder length hair is an unsaid mandate. Here I am, almost 15 years later, in the industry, doing my thing.

I have no time to not do what I want to do... and each time I have done something which is not the norm, I have felt empowered and nothing short of it."

She added: "Here I am, making another such choice and living my life my way. Thank you Aavni @happyinthehead for always being my partner in crime. Only love for you... PS no it's for not any role. It's FOR ME."

Kirti's fans were excited to see her embrace a new haircut and live life her way.

## TAKES TIME AND PATIENCE TO MAKE SOMETHING WORTHY: SHAH RUKH KHAN ON NEW RELEASE DATE OF 'JAWAN'

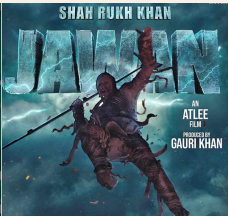
It takes "time and patience" to deliver something worth audiences time, superstar Shah Rukh Khan said on Saturday after the release date of his much-anticipated action film 'Jawan' got pushed to September 7.

Directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee, the film produced by Gauri Khan, marks Shah Rukh's second release of the year after blockbuster hit 'Pathaan'.

In an #AskSRK session on Twitter, the superstar said he is relieved that the team, which has been tirelessly working on the project, can now finish the film with ease. "Takes time and patience to make something worthy for audiences... #Jawan #7thSeptember2023" the actor wrote in response to a fan who asked about the delay. "Jawan", also starring



Vijay Sethupathi and Nayanthara, was earlier scheduled to be released on June 2. "Everybody was working without a break and pushing themselves... So a bit



relieved that all can do their job with more ease now," SRK said. The film is produced by the superstar's Red Chillies Entertainment. When one of the users

asked if it was important to invest in the VFX-loaded spectacles like 'Jawan', Shah Rukh said he believes in creating an event worth the audience's money. "You should put your money where your mouth is... one has to believe that Dream merchants should create cinema that feels like an event worth the audience's time and money!" the actor wrote. Talking about his process of approaching a character, the superstar said it is "spiritual" and "respectful to who I am trying to create."

He called 'Jawan' a new kind of a genre for him. "An Atlee special and the marriage of trying to bring two ways of making films in tandem," he said, adding that he personally liked the Tamil director's movies "Theri" and "Mersal".

## Jury finds Ed Sheeran didn't copy Marvin Gaye classic

A jury concluded Thursday that British singer Ed Sheeran didn't steal key components of Marvin Gaye's classic 1970s tune Let's Get It On when he created his hit song Thinking Out Loud. As the New York jury answered the single question of whether Sheeran proved he didn't infringe upon the copyright in the affirmative, the crooner briefly put his hands over his face in relief before standing and hugging his lawyer.

The verdict came after a two-week trial that featured a courtroom performance by Sheeran as the singer insisted, sometimes angrily, that the trial was a threat to all musicians who create their own music.

Sheeran sat with his legal team throughout the trial, defending himself against the lawsuit by the heirs of songwriter Ed Townsend, who created the 1973 soul classic with Gaye. They said Thinking Out Loud had so many similarities to Let's Get It On that it violated the song's copyright protection.

At the trial's start, attorney Ben Crump told jurors on behalf of the Townsend heirs that Sheeran himself sometimes performed the two songs together. The jury saw video of a concert in Switzerland in which Sheeran can be heard segueing on stage between Let's Get It On and Thinking Out Loud. Crump said that was smoking gun proof he stole from the famous tune.

When Sheeran testified, he repeatedly picked up a guitar resting behind him on the witness stand to demonstrate how he seamlessly creates mashups of songs during concerts to spice it up a bit for his sizeable crowds.

The English pop star's cheerful attitude on display under questioning from his attorney, Ilene Farkas, all but vanished under cross examination.

## 'Heeramandi' could be a turning point in my career says Manisha Koirala

Manisha Koirala defines success as the "luxury to say no", which the actor says she has attained over the years with films "1942: A Love Story", "Bombay" and "Company" proving to be turning points in her career.

Now, almost after two decades, Koirala said she is hopeful that Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming series "Heeramandi" emerges as another milestone for her.

"What I call success is the freedom to do what I want to do and at what time. I feel I am pretty successful today because I have the luxury to say no... The undying love for this profession keeps me going. I love the field of acting and cinema," the actor told PTI in an interview here. Koirala said the idea of being successful in the 1990s was having a busy schedule. "Earlier when I started my career it was about filling your date diary. I was told if the actors are busy for the next three years, they are happening and rocking actors, so my focus was that."

After 32 years in showbiz, her focus has shifted. "I would rather have a lot of free time, where I can



travel, do gardening, trekking, write a book, binge watch, spend time with family... Do things that interest me rather than do mediocre projects," she added. The 52-year-old reunites with her "Khamoshi: The Musical" director Bhansali for Netflix's "Heeramandi", which marks the filmmaker's foray into digital medium. "The turning points for me have been 'Saudagar', '1942: A Love Story', 'Bombay' and after a long gap I did 'Company'. Now, I feel 'Heeramandi' could be my turning point. I'm keeping my fin-

gers crossed," she added.

Calling Bhansali a "maestro", Koirala said it was a pleasure to work with the filmmaker after over 25 years.

"Sanjay is somebody with whom I worked in 'Khamoshi' and there was a long gap but we stayed in touch. We have a deep friendship bond, which is not limited to work. I have a deep-rooted respect for him because he is one filmmaker, who has improved with every film and it is because of his work ethics, which nobody can match," the actor said.

## Neena Gupta says she now wants to explore action romance and South cinema



On Neena Gupta's wishlist are - an action film, a love story and a South-language title. The veteran performer, who believes she is in the best phase of her career, says there is a never-ending desire to play exciting roles.

The 63-year-old actor, who had a career turnaround following the box office success of her 2018 film 'Badhaai Ho', said it feels great to carry the responsibility of a project on her shoulders at this stage in her career.

"I have about eight projects and every role is different. It is not what I used to do earlier, like a supporting actor. I'm the main actor now. There is a responsibility to carry the weight of the film. This is amazing. I can't believe it sometimes, whether it is a dream or reality?" Gupta told PTI in a virtual interview.

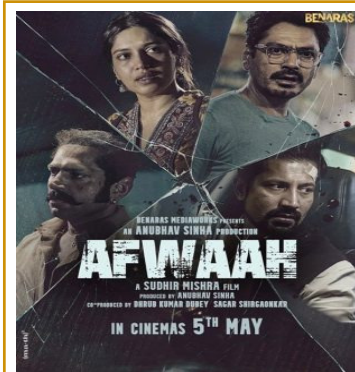
Her upcoming slate includes Vishal Bhardwaj's web-series 'Charlie Chopra & The Mystery Of Solang Valley', R Balki's short in 'Last Stories 2', Anurag Basu's 'Metro... In Dims', romantic comedy 'Paschimtar Ka Chikora', 'Baar', 'Ishaq-E-Nadaan' and 'Sabaru' with Jackie Shroff.

Is there any space that she still wishes to explore as an actor?

"Many. I want to do action, love story, horror, and a whole lot of things as yet," Gupta said.

"I am feeling very lucky as I am working with a lot of people with whom I never thought I would work with. But I would like to do some south films, like work with Mani Ratnam and others because it is totally different and I would love to do that," the 63-year-old added.

In the past few years, Gupta has played characters closer to her age that had much more to offer than the conventional mother roles.



## Movie Review | Afwaah: Woe-hate is in the air

'Aj yeh basant thoda bawla hai' is a lyrical complaint of a polity fractured. Hovering around the spring gone wrong or steadily going wrong, Sudhir Mishra gives you yet another thought-provoking film.

This cinematic documentation of the dangerous times we live in and slowly but steadily takes its shortcomings as an integral part of our lives and unwittingly even its perpetrators, is clinically projected as a social drama with a high emotive quotient.

Even the fire surrounding the title 'Afwaah' is surely symbolic of a society with multiple weaknesses begging to be

exploited by rumours and gyan from the self-appointed gyanis aplenty on social media - an epidemic we are not fighting but succumbing to.

In the heartland of the country in Sawalpur it is election time. The candidate Vicky Singh (Sumet Vyas) is ready with every possible trick in the book. A well-orchestrated attack leads to the killing of a member of the minority community and lo and behold the public is sitting ducks.

Even as the incident goes public, the rage picks up and the frenzy is for all to absorb in the name of politics. His fiancé Nivi (Bhumi Pednekar) sees the world differently and

begins to discern the conspiracy and refuses to be a silent witness to the ghatbandan politics dictated by her father Gyan Singh and played out by her fiancé.

Rahab Ahmad (Nawazuddin Siddiqui), a foreign returned yuppie is on a road trip to Nehargarh Fort Hotel where his wife is busy with the release of her book. Hate is in the air and it is to be seen to be believed that there is a gullible polity willing to be swayed by allegations of love jihad. It is a chance meeting on the violent streets of Sawalpur that Rahab and Nivi meet initially with Rahab playing the saviour when the latter is attacked by Vicky's

cronies. Soon it is a polarised battle and it is a no-holds-bar for all. The bigotry is visible as is the polarisation.

