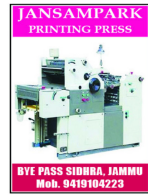




JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL. NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 113 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages223@gmail.com

India slams UN special rapporteur on minority issues for his criticism of holding G20 meet in J&K

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 16

India on Tuesday strongly rejected as "baseless and unwarranted" UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes' statement objecting to holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir alleging human rights violations there, and attacked him for acting "irresponsibly to politicise this issue".

Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also asserted that India as G20 president has the prerogative to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor addresses Kisan Sampark Abhiyan at Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 16

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed Kisan Sampark Abhiyan today at Panchayat Hardapanzoo, Budgam.

The Lt Governor said, the orientation and training programme will enable seamless implementation of 29 projects of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and it will further strengthen agriculture & allied sectors to achieve the goal of inclusive growth.

"We have accorded higher priority than ever before on increasing the sustainability



of farm livelihoods. The 29 projects being implemented under HADP will ensure each one of our villages are seen as a centre of rural prosperity,"

said the Lt Governor. Highlighting the significant contribution of farmers in the progress of Jammu

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Security along Jammu-Srinagar national highway reviewed ahead of G20 meet in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The Army and other security agencies on Tuesday reviewed the security along the strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway ahead of the G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place in the summer capital Srinagar from May 22 to 24.

The officials said a brigadier level officer force chaired a high level meeting with senior police and CRPF officers at Ramban to review the security arrangements along the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country.

The anti-infiltration grid along the borders and security of vital installations, including railways stations and bus stands have been



strengthened, while more checking points have come up along the highways and important cities and towns to thwart any terrorist attempt, the officials said.

They said multi-tier security of Army, Border Security Force, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) besides Village Defence Committees have been activated along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC). They said the security at Jammu

strengthened, while more checking points have come up along the highways and important cities and towns to thwart any terrorist attempt, the officials said.

They said multi-tier security of Army, Border Security Force, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) besides Village Defence Committees have been activated along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC). They said the security at Jammu

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Raj Bhawan hosts 'Sikkim Day' celebrations

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan hosted the celebration of the statehood day of Sikkim, today.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha extended his heartiest greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of their Statehood Day. "Situated in the eastern Himalayan region, Sikkim is blessed with nature's rich-



ness, divinity of Teesta River, string of lakes & breathtaking views of ancient monasteries in majestic mountains," said the Lt Governor.

Sikkim is one of the most beautiful states of India and also known as first organic state of the country. Progressive spirit of the state and sustained hard work of people can be seen in all-round prosperity & historic achievements in tourism,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Those opposing G20 event are enemies of nation, people of J&K: Devender Rana



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today described the hosting of G20 event in

the Valley later this month as a unique opportunity to put Jammu and Kashmir on the global tourism landscape that will eventually lead to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Shopkeeper beaten to death in Samba, special team formed to probe case: Cops

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly beating a shopkeeper to death in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The incident took place on May 12, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct an in-depth investigation into the murder of Chandrakant

Laxman Khopkar, they said. Aman Singh of Samba's Kheli Mandi village has been arrested for his alleged involvement in the murder of Khopkar, who hailed from Maharashtra and was residing in the Upper Bazar area of the district. The victim ran a shop in the area, a police official said.

According to a complaint lodged by Khopkar's wife, the official said, Singh allegedly beat up Khopkar while

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Leopard found dead in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A fully-grown leopard was found dead near a forest in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, an official from the wildlife protection department said.

The villagers of Salal Surman noticed the carcass of the big cat and informed the department which immediately rushed a team to the scene, the official said.

He said the carcass was shifted to a veterinary hospital of the department here for postmortem to ascertain the cause of its death.

However, the preliminary investigation suggested that the leopard could have died of natural causes.

Chief Secretary chairs UT level standing committee meeting of PMGSY

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday chaired the UT Level Standing Committee Meeting of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu/Kashmir and many other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized upon connecting all the inhabited villages. He called for striking the balance between the ecology and development. He asked the department to explore all the possibilities so that minimum damage is caused to environment while constructing these roads.

Dr Mehta further impressed upon resolution of local prob-



lems by concerned Deputy Commissioners to avoid any hindrances for one reason or another. He also advised sensitizing the people about the benefits of these road projects so that unnecessary resistance is avoided and delays are minimized.