Assisting Vicky Singh are his henchmen Chandan (Sharib Hashmi) and Rocky (Rocky Raina). The underbelly of crime unfortunately knows no kin at the central level and those who mount the tiger have to get off at some stage.

Chandan who stars in the planning of the carnage and the killing of a member of the minority community is seen as too hot to handle and is now the target. A corrupt police officer is brought in when Sandeep Tomar (Sumit Kaul) is empowered to kill at the com-

mand of the powerful Vicky Singh. Tomar is also seen having an exploitative relationship with a lady constable TJ Bhanu (Riya Rathod).

In this dark world, the underbelly is filled with hate and venom. It is a place of hate, polarisation, violence, intolerance, bigotry and labelling. Here things move thick and fast and it is not long before friends become foes and strangers are the ones who help. It is also a world where even the trust-worthy can become victims of intrigue and self-interest. Dirty politics is even clumsier and the 'cesspool' is visible if only you are willing to see and discern.

# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO PRIORITISE YOUR HEALTH SAY EXPERTS

The irony of our society is that we prioritise our health only once it starts deteriorating," shares fitness trainer and nutritionist Diksha Chhabra. She adds, "It is in the later stage after ignoring our health for years when ailments start taking control." For her 37th birthday, Diksha decided to gift herself a seven-day solo trip to a wellness resort in Mulshi where she could reset her body, mind and soul by surrounding herself with nature.

"I was searching for a getaway for some time since handling my business and family responsibilities kept me on my toes most of the time. A burnout was bound



to happen and I could feel my creativity take a dip. That's when I decided to go on this wellness trip," shares Diksha. Her search led her to a wellness centre near Mulshi Dam that had

comfortable accommodations, healthy food, a bunch of activities, and a tranquil environment. "I even made friends from different parts of the world. My best friends there were two elderly ladies in their 60s. There was no age, cultural or economic bar. We were all connected with an intention of self-care," adds Diksha.

During her stay, Diksha made sure to make the best of her trip by re-energising herself with her schedule that was tailor-made by herself with fitness-related activities. "My schedule included pool workouts, HIIT, regular gym workouts, yoga and nature walks. I also meditated and took

## WHAT NUTRITIONAL YEAST CAN DO FOR YOU

Nutritional yeast takes these dressings, toppings and seasoning blends up a notch



As both a food editor and a semi-fictioning member of society, I'm a little embarrassed to admit how frequently I eat popcorn for dinner. (A couple of times a month, at least.) And I delude myself only slightly: It's vegetable adjacent.

Nutritional yeast is the backbone of my fine-tuned and finely ground house popcorn topping, contributing irresistible cheesiness without any dairy. For some time, I used it only for popcorn because, frankly, I didn't know how to harness its full potential. But much like miso paste, nutritional yeast will last a very long time — like, U.S.-representative-term-long — when stored airtight in a cool, dry place. So I had ample time to figure things out.

Nutritional yeast, or deactivated Brewer's yeast (a.k.a. saccharomyces cerevisiae, used for beers and breads), has long been pitched as a high-protein, vitamin-packed health food. But it is likely to better serve you as a savory flavoring agent than as a nutritional supplement. (Though, depending on the brand, it can contain somewhere between 6 to 10 grams of protein per 1/4 cup, which isn't nothing.)

Thanks to some pretty genius recipes, I've graduated from popcorn to other gratifying nooch applications. Adding nutritional yeast to a buttery, salt bread-crumbs topping for a bit of tang seemed so obvious to me after I saw Alexa Weibel do so for her creamy Swiss chard pasta.

Using nutritional yeast as a wholesale cheese substitute isn't novel, but I particularly love how it completely replaces Parmesan when blended into Becky Hughes's beloved vegan Caesar dressing, and how it adds a familiar richness when paired with dairy-free butter in Ali Slagle's vegan twice-baked potatoes.

And then there are all of the seasoning blends you can make that aren't exclusively for popcorn, like Bryant Terry's umami powder — a combination of pulverized dried mushrooms, nutritional yeast and nuts — which he uses in his pesto-ish pasta sauce made with blanched broccoli.

I knew I was going to miss having a dishwasher when I moved into a new apartment last year, but I really did not expect to miss having a microwave. But thanks to my colleague Priya Krishna, I do!

I am so intrigued by her method for cooking rice in the microwave, her preferred appliance for preparing the grain. (Apart from an Uncle Ben's-type bagged rice, I've never made microwave rice.) The microwave is, per her detailed reporting, more consistent than a stovetop burner and more practical than a single-function appliance like a rice cooker. College students without access to a stove, as well as folks without counter space to spare, may find this technique especially useful.

But the method that worked every time was also the simplest: rinsing the rice thoroughly, adding double the amount of water, and microwaving, uncovered, for 15 to 25 minutes, depending on the wattage of the machine. It may take a few attempts to figure out the exact timing for your microwave — in my 700-watt machine, it takes 22 and a half minutes — but once you do, you won't have to think twice about it."

## Vegetable fat not the route to a healthy heart: Study

Replacing animal fat in the human diet with vegetable oil seems not to lower heart disease risk, and might even boost it, according to a study published Wednesday that challenges a cornerstone of dietary advice.

Switching from saturated to unsaturated Omega-6 fats did result in lower blood cholesterol in a trial with nearly 10,000 participants, it said, but not the expected reduction in heart disease deaths.

In fact, those with a greater reduction in cholesterol "had a higher rather than a lower risk of death," according to the research published by The medical journal BMJ.

For 50-odd years, animal fat in meat, butter, cheese and cream has been the bad boy of the diet world — blamed for boosting artery-clogging cholesterol linked to heart disease and stroke.

In 1961, the American Heart Association recommended vegetable oils replace saturated fats — a position it still holds even as some research has started to challenge that hypothesis.

The World Health Organization also advises that saturated fats should comprise less than 10 percent of total energy intake.

For decades now, the world has viewed full-fat milk and bacon with suspicion and replaced pork with chicken, and butter with plant-based margarines and cooking oils.

But in the past few years, researchers have started poking holes in the "fat is bad" hypothesis.

The new study, led by Christopher Ramsden at the National Institutes of Health, re-analysed data from a ran-

domised controlled trial conducted 45 years ago with 9,423 residents of state mental hospitals and nursing home in Minnesota.



This is a type of experiment — generally consid-

ered highly reliable — in which people are randomly divided

into groups to receive, or not, the treatment being studied.

Part of the Minnesota group had their intake of saturated fat replaced with corn oil, while the rest ate a diet high in animal fat.

"As expected, the diet enriched with linoleic acid (a fatty acid found in plant oils) lowered cholesterol levels," said a statement by The BMJ.

But "this did not translate to improved survival. In fact, participants who had greater reduction in blood cholesterol had higher, rather than lower, risk of death."

The team also looked at other randomised controlled trials, and found no evidence anywhere to support the hypothesis that vegetable oils curb heart disease.

"The benefits of choosing polyunsaturated fat over saturated fat seem a little less certain than we thought," Lennert Veerman, a lecturer at the University of Queensland School of Public Health commented on the study.

Further research is needed, he added, to determine whether all Omega-6 type fats provide similar results.

"While we wait for further clarification, we should continue to eat more fish, fruits, vegetables and whole grains," Veerman wrote.

## HIGH-PROTEIN SNACKS FOR GUT HEALTH THAT ARE DIETITIAN-APPROVED

DIETITIANS REVEAL THEIR BEST HIGH-PROTEIN SNACK RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE ALSO GREAT FOR YOUR GUT.

If you need a gut health boost, but you're not sure where to start, we've got you covered. We spoke to dietitians and health experts to bring you some of the best snack recommendations for gut health that are also high in protein. Oftentimes, we hear a lot of fear mongering around gut health. There is so much information about how to improve gut health—but this area of research is quite new, and we don't have all the answers yet. Whether you have a condition like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), or you're just looking for ways to support

your gastrointestinal system, this list is for you. So let's dive in! Here are nine high-protein snacks recommended by top experts in the field of nutrition. Also, for more healthy eating advice to support quality gut health and function, don't forget to also check out The Best Eating Habits For Your Gut Health, Say Dietitians.

- 1. Dried chickpeas**  
High in fiber and a good source of protein for a snack, dried chickpeas offer a unique gut health boost at snack time. One serving of dried chickpeas, or about 1/4 cup, delivers a

whopping 9 grams of fiber and 10 grams of protein. That kind of nutrition will leave you feeling full for hours.

Make a trail mix with a variety of nuts, seeds, dried fruit, and chickpeas for some afternoon crunch that you can feel good about eating.

- 2. Farmer's cheese**  
"A great synbiotic gut health snack includes farmer cheese paired with whole wheat crackers or crostini, berries, chia seeds, a sprinkle of cinnamon and a drizzle of honey," says Caroline Margolis, RDN, a registered dietitian at Lifeway Foods.

Many forget about farmer cheese, but it is something that they should revisit as it's an excellent source of protein per serving and rich in probiotics because it's made from kefir.

Alternatively, ricotta cheese or cottage cheese could work here too. We love the combination of crackers, cheese, and fruit for a balanced and colorful snack.

- 3. Greek yogurt**  
"Greek yogurt is a creamy, and satisfying, high protein, gut-friendly snack. Packed with probiotics, this fermented food can increase the variety of good microbes in the gut, leading to

better overall health," explains Kim Kulp, RDN, owner of the Gut Health Connection. "Add berries to provide plant nutrients, and walnuts for omega-3 fats, both which help feed your good gut microbes, helping them, and you, thrive."

"Greek yogurt can offer 15 grams of protein or more with probiotics," says Chris Henigan, MS, RD, LDN, co-founder of Simple Start Nutrition, LLC. "I also mix regular yogurt with peanut butter powder to increase the protein content even more. Add some fruit for fiber and you've got a great snack!"

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

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

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

**Healthy and delicious meal prep ideas:**  
Chef Gauri Varma, Founder, and Owner of C's Patisserie and Confect, shared with HT Lifestyle, some inventive and useful meal-prep ideas that will motivate you to eat wisely and stick to your fitness objectives.

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



Make a menu with a variety of proteins, whole grains, healthy fats, and colourful fruits and vegetables. Making plans will not only save you time, but it will also guide your grocery shopping decisions.

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

each one in a different container or zip-top bag. You'll save time by not having to prepare items every day and are more likely to stick to your healthy eating plan if you have everything ready to go.

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

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

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

**5. Embrace mason jar salads**  
Enjoying fresh and crisp salads throughout the week is simple and appealing when done in mason jars. Layers of filling components, including grains, proteins, and vegetables, should then be added on top of the dressing at the bottom of the jar. For protection against wilting, save the fragile greens for the top layer. To prepare your salad for consumption, simply shake the container to spread the dressing.

**6. Freezer-friendly meals**  
Utilize your freezer by making freezer-friendly dishes that can be quickly reheated. Make huge quantities of soups, stews, or

casseroles and split them up for freezing. On hectic days when you don't have time to cook, these meals might come in quite handy. You may quickly prepare a wholesome and delectable supper by just defrosting and heating them.

**7. Smart snacking**  
When planning meals, don't overlook snacks. Prepare healthy, time-saving snacks like pre-portioned nuts or fruit, or homemade energy balls. When hunger hits, having these snacks on hand will help you make wiser decisions and keep you from reaching for harmful ones. "To sum up, meal planning is essential to conquering the difficulties of a hectic lifestyle and ensuring that you feed your body nutritious foods. You may save time, savour a variety of flavours, and make wise decisions for your health by planning your meals, preparing ingredients ahead of time, and embracing strategies like mix-and-match, portion management, mason jar salads, freezer-friendly dishes, and smart snacking. You can alter your eating patterns, maintain a nourishing diet, and meet your fitness objectives with a little organisation and hard work. Make meal preparation a regular part of your life to reap the rewards of quick, healthy eating," concludes Chef Gauri.





## 2 PhD scholars from NIT Srinagar get prestigious internship at UFS, South Africa

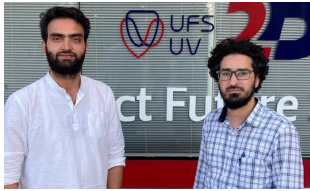
JI NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, May 07:** Two PhD scholars of Department of Physics from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar have been selected for a prestigious internship at the University of Free State (UFS), South Africa for the period of 1 year.

Research Scholars including Irfan Ayoub and Umer Mushtaq have been selected for the position of Research Assistant at the University of the Free State (UFS), South Africa.

They will work with Prof. Hendrik C. Swart. Prof. Swart who holds Research Chair in Solid State Luminescent and Advanced Materials. He is an NRF B-rated researcher and is an internationally acclaimed researcher.

Prof. Swart's group's ongoing activities are closely related to their Ph.D. thesis. They will work on the synthesis and spectroscopic investigations of rare-earth, transitional metal ions doped nanomaterials, nanocomposites, and hybrid materials to achieve



color-tunable emission in solid-state lighting and white light LEDs. Director NIT, Prof. (Dr.), Rakesh Sehgal complimented both students and their mentor (Dr. Vijay Kumar) for bagging a prestigious internship in one of leading institutes in South Africa and hoped that they would justify the fellowship with a quality research outcome.

"It is a proud movement for the entire Institute. Research is important and vital for any engineering institution. Without research and investigation, there will be no progress and we cannot stay relevant in a competitive market," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Mr. Irfan recently published a research paper in RSC Advances based on the work carried out at UFS.

Their tenure will last for about one year at UFS. In his message, Dr. Vijay Kumar said both research scholars are hardworking and passionate about their research. I hope that this internship will help them in their future studies, he said.

provide them with excellent opportunities to gain research experience helpful for their completion of Ph.D. research. They will learn new techniques for the characterization of nano phosphor materials for various applications, he said.

Presently both Irfan Ayoub and Umer Mushtaq are currently pursuing Ph.D on "Improving luminescent materials for use in flat panel displays, solar cells, solid-state lighting, dosimetry, and thermometry under the supervision of Dr. Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar.

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Dr. Shah said that it will

## 20 Vehicles seized, 105 challaned for traffic rules violation in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE

**Rajouri, May 07:** As part of the special campaign launched by the Rajouri police against those who violate the traffic rules in Rajouri city and surrounding areas, Rajouri police on Sunday seized 20 vehicles and challaned 105 while taking action against the drivers who violated the traffic rules by setting up special nakas. As per reports a team of Rajouri Police led by SHO Rajouri Inspector Shokhet Hussain and DySP Headquarter Mudassar Choudhary JKPS and close supervision of SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh.

established naka at different locations in Rajouri against Traffic rules violators in Rajouri. The Police team led by SHO Rajouri Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar.

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vehicles which were being driven by under age. DSP hqr has asked parents of such minors to keep check on their children.

The naka was established at Panja Chowk Jawahar Nagar, Bus stand, Gujar Mandi NH and at different

locations in Rajouri. The team was led by S H O Rajouri and he is regularly conducting such drives in different areas of Rajouri. In today's naka 20 vehicles including vehicles of different types seized and others were challaned for violation of traffic rules

## NSF celebrates 162th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

JI NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, May 07:** National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organised a programme in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore who laid his life for the sake of the country.

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Dr Vikas Sharma Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while TR Sharma KAS (Retd). Presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist District President NSF was the guest of honour.

The activists of NSF paid tributes to Rabindranath Tagore and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil,

who laid down his life for the sake of the country.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life history of Rabindranath Tagore and appreciated the efforts of NSF and appealed to the youth to come forward to eliminate all evils from the society.

Dr. Vikas Sharma expressed that present day youth was frustrated due to lack of job opportunities and neck deep corruption in the recruitment process being followed by the UT administration.

He mentioned that people have suffered a lot during the last four years especially after the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and

downgraded of State to an Inner Territory. He urged the young generation to strengthen the hands of J&K National Conference (JKNC) enabling it to redouble its efforts to get the status of Jammu and Kashmir statehood restored.

While Speaking TR Sharma stressed upon the youth to shun their self-centered outlook and contribute in the development of the nation. He also threw light on the achievements of Rabindranath Tagore who was a Bengali poet, philosopher, artist, playwright, composer, novelist and India's first Nobel laureate.

Vikshay Vashist Jammu District President NSF, in his speech said that the sac-

rifices of such great people could not be ignored, which had secured freedom for the country and its people.

Rabindranath Tagore was born on 7th May 1861 in Jorasanko Thakurbari in Kolkata, Rabindranath Tagore was born to mother Sarada Devi and Father Debendranath Tagore and he belonged to an affluent Brahmin family.

Sharma University President delivered the welcome address and Sumit Giri was delivering the vote of thanks.

Among others who spoke were Narinder Singh, Abhishek Uppal, Aditya Khajuria, Tufail Reyaz Khan, Punnet Bakshi, Aditya sharma, Ankush Babu, and others.

## Free Health Checkup Camp organised



JI NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, May 07:** Nations Development Association (NDA) in collaboration with Shishu Shiksha Kendra High School Kulu Chak, Jammu and Medanta - The Medicity Multi-Specialty Hospital in Gurgaon, organised a free health screening camp for its Kulu Chak, Greater Kailash, Kunjwani, Apna Vihar, Jallo Chak People's Saturday. The camp was organised by Chairman of Nations Development Association, Sushil Singh Charak. A medical team of experts, including a physician and a Cardiology, examined the Public.

The Free Health Check Up camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mayor, Medanta Medicity Gurgaon. Hon'ble Mayor, Jammu. Sh. Rajinder Sharma. Jammu Municipal Corporation, appreciated the efforts of Sushil Singh Charak Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) and said that organisations like it play an important role in providing help and care to people at their doorstep.

Deputy Mayor, JMC. Sh. Baldev Billawaria, highlighted the importance of routine health check-ups and praised the society's initiative to provide voluntary services to employees. Shamsher Singh Charak Editor in Chief, Dainik State Samachar appreciated the efforts of Sushil Singh Charak and said that organising a health camp for employees is true service. Sushil Singh Charak said that Nations Development Association is always ready to work for common people and assured that it will continue to conduct free medical camps for needy people in the future.