He appreciated the Department for carrying out the task of giving last mile connectivity to all the habitations. He said that the task is quite vital for

development of any area. Giving details the Principal Secretary, PWD, Shaileendra Kumar apprised the meeting that the department has framed an action plan for completion of balance works under PMGSY I and II also besides taking in hand the works allocated under PMGSY III sanctioned in the month of August last year. It was given out that 155 roads of the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Mirwaiz Moulvi Farooq Assassination Case 2 accused Hizb militants absconding since 1990 arrested, handed over to CBI: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

Jammu and Kashmir police Thursday claimed to have achieved a major breakthrough into the assassination case of late Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq, who was killed at his Nigeen residence on May 21, 1990, by arresting two Hizb militants, who were evading arrest since over three decades.

The police said the arrested militants included the one who had entered into the bedroom of late Mirwaiz and opened fire at him. Addressing a press conference at police control room (PCR) here, Special Director General of Police (DIG), RR Swain said that on May 21, 1990, a case regarding the



killings of Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq was lodged in police station Nigeen under FIR 61/1990. "Then the case was transferred to CBI. The CBI had presented charge-sheet against one accused Ayoub Dar after arresting him before the TADA court

New Delhi after which the court awarded life to him," he said, as per news agency.

The special DG CID said that investigations into the case revealed that Hizbul Mujahideen commander Abdullah Bangerro

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Pak man detained along LoC in Rajouri Repatriated

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A Pakistani man who was apprehended after attempting to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district was on Tuesday repatriated to his country, officials said.

Mohammad Usman (30), a resident of Karela village of Kotli in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK), was intercepted by troops after he entered Turkundi village along the LoC late Sunday evening, they said. He was nabbed and later handed over to Pakistan Army personnel at Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point in Poonch, the officials said.

Officials on Monday had said nothing incriminating was recovered from the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Regional party income from unknown sources amounted to Rs 887.55 crore in 2021-22: ADR

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 16

The income of regional political parties from unknown sources in the financial year 2021-22 amounted to Rs 887.55 crore, accounting for 76 per cent of their total earnings, according to the Association of Democratic Reform (ADR).

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Dr Jitendra Singh to chair high level meet of Heads of Institutes in Jammu on 18th May

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

A high level meeting of all Vice Chancellors of Universities, Directors of institutions and other heads of institutions will be held at Convention Centre Jammu to deliberate and decide on how to foster a strong inter-institutional connect/collaboration among the universities and institutions of the region. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology; Min-



ister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences; MoS PNC, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space,

will chair this meeting which would also be attended by the Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Secretary (PSA) to Government of India, and Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM, Jammu while giving the detail of proposed meeting said that under the novel initiative of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology; Minister of State

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Presence of snow leopard confirmed through camera trap in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The research team of the Jammu and Kashmir Department

of wildlife protection has confirmed the presence of snow leopards in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park through camera trap photographs.

The development can help ensure the proper conservation of the endangered species.

The camera traps installed before snowfall in the 2,195.50 square kilometres national park have been retrieved and multiple images of snow leopards have been captured in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Kavinder for timely wages to 2211-head employees

KAVINDER, PATHANIA LISTENS TO THE PUBLIC GRIEVANCES



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: While meeting with a delegation of J&K Medical Employees Federation, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, called for timely release of salary of the employees of Family Welfare Deptt (2211-head).

same was also started almost five years back but same could not be taken up due to some ecological concerns raised by the department of forests. Now that, the department of PMGSY in liaison with the department of Forests have identified an alternative location which lessens the length of the road by as many as five kilometers and as many as 500 trees could be saved. But project still hangs midway.

ments for execution of public projects. And since decades, their land compensation files are gathering dust in obscure shelves of offices. He further focussed on new techniques and best practices as to how we could redress the public issues in a more efficacious way.

He was critical of non-start of work on Kirchi to Seoj Dhar. A multi crore road from Dudu-Kirchi to Dhar Seoj was proposed and sanctioned under PMGSY. Work on the

Compromise on quality of development works, delay unacceptable: Col Mahan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 16: Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua on Tuesday asked the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of development projects with no compromise on the quality of works and material used. He said that any sort of compromise on quality of works or delay in completion of development works is unacceptable.



The DDC Chairman was chairing the DDC Kathua Meeting held here at DDC Kathua Office in Travel Mart Lakhnampur. Thirteen Council Members out of 14 including DDC Chairman and Vice Chairman were present. Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas, SSP SDS Jamwal