Present on the occasion Varinda Sharma, Sandeep Singh Jamwal Assistant Marketing Manager Medanta Gurgaon, Trishula Gupta Sanskar Parmukh Shivalik Branch Bharat Vikas Parishad, Poonam Gupta State Executive BJP Karnalsh Magotra Trikuta Nagar Mandal President, Advait Singh Singh, Tanjeet Kour and Vandana Kumari

The motive of the camp was to provide the best health services to the local public of Kulu chak, Greater Kailash, Jallo Chak, the Jammu at their doorstep. More than 90 patients were examined by Dr. Varnsi Merugumala, Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Dr. Arvind Sharma, SMO General Physician deputied by

"Let BJP investigate": Priyank Kharge after Congress alleges plot to kill father Mallikarjun Kharge

**BENGALURU:** A day after it accused the BJP of "hatching a sinister" and "ugly plot" to "kill" its national president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress MLA Priyank Kharge on Sunday asked if Manikanta Rathod, a ruling party candidate, is not involved in this, why is he afraid of an investigation?

Speaking to agencies, Priyank Kharge said, "Let BJP clarify, let them investigate (the claim). If he (BJP candidate Manikanta Rathod) has not done anything wrong, why is he afraid of an investigation? I am not the one who is alleging that he is plotting to kill my family. He said at a press conference in November that he wants to shoot me." Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said an inquiry will be launched into allegations of the Congress that the BJP was planning to "kill" their party president Mallikarjun Kharge and his family.

"We have taken the matter seriously." We will inquire into the whole thing and the law will take its course," Bommai told ANI on Saturday.

Earlier, at a press conference in Bengaluru, the Congress played an audio clip claiming that the BJP candidate from Chittapur, Manikant Rathod, used derogatory language against Kharge and could even be heard in the clip talking about eliminating him and his family.

"BJP leaders are now hatching a plot to murder Mallikarjun Kharge and his family members. This is now clear from the audio recording of BJP's candidate from Chittapur who

also happens to be the blue-eyed boy of PM Modi and Chief Minister Bommai," Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference on Saturday.

"I know the Prime Minister will remain silent and so will the Karnataka police and the Election Commission. But people of Karnataka will not remain mute and will give them a befitting reply" he said. Pawan Khera was also present at the Congress briefing.

"Intimidated by the all-round blessing of Kannadigas being showered on the Congress Party and facing a complete rout in the ensuing assembly elections, BJP and its leadership are now resorting to hatching a 'murder plot' to kill AICC President, Mallikarjun Kharge, his wife and the entire family. This is clear from the audio recording of BJP Candidate from Chittapur, Manikanta Rathod, who also happens to be the 'blue-eyed boy' of PM, Narendra Modi and PM Basavaraj Bommai," read the Congress statement.

Kharge." It added, "The Prime Minister and the BJP leadership remain mute as assassination plot brews."

Manikant Rathod Rathod was arrested on November 13, last year, for allegedly threatening Priyank Kharge, who is the Congress's candidate from Chittapur, with murder and was later released on bail.

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## Modi Govt will soon root out terrorism from the soil of J&K: Raj Rattan Raina

JI NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, May 07:** BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina strongly condemned the martyrdom of five bravehearts during an encounter in Rajouri.

In a statement issued here, the BJP leader said that Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for his misadventures to export terror. He said that the sacrifices of army soldiers will not be spared at any cost and soon they will be shown the door to hell. He asserted that the anti-national forces are hell bent to ruin the peace in Kashmir Valley which has seen a new phase of development since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the reins of the Central Government.

Raj Rattan Raina asserted that ter-



rorists are trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere and are targeting innocent people and security forces as they are working extensively in far off and interior places. He said terror perpetrators are not the well-wishers

of Kashmiris as they are not able to digest the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A from the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. "Pakistan is trying all the tricks up its sleeves to ensure that normalcy does not return to Kashmir and instead there is a revolt and bloodbath on the streets. But the PM Modi-led government is determined to defeat Pakistan's nefarious designs and usher in an era of peace, prosperity, progress and development in Kashmir," he added. Expressing solidarity with the bereaved families, the BJP leader said that time for a decision fight has come and soon the Modi Government will root out terrorism from the soil of J&K by neutralizing the last man standing against the interests of country and vitiating peace in the region.

## Indian Army give befitting reply to terrorism : Chandel

JI NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, May 07:** Hinduist BJP leader Mr. Raju Chandel while talking to reporters in Jammu today said that

Our Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police are continuously hunting wild boars domesticated by Pakistan, and the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police are killing these pigs selectively.

Chandel said that in order to influ-

ence the G20 meeting which is going to be held in Jammu and Kashmir, the traitor Pakistan and the trickster China are continuously sending dreaded pigs terrorists inside the Indian border to die in Jammu and Kashmir and who are being killed selectively.

Our three armies are killing us, China and Pakistan can never succeed in their plans.

Chandel said that let the G-20 meeting get over, after that Aksai Chin

along with POK and Mount Kailash Mansarovar which was a part of India and is still today, will soon join India by fighting a war on both the fronts. Will keep rubbing, this time the war will be decisive in which many pieces of Pakistan including China will be there.

The forces are ready to sabotage their plans. Our forces are continuously crushing all the terrorism coming from across the border and giving a befitting reply to terrorism.

## 8 killed, 15 injured after truck hits pickup van in Moradabad

JI NEWS SERVICE

**MORADABAD:** As many as eight people were killed while fifteen others were injured in a tragic road accident after a truck hit a pickup van in Moradabad district on Sunday, police said.

According to police, the incident took place near the Kharkhata village on the Dalpatpur Road in the district's Bhagatpur area. Speaking about the inci-

dent, Sumit Yadav, CDO Moradabad said that "out of eight people who have been declared dead, four were brought dead and the rest were taken straight to the mortuary."

"The police officials and health department has reached there; a post-mortem is being conducted. We have referred 7 people to the Cosmos Hospital, and 3 have been admitted to Photon Hospital. They are being treated under the

supervision of the administration & police department", CDO Moradabad said further.

A total of 26 people were on their way to attend a wedding function in the pickup van when a truck hit it.

The district administration is making arrangements to ensure proper treatment of the injured, officials said.

Meanwhile, five people were killed and over 15

persons sustained injuries after a bus overturned near Gopalpara under the Madhaugra police station area of Jalaun district on Saturday night, police said.

According to police, "There were 40 people in the bus, out of which five people have died while more than 15 people were injured after being hit by an unknown vehicle in Jalaun district."

# Manipur violence : BJP MLA moves SC against HC order on ST status to Meiteis tribal outfit seeks probe by SIT



**NEW DELHI, MAY 7:** A batch of pleas has been filed in the Supreme Court on the Manipur situation including one by a ruling BJP MLA challenging the high court order on the issue of Scheduled Tribe status to the Meitei community and a PIL by a tribal outfit for a probe by an SIT into the violence that rocked the north-eastern state last week.

The clashes started in Churachandpur district last Wednesday after tribals held a protest opposing reservation to the Meiteis following the March 27 high court order asking the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre within four weeks on the demand for ST status by the Meitei community.

Appeals have been filed by Dinganglung Gangmei, BJP MLA and chairman of the Hills Area Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, challenging various orders passed by the Manipur High Court on the ST status to Meiteis, including the contempt notices on the criticism of the HC order.

Gangmei in his appeal said the HAC "was a necessary and proper party and the proceedings before the High Court were vitiated on account of not making the HAC a party".

He said, "Even if directions were to be given they could not have been given without notice to the HAC (Hills Area Committee) and hearing the HAC."

He said that due to the impugned order tension between

both the community have taken place and violent clashes have erupted across the state.

"As a result of it so far 19 tribal people have been killed, various places in the states are blocked, the internet is completely shutdown and more people are at risk of losing their lives", the appeal said.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribals - Nagas and Kukis - constitute another 40 per cent of the population and live mostly in the hill districts.

The PIL filed by an NGO 'Manipur Tribal Forum', through advocate Satya Mitra, said it has moved the top court under Article 32 of the Constitution on account of the extreme situation arising out of the attacks on the tribal community in Manipur by a "dominant group".

It alleged that "these attacks have the full support of the party in power ... which supports the dominant group" and sought directions to the Centre and Manipur to evacuate Manipuri tribals who have fled their villages.

The PIL by the tribal outfit alleged that the attacks began on May 3 and several churches and hospitals were also damaged when the mobs went on a rampage, burning houses and vehicles and business establishments belonging to tribals.

It claimed that 30 tribals were killed and 132 people were injured but "neither FIR was registered nor is there any investigation taking place".

The PIL sought directions to the Centre and the state government to deploy central forces to protect all churches and places of worship of the tribal/Christians in Manipur with immediate effect.

It urged that a team of professionals be put together to conduct an inquiry into the villages destroyed and make an assessment of the damage. It also sought payment of compensation to the victims and reconstruction of buildings including churches.

"A prayer clause has been made for the appointment of former DGP Assam (Harekrishna Deka) as the head of an SIT to investigate and prosecute and with a mandate to put together a team of his choice of police personnel and other support secretarial staff so that final reports are made expeditiously," it said.

The appeal filed by Gangmei against the March 27 order of the Manipur High Court said that three basic errors were made in the judgement which includes directing the State to make a recommendation to the Central government to include the Meitei community as a scheduled tribe in the Presidential list.

"The second mistake is the conclusion that the issue of inclusion of the Meiteis was pending for nearly 10 years and the third mistake is in concluding that the Meiteis are tribes", the appeal said.

The appeal said that the Meitei community is not a tribe and has never been recognised as a tribe and in fact they're very much an advanced community though some of them may come within SC/OBC.

The appeal said that the high court passed the order on a writ petition filed by some members of Meitei communities seeking a direction to the state government to recommend to the Centre to include their community of Manipur in the scheduled tribe list of the Indian constitution as a tribe of Manipur.

The plea by the BJP MLA said there is no recommendation of the state government for inclusion of the Meitei/Meitei community in the scheduled tribe list and there is no recommendation for such inclusion pending before the central government.

"Rahul Gandhi is giving a guarantee to the people of Karnataka, but who will take the guarantee of Rahul Gandhi... Sonia Gandhi has been fighting alone for the last 20 years to make Rahul Gandhi stand, and now this person (Rahul Gandhi) comes and gives a guarantee to the people of Karnataka," he said.

Reacting to it, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel lashed out at Himanta accusing him of leaving the Congress party after a probe was launched against him.

Speaking to ANI, Bhupesh Baghel said, "No one is greedy as much as Himanta Biswa Sarma. He left the Congress party just for getting power."

# Karnataka polls: "Who will take Rahul Gandhi's guarantee" Himanta Biswa Sarma's jibe at Congress' guarantees

**UDUPI:** Taking a jibe at the guarantees promised by the Congress party ahead of the Karnataka assembly elections, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday asked "who will take the guarantee" of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Addressing a public meeting in Udupi, Assam CM said, "Congress is saying that they will give guarantees to the people of Karnataka. First, they should tell, who are they to give a guarantee to anyone? Firstly, tell me who will take Rahul Gandhi's guarantee? He lost elections in UP and fled to Kerala. One day he looks like Saddam Hussein and on another day looks like Amul baby". "Sonia Ji kept on working for 20 years just to take

Rahul Gandhi to some position. A person who doesn't have his own guarantee, how can he give a guarantee to the people of Karnataka," he added. Meanwhile, the Congress party has announced five main guarantees among others in the poll manifesto. The guarantees include 200 units of free electricity, Rs 200 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family, 10 kg free rice to every BPL household, Rs 3000 and Rs 1500 for every graduate and diploma youth respectively, and free bus travel for women. Earlier in the day, the Assam CM had again scathingly attacked Rahul Gandhi over the Congress party's guarantees in the elections.

other organisations and activists who demand to advocate for and promote the terrorists, anti-Bharat elements and anti-Hindu mindsets, so that good sense and pro-nationalist character should prevail with them".

"It is very insulting that in the election manifesto of Karnataka Congress, the party has promised a ban on Bajrang Dal and after that in several states, including Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, the Congress and some

other anti-Hindu leaders have made demands to ban the Bajrang Dal," Parande said in a statement. He said it was "irrational, ridiculous and outlandish" to compare "this nationalist and patriotic organisation" (Bajrang Dal) with the anti-national, terrorist, violent organisation PFI (Popular Front of India which has been banned). "The Hindu society will surely take a democratic lesson to the unreasonable perpetrators for such humiliation," he added.

# VHP, Bajrang Dal to organise 'Hanuman Chalisa' chanting across India on May 9

**BENGALURU, MAY 7:** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and its youth wing Bajrang Dal on Sunday said that have decided to chant 'Hanuman Chalisa' on May 9 throughout the country, which happens to be a day before the Karnataka Assembly elections.

The call comes as a counter to the Congress party which in its manifesto released last week said it was committed to taking firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations spreading hatred amongst communities on grounds of caste and religion.

The party said: "We believe that law and Constitution is (are) sacrosanct and cannot be violated by individuals and organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities. We will take decisive action as per law including imposing a ban on such organisations".

According to VHP secretary general Milind Parande, the programme has been decided to invoke 'Bajrang Bali (Hanuman)' to give 'Sadbuddhi' (good sense) to the Congress and



corruption of Rs 100 crore. Left government by creating fake news to tarnish the image of the State," he said. Govindan said the Left government was implementing a scientific method to reduce traffic violations and accidents. "On the first day of its implementation, the AI cameras detected 4.5 lakh traffic violations. According to the Motor Vehicle Department, the violations have come down to 1.25 lakh now after people became aware of the presence of the cameras and fines being imposed," Govindan claimed.

Meanwhile, the BJP asked the Chief Minister and the government to "answer" to the people over the corruption charges. BJP state chief K Surendran said Govindan was ridiculing himself by justifying the Chief Minister over the allegations.

The Congress has been raising corruption charges against the "Safe Kerala" project, which aims to reduce road accidents and traffic violations in the State, since its inauguration in April.

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# CPI M in Kerala rejects Congress' claims of irregularities in AI camera project

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 7:** The CPI(M) in Kerala on Sunday rejected all the claims of the Congress party over alleged irregularities in the implementation of the AI camera system to deter traffic violators in the State under "Safe Kerala" project, and termed it as "baseless".

CPI(M) state secretary, M V Govindan, in a press meet here, asked the Leader of Opposition (LJP), V D Sathesan and former LoP and senior Congress leader, Ramesh Chennithala to "reach an agreement" on the corruption amount they were alleging. Govindan said the Congress was raising "such baseless" allegations to divert the attention of the public from the achievements of the Left government. The senior Left leader said that the project was implemented to follow Section 136 A of the Motor Vehicles Act, that directs the State government to ensure electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety.

"Sathesan is saying that there was corruption of Rs 100 crore. Left government by creating fake news to tarnish the image of the State," he said. Govindan said the Left government was implementing a scientific method to reduce traffic violations and accidents. "On the first day of its implementation, the AI cameras detected 4.5 lakh traffic violations. According to the Motor Vehicle Department, the violations have come down to 1.25 lakh now after people became aware of the presence of the cameras and fines being imposed," Govindan claimed.

Meanwhile, the BJP asked the Chief Minister and the government to "answer" to the people over the corruption charges. BJP state chief K Surendran said Govindan was ridiculing himself by justifying the Chief Minister over the allegations.

The Congress has been raising corruption charges against the "Safe Kerala" project, which aims to reduce road accidents and traffic violations in the State, since its inauguration in April.

Then there is a GST of Rs 35.76 crore and it all totals to Rs 232.25 crore. But the Congress leaders will not give you the whole numbers," Govindan alleged.

The senior Left leader also claimed that the Congress was using the "BJP's trick" to spread fake news. "The Prime Minister, the Congress and the BJP are trying to weaken the

corruption of Rs 100 crore. Left government by creating fake news to tarnish the image of the State," he said. Govindan said the Left government was implementing a scientific method to reduce traffic violations and accidents. "On the first day of its implementation, the AI cameras detected 4.5 lakh traffic violations. According to the Motor Vehicle Department, the violations have come down to 1.25 lakh now after people became aware of the presence of the cameras and fines being imposed," Govindan claimed.

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# Electing SAD candidate from Jalandhar will be true homage to PS Badal says Sukhbir

**PHILLAUR (PUNJAB), MAY 7:** A victory for Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi in the Lok Sabha bypoll in Jalandhar will be a true homage to Shromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal said on Sunday.

A five-time former chief minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal died on April 25. He had not been keeping well and was admitted to the Fortis Hospital in Mohali on April 16.

Sukhbir Singh Badal was address-

ing a public meeting for party candidate Sukhi, who has received backing from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Gorya. This was the Shromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief's first public address for the bypoll since his father's death. "I want to request the (SAD and BSP) workers that, by ensuring victory (for Sukhi) in this battle (bypoll), it will be a true tribute to our leader Sardar Parkash Singh Badal," he said. The SAD workers will then ensure victory for the BSP candidate from the

Banga seat, he further said. Sukhi, who is currently the MLA from the Banga assembly constituency, will have to vacate his seat if he is elected to the Lok Sabha. The Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, scheduled to take place on May 10, was necessitated by the death of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary in January. The SAD chief further said, "Badal sahab was worried about the manner in which divisive politics was spoiling the atmosphere in the state in his last days.

# High voltage campaigning for Karnataka elections to end today

**BENGALURU, MAY 7:** The high voltage campaign for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka will come to an end on Monday as all three major political parties in the state - BJP, Congress and JD(S) - are busy making their last pitch to win the voters.

The top guns of all the major political parties were on a campaign blitz across the state in the past few days, even as the ruling BJP has been striving to break the 38-year-old pattern of alternating governments and retain its southern citadel.

The Congress on its part is working hard to wrest power from the BJP to give itself much-needed elbow room and momentum to position itself as the main opposition player in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The JD(S) led by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda was seen putting all its might into campaigning, wanting to emerge as "king" and not "king-maker", hoping to get the required numbers to form a government on its own.

"Government with full majority" seemed to be the favourite



slogan of the leaders of all the political parties during the campaigning for the elections to the 224-member Assembly, as they stressed on getting a clear mandate to form a strong and stable government in the state.

While BJP's campaign largely centred with the focus being on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 'double-engine' government, national issues and programmes or achievements of the union government coupled with a few from the state, the Congress by and large focused on local issues and was also run by its local leaders initially.

BJP candidates across the state with the poll slogan 'Ee Baaraya Nirudhara, Bahumatadaa BJP Sarkara' (This Time's Decision: Majority BJP Government).

Ahead of the March 29 announcement of polls, Modi had visited the state seven times since January, to unveil several government schemes and projects, and addressed numerous meetings of beneficiaries of the government's various schemes.

According to BJP leaders, Modi's campaigning across the state has boosted the party's morale and confidence among the electorate, which they hope will convert into votes and help the party script history in the polls. Union Home Minister Amit Shah too has extensively travelled the state, campaigning and strategising for the polls.

"PM and Shah have put Congress on the backfoot in the run-up to the polls," a senior BJP leader said.

A number of BJP leaders including party national president J P Nadda, Chief Ministers of BJP ruled states like Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma,

Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Goa's Pramod Sawant as well as Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Smriti Irani, Nitin Gadkari, among others too have travelled to various parts of the state for campaigning.

After having faced difficulties in forming the government on its own strength in 2008 and 2018, as it fell short of a majority despite emerging as the single largest party, the BJP is this time hoping for a clear mandate with full majority, and has set a target of winning at least 150 seats.

The BJP is making all-out efforts to make inroads into the Old Mysuru region, where traditionally it has been weak. The region has 89 seats, including 28 in Bengaluru, and according to leaders, the party fell short of a majority, getting 110 seats in 2008 and 104 seats in 2018, because of its inability to improve its tally from this belt.

For Congress, wresting power from the BJP will be a morale booster, and a key for reviving its electoral fortunes and strengthening its credentials as the main opposition player

against the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. By winning Karnataka, it also wants to give a momentum of sorts to workers to take on the battle-ready election machinery of the BJP later this year in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

Focused on this, the party has been involved in high-stakes campaigning this time. Though the campaign initially centred around state leaders Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar, Kharge gave it momentum and thereby prepared the pitch for the party's top leaders Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi to join in. The brother-sister duo extensively travelled the state, challenging the BJP's campaign machinery led by Modi, countering and challenging him on various issues, most prominently on the issue of corruption, while promising to provide a better alternative to Karnataka. During the final days of campaigning, their mother and former AICC president Sonia Gandhi addressed a party rally in Hubballi on

Saturday. This poll is also a prestige battle for the grand old party with a Kannadiga Kharge, who hails from Kalaburgi district, at its helm as the national President. The party has set a target of winning 150 seats.

Will the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls be a battle of political survival for JD(S) and will the regional party once again emerge as kingmaker, like it did in 2018, in the event of a hung verdict? That is the debate in political circles this time too. Plunged by desertions, internal rifts, and with the image of being a 'family party', Gowda's son Kumaraswamy has in a way single-handedly managed the JD(S) campaign across the state, with the aging father taking the back seat.

Though 89-year-old Gowda initially stayed away from campaigning due to age-related ailments, he has been travelling and campaigning for JD(S) candidates in the past couple of weeks, especially in the party bastion of Old Mysuru region, making an emotional pitch and countering the Congress and BJP's attacks against his party.

# Japan leader expresses sympathy for Korean colonial victims

SEOUL, MAY 7: Japan's prime minister expressed sympathy for the suffering of Korean forced labourers during Japan's colonial rule, as he and his South Korean counterpart on Sunday renewed resolve to overcome historical grievances and strengthen cooperation in the face of shared challenges such as North Korea's nuclear programme.

Comments by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during his second summit in less than two months with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol are closely watched in Seoul.

Yoon has faced domestic criticism that he had preemptively made concessions to Tokyo without getting corresponding steps in return. Kishida's statement, which avoided a new, direct apology over the colonization but still sympathised with the Korean victims, suggests he felt pressure to say something to maintain momentum for improved ties.

"And personally, I have strong pain in my heart as I think of the extreme difficulty and sorrow that many people had to suffer under the severe environment in those days," Kishida told a joint news conference with Yoon, referring to Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. "Japan and South Korea share various history and development, and I believe it is my responsibility as prime minister of Japan to cooperate with President Yoon and the South Korean side as we follow through the effort of our predecessors who have also overcome the difficult times," he said.

Kishida arrived in South Korea earlier Sunday for a two-day visit, which reciprocates a mid-March trip to Tokyo by Yoon and marks the first exchange of visits between the leaders of the Asian neighbors in 12 years.

The back-to-back summits were largely meant to resolve the countries' bitter disputes caused by the 2018 court rulings in South Korea that ordered two Japanese companies to financially compensate some of their aging former Korean employees for colonial-era forced labour.

Japan has refused to abide by the verdicts, arguing that all compensation issues were already settled when the two countries normalized ties in 1965.

The wrangling led to the countries downgrading each other's trade status and Seoul's previous liberal government threatening to spike a military intelligence-sharing pact. The strained South Korea-Japan ties complicated US efforts to build a stronger regional alliance to better cope with rising Chinese influence and North Korean nuclear threats.

In March, however, Yoon's conservative government took a major step toward mending the ties by announcing it would use local funds to com-



pensate the forced labour victims without demanding contributions from Japanese companies.

Later in March, Yoon travelled to Tokyo to meet with Kishida, and the two agreed to resume leadership-level visits and other talks. Their governments have since taken steps to withdraw their economic retaliatory steps against each other.

Yoon's push, however, drew strong backlash from some of the forced labour victims and his liberal rivals at home, who have demanded direct compensation from the Japanese companies. Yoon has defended his move, saying greater cooperation with Japan is required to jointly tackle North Korea's advancing nuclear programme, the intensifying US-China strategic rivalry and global supply chain challenges.

"We should stay away from a thinking that we must not make a step forward for our future cooperation because our history issues aren't settled completely," Yoon said Sunday.

Kishida reaffirmed his government upholds the positions of previous Japanese administrations, including the landmark 1998 joint declaration by Tokyo and Seoul on improving ties, but didn't make a new apology. In that declaration, then-Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said: "I feel acute remorse and offer an apology from my heart" over the colonial rule.

Japanese governments have expressed remorse or apologies over the colonial period numerous times. But some Japanese officials and politicians have occasionally made comments that have been accused of whitewashing Tokyo's wartime aggressions, prompting Seoul to urge Tokyo to make new, more sincere apologies. Ahead of his summit with Yoon, Kishida and his wife, Yoko Kishida, visited the national cemetery in Seoul, where they burned incense and paid a silent tribute before a memorial. Buried or honoured in the cemetery are mostly Korean War dead, but include Korean independence fighters during the period of Japanese rule. Kishida was the first Japanese leader to visit the place in 12

years. "Kishida's comments about Koreans who suffered under Japanese colonialism may be criticized for not being more specific about historical perpetrators and more apologetic toward historical victims," Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said. "But Kishida did visit South Korea's national cemetery and said that his heartfelt views, respect for the past, and recognition of current global challenges produce a sense of responsibility for improving Seoul-Tokyo relations." Yoon said talks among Seoul, Tokyo and Washington are underway to implement their earlier agreement on sharing information on North Korea's nuclear missile launches. Yoon said he and Kishida reaffirmed that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose a grave threat to the two countries and the rest of the world.

In late April, Yoon made a state visit to the United States and agreed with President Joe Biden to reinforce deterrence capabilities against North Korea's nuclear threats. During a joint news conference, Biden thanked Yoon "for your political courage and personal commitment to diplomacy with Japan."

Yoon, Biden and Kishida are expected to hold a trilateral meeting later this month on the sidelines of the Group of Seven meetings in Hiroshima to discuss North Korea, China's assertiveness and Russia's war on Ukraine. Yoon was invited as one of eight outside nations.

Kishida said he and Yoon would pay respects before a memorial for Korean atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima. Seoul and Tokyo have a slew of other sensitive historical and territorial disputes, mostly related to the Japanese colonization. In a reminder of the delicate nature of their ties, diplomats between the two countries last week spat over a South Korean lawmaker's visit to disputed islets located in the waters between the two countries. Earlier, Seoul protested Kishida's offering of religious offerings to a Tokyo shrine that it views as a symbol of Japan's wartime aggression.

# Nuclear watchdog growingly worried over Ukraine plant safety

KYIV: The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog is expressing growing anxiety about the safety of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, after the governor of the Russia-occupied area ordered the evacuation of a town where most plant staff live amid ongoing attacks in the area.

The plant is near the front lines of fighting, and Ukrainian authorities on Sunday said that a 72-year-old woman was killed and three others were wounded when Russian forces fired more than 30 shells at Nikopol, a Ukrainian-held town neighbouring the plant.

"The general situation in the area near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is becoming increasingly unpredictable and potentially dangerous," International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Grossi said in a warning that came Saturday before the latest report of attacks.

"I'm extremely concerned about the very real nuclear safety and security risks facing the plant."

Grossi's comments were prompted by an announcement Friday by Yevgeny Balitsky, the Russian-installed governor of the partially-occupied Zaporizhzhia province, that he had ordered the evacuation of civilians from 18 settlements in the area, including Enerhodar, which is located next to the power plant, which is Europe's largest.

The settlements affected are about 50 to 70 kilometers (30 to 40 miles) from the front line of fighting between Ukraine and Russia, and Balitsky said that Ukraine had intensified attacks on the area in the past several days. The region is also widely seen as a likely area where Ukraine



may focus its anticipated spring counteroffensive. The Ukrainian General Staff said Sunday that the evacuation of Enerhodar had already begun.

According to an update posted on Facebook, the General Staff said the first residents evacuated were those who took Russian citizenship following the capture of the town by Moscow early in the war.

They were being taken to the Russia-occupied Azov Sea coast, about 200 kilometers (120 miles) to the southeast.

Grossi said that operating staff of the nuclear power plant, whose six reactors are currently all in shutdown mode, hadn't been evacuated as of Saturday but that most live in Enerhodar and the situation has contributed to "increasingly tense, stressful and challenging conditions for personnel and their families."

He added that IAEA experts at the nuclear site "are continuing to hear shelling on a regular basis."

"We must act now to prevent the threat of a severe nuclear accident and its associated consequence for

the population and the environment," Grossi said. "This major nuclear facility must be protected. I will continue to press for a commitment by all sides to achieve this vital objective."

Elsewhere, Russian shelling on Saturday and overnight killed six civilians and wounded four others in Ukraine's southern Kherson region, according to a Telegram update published Sunday by the local administration. Five civilians were wounded in the eastern Donetsk region, the epicenter of the fighting in recent months, local Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko reported on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces overnight attacked the largest port in the Russia-occupied Crimean Peninsula with drones, a Kremlin-installed local official said on Telegram early Sunday. According to the post by Mikhail Razvozhayev, the governor of Sevastopol, 10 Ukrainian drones targeted the city, three of which were shot down by air defence systems. Razvozhayev said that there had been no damage.

# Ukraine farmers risk losing their lives or livelihoods

POTOMKYNE, MAY 7: A grassy lane rutted with tire tracks leads to Volodymyr Zaiets' farm in southern Ukraine. He is careful, driving only within those shallow grooves - veering away might cost him his life in the field dotted with explosive mines.

Weeds grow tall where rows of sunflowers once bloomed. Zaiets' land hasn't been touched since the fall of 2021, when it was last seeded with wheat. Now, it's a minefield left by retreating Russian forces.

Zaiets withheld official warnings and demised this patch of land himself, determined not to lose the year's harvest. He expects that 15 per cent of his 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres) of farmland was salvaged.

Workers like Victor Kostyuk still spot mines, but he's ready to start the tractor. "We have to do it," he says, "Why be afraid?" Across Ukraine, the war has forced grain growers into a vicious dilemma. Farmers in areas now free from Russian occupation are risking lives for

with soaring production and transportation costs caused by Russia's blockade of many Black Sea ports and recent restrictions that neighbouring countries imposed on Ukrainian grain.

The dual crisis is causing many farmers to cut back on sowing crops. Bottlenecks in shipping grain by land and sea are creating losses, with expectations of a 20 per cent to 30

per cent reduction in grain output, poorer quality crops and potentially thousands of bankruptcies next year, according to industry insiders, Ukrainian government officials and international organisations.

The "drastic reduction" of grain crops potentially threatens global food security, said Pierre Vauthier, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Ukraine.

# UK PM Rishi Sunak wife Akshata to host Coronation Big Lunch for community heroes

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty will host a Coronation Big Lunch at Downing Street in London on Sunday for community heroes to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla as part of the country's long celebratory weekend.

Among the invitees is British Sikh entrepreneur Navjot Singh Sawhney, who won the UK PM's Points of Light Award earlier this year for his eco-friendly hand-cranked Washing Machine Project, which is benefiting over 1,000 families without access to an electric machine in underdeveloped countries or refugee camps.

The event is one of an estimated 50,000 Big Lunches or street parties being organised up and down the United Kingdom to celebrate the Coronation at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday. Also joining the Downing Street party will be Ukrainians forced to flee the war-torn country amid its conflict



with Russia.

"Come rain or shine, thousands of friends and neighbours are coming together this weekend to put up the bunting, pour the tea and cut the cake at street parties and community events across the UK," said Sunak.

"I am proud to welcome Ukrainians forced to flee their homes and some incredible community heroes to Downing Street for our very own Coronation lunch to celebrate this historic moment. In England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland - and across our Overseas Territories and the wider Commonwealth - people are marking this momentous occasion in the spirit

adorned with bunting featuring the official Coronation emblem and the Union Flag. Crockery will be donated by Emma Bridgewater - the award-winning ceramics company based in Stoke-on-Trent - including a limited-edition King Charles III teapot.

Besides Sawhney, several other recipients of the Points of Light Award - volunteers that have made an outstanding contribution to their community - have been invited to attend the event.

"Winning the Points of Light award and getting recognised by the Prime Minister is a phenomenal privilege. The Washing Machine Project's mission is to alleviate the burden of unpaid labour, mainly on women and children," said Sawhney of his work.

Attendees will enjoy food sourced from across the UK, including Loch Duart salmon from Sutherland in North West Scotland and soda farl from Northern Ireland. Beef will come from Gloucestershire in South West England and ice cream has been sourced

from Chilly Cow, a company based in Ruthin, Wales.

Ukrainians fleeing the Russia-Ukraine conflict and their UK-based sponsors will also join the event.

They include Olga Breslavskaya who travelled to the UK as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and is currently studying an intensive English course. Caroline Quill - a Homes for Ukraine sponsor - has been instrumental in matching 25 families across East Sussex and Kent and will also join the lunch. Young people from organisations such as UK Youth and the National Association of Boys and Girls Clubs have also been invited to mark the occasion. Members of Britain's royal family will also attend some community events and street parties during the day before seeing the likes of pop stars Katy Perry and Take That perform at Windsor Castle at the Coronation Concert on Sunday evening. Bollywood star Sonam Kapoor Ahuja is among those scheduled to make an appearance at the concert.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION JAMMU. SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS E-NIT NO.-EE/PMGSY/J/46 OF 2023-24 DATED- 03.05.2023

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on Stage Above/ Below/ Less (i) OR %age Below/ Less (i) basis (i.e. on Pre-qualified basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPOD, Railway or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 12.05.2023 for each of the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work/Package No.	Name of the ENU	Const. Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of materials (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Time allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tenders	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair Work of Motorbuses to Tolkian Road by way of Providing and Laying of Bit and Seal Coat. Package No. JKS-173 Phase X Block Marh Length = 2.50 Km District - Jammu (M&S) Cost = Rs.25.00 Lacs) (Call-2nd)	JAMMU	25.00	100.00	0.50	01 Month	2nd	Any Registered Contractor (class 4 & 1) with State PWD (M&S) Railways or equivalent qualifying eligible criteria as provided in the standard bidding Documents can tender for this work. Having experience of similar nature of work as prescribed in SBD attached.

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 03.05.2023.
- Cost of Bid Form: Rs 1000.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan / Online Mode.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmgstyenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmgstyenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in) Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender."
- Bids must be updated in Online Mode along with Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 7 in shape of e-challan favoring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and Scanned copy Earnest Money / Bid Security from scheduled commercial Bank as mentioned in Column 8 of above table in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Bid security for the schemes listed shall be Placed in favour of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu payable at Jammu and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of bid as referred to in the Appendix to ITB.
- The original documents, when submitted by L1 for the cost of tender document, EMD should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.
- (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in> from 04.05.2023 upto 10.00 AM to 12.05.2023 upto 5.00 PM. (b) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 06.05.2023 at 12:00 pm Noon in the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. (c) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in> from 04.05.2023 upto 10.00 AM to 12.05.2023 upto 05:00 PM.

No.-EE/PMGSY/J/700-769  
Dated:- 03.05.2023  
DIP/J-1052/23  
SD-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

# Atal Dulloo visits vegetable growing areas of Srinagar district

SAYS 'VEGETABLE CULTIVATION PROJECTS UNDER HOLISTIC AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WILL REVOLUTIONIZE SECTOR'

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today visited vegetable growing areas of Srinagar district including Malora, Takarwari and adjacent parts to take stock of agriculture scenario.

Speaking to the farmers gathering, ACS said that the poly houses being provided to farmers by the department has created several success stories. He said that the past scenario has changed and the results of different initiatives by the department are indeed encouraging and satisfactory. He added that more and more farmers of these areas are taking



Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, is seen interacting with farmers in a polyhouse in Srinagar district. He is surrounded by several farmers who are showing him the progress of their vegetable cultivation projects. The polyhouses are filled with various types of vegetables, and the farmers appear to be in good spirits, discussing the progress and challenges of their crops.

Vegetable Cultivation on commercial basis which is yielding tangible outcomes with transformation of their living standards. Atal Dulloo said that implementation of projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme especially in the vegetable sector are expected to revolutionize the vegetable sector of Jammu and Kashmir. ACS also visited the farms of some progressive farmers of the area and held interaction with them. He sought feedback from them regarding various interventions by the department. Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, gave a detailed presentation of different programs and interventions by the department in the area. Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Mohammad Younis Chowdhury and senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

# DC B'la inspects OSC/ DHEW Khawaja Bagh

REVIEWS FUNCTIONING OF BOTH CENTERS, INTERACTS WITH STAFF

J1 NEWS SERVICE



BARAMULLA, MAY 07: In a significant move towards curbing domestic violence against women, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today extended appreciations to the One-Stop Centre (OSC) and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Baramulla for achieving a marvellous progress by resolving around 90 percent of cases through counseling and legal advice. Dr Sehrish made these appreciations to both the Centers during her visit to Khawaja Bagh Baramulla where she took its inspection and held a comprehensive interaction with the staff.

During her visit, the DC said that One-Stop Centre provides a confidential counselling to the women facing domestic violence and Baramulla has recorded 232 registered cases thereby making 90% of cases resolved through counseling, free legal aid and free Medical assistance. Terming District Hub for Women Empowerment Baramulla a protection home, the DC said that the centre was launched to address cases of domestic violence and other family disputes. She further said that the initiative aims to prevent conflicts within families and curb violence against women. Further, the DC said that district administration is committed to empower the women with Skills so that they become self reliant in their social lives. Moreover, the DC exhorted upon the officers to launch massive awareness drives across the district so that the women can understand their rights. She said that the need of the hour is to conduct more such programmes at Higher Secondary level so that the students are able to make better career choices at the initial stage of their lives. Later, the DC also held an interaction with the staff and got appraisal of their issues.

# Jugal Kishore MP tours to Thalori Camp & Tarore in Vijaypur Constituency

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 7: Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu Poonch along with Keshav Dutt DDC Chairman, DDC Shilpa Dubey, Former Minister Chander Prakash Ganga, MC Vijaypur, Kamesh Sharma, Senior BJP Leader Jai Sharma & others visited village Thalori Camp Pan-chayat Channi Manhasan and Tarore in Vijaypur Assembly Constituency and sanctioned development works. Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering present at the occasion said that Bharatiya Janata Party is working on the agenda of Sabka Sath sabka vikaas and to develop rural areas is our priority.

He said that Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has launched various public welfare schemes to uplift the poor class of the society. He interacted with 1971



Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament Lok Sabha, is seen interacting with the community members at Thalori Camp. He is surrounded by a group of people, including children and adults, who are showing him the progress of their development works. The camp is a well-organized settlement, and the community members appear to be in good spirits, discussing the progress and challenges of their lives.

Chamb Displaced persons at thalori camp and shared his experiences with them. He said that it is only the BJP lead Government in center who feel the pain of Refugees and thought for the development. He said that Abrogation of Article 370 & 35A from the state was the great decision which have brighten the future of displaced persons. A demand for Construction of Community Hall raised at village Thalori Camp and they said that two panchayats and many wards are connected through this area and they will be benefited through this Hall. He while listening the demands of the local people sanctioned Rupees Ten lac from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development Funds for Construction of Community Hall at village Thalori Camp. Keshav Dutt DDC Chairman Samba thanked people of village Thalori Camp and Tarore for their warm welcome and said that BJP lead government in center has established democracy to the grass root level and established 3-tier system. Shilpa Dubey thanked Member of Parliament and DDC Chairman for visiting village Thalori Camp and Tarore and also allocated Rupees five lac for Construction of

Community hall at Thalori Camp in addition. Chander Prakash Ganga Former Minister thrown light on the development works done by Bharatiya Janata Party in Vijaypur Assembly Constituency.

He said that previous governments always neglected rural development and never tried to empower panchayat raj to empower people at ground level. He said that its the time to strengthen the hands of our Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi to bring our Nation among the developing countries.

Mandal President BJP Ajay Sharma, Atresh Dutt, Senior BJP Leaders Shashi Pal Vaid, Amit Dubey, Arun Sharma, Dheeraj Sharma, Ankush Janwal Yuva Morcha, Mohinder Bikka, Ravi Vaid, Rajneesh, Rahul Vaid, Manta Sharma, Sarpanch Baldev Kumar, Rajinder Sarpanches Panches & others also present at the occasion.

# Welfare of Tribals & marginalised communities, one of the top priorities for Administration: DDC Anantnaga

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MAY 07: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, S F Hamid today reached out to the far lung tribal areas of Gujjar patti Brai and interacted with the Tribals, representatives and social workers of these communities.

The DC held interaction with the locals belonging to Ainoo Brai Gujjar Patti, Gowas Gujjar area and Ichmaad tribal area to listen to their suggestions regarding further development of the area along all social indicators.

Overwhelmed with excitement to see the DDC Anantnag within them, the locals attended the gathering with excitement and joy.

DDC assured the public that all their issues shall be resolved and also the long term developmental plans and projects shall be taken up in the current development plan.

Earlier, the local public arranged a traditional welcome to the visiting dignitary before handing over the charter of demands from the area which the DDC termed as the road map for the future development. DDC further added that the government is committed to bringing governance to the doorstep of the common people and assured the gathering that their suggestions will be addressed, and on spot passed directions for the early redressal of the issues raised. He said that people of the district have a positive approach and always suggest and support good governance. Later, the DDC visited the ongoing projects of JJM at Brai, etc. and was accompanied by Tehsilidar Pahalgam, officers of the line department, besides the concerned officials.

# SANJY-2023: Distt Admin Anantnag committed to providing best in class facilities to devotees: DC

CONDUCTS MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS, LINE DEPARTMENTS: TAKES STOCK OF PREPAREDNESS FOR UPCOMING YATRA

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, MAY 07: To ensure smooth and successful conduct of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2023, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, S F Hamid convened a meeting of officers from all line departments and various stakeholders to discuss various activities related to the yatra.

The stakeholders including tent holders, ponywallas, pethuwallas, pakiwallas, labourers and other service providers assured the DC of their cooperation and support while also suggesting ways to further enhance the quality of services being offered to the devotees. Speaking at the meeting, the DC emphasized the spiritual and religious importance of the yatra as well as great reputation of Kashmiris in general and people of Anantnag in particular for displaying exemplary hospitality. He pledged all efforts would be put in place to provide the pilgrims with the best possible services. To prevent malpractices such as overpricing and overcharging, the committee under the chairmanship of DC

fixed rates for the service providers of SANJY 2023. The DC also stressed the need for provide quality facilities to yatis at every transit and halting station, including drinking water, toilet facilities, sanitation, proper bedding in tents, cleanliness in and around tents, and good-quality, waterproof tents en route to the yatra. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and coordination between officers and service providers during the yatra period, calling on them to give their best to ensure that SANJY 2023 is conducted smoothly and efficiently. The administration is fully prepared to hold the yatra successfully, and every step is being taken in this regard, he added.

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# DC Poonch chairs District Level Security Coordination Committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 07: Ahead of G-20 engagements scheduled this month, a high-level meeting of Civil, Police and Army authorities was held on Sunday here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary, here in the DC Office.

The DC took an elaborate review of security arrangements, status of construction of bunkers in the district and other issues pertaining to the security. During the meeting, Police representatives informed that the police have been regularly conducting the verification of outside workers working at stone crushers, petrol pumps and other establishments and regular checking of persons is



Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary, is seen chairing a meeting of the District Level Security Coordination Committee. He is surrounded by officials from various departments, including Civil, Police, and Army. The meeting is being held in a well-organized manner, and the officials appear to be in good spirits, discussing the progress and challenges of their security arrangements. The DC is taking an elaborate review of security arrangements, status of construction of bunkers in the district and other issues pertaining to the security.

Nagrani are being organised by the Revenue Department. Nasha Mukht Bharat Pledge, Essay Writing, Painting and other Awareness Programme are being carried out by the Education Department in the Schools located along the LoC as a part of the Confidence Building program. After thorough discussion, the chair directed the officials to conduct an exercise to assess whether there has been any demographic change in the areas adjoining the Border villages LoC. Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development and Executive Engineer PWR&B Department Poonch intimated the Status of construction of Bunkers in areas adjoining the LoC. The Assistant Commissioner Development Poonch was directed to ensure completion of Pending bunkers within 02 months, while Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) would ensure the same within 15 days. The ACR was directed to resolve the land related issues/if any, in the matter, while Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch was directed to Monitor/Supervise the entire exercise. The concerned Tehsilidars were asked to furnish the information regarding village in border villages. It was observed that Mughal Road shall be declared open for movement of traffic soon and accordingly the army representatives were requested to strengthen their Post at Poshana in the interest of overall security and ensuring least inconvenience to common people.

# AAP's Jammu district president Dixit Gupta appoints 9 new ward presidents

J1 NEWS SERVICE



Jammu: Aiming to strengthen party as well as reach out people, the Jammu District President of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), of J&K, Dixit Gupta on Saturday appointed nine new ward presidents.

Meenu Dogra appointed as president of ward no-1, Jammu East, Atul Jain President of ward no-2, Jammu East, Shubham Abrol, President ward no-19, Jammu East, Umesh Sawhney, President, ward no-29, Jammu West, Talwinder Singh, President, ward no-31, Jammu west, Anrik Singh, President, ward no-32, Jammu west, Sunil Sharma, Sangathan Mantri, ward no 32, Jammu West, Amit Dogra, President, Ward No-34, Jammu North and Pardeep Kumar, president ward no-40, Jammu west. AAP's Jammu district, president, Dixit Gupta told newly appointed presidents that party is looking forward for their contribution for strengthening party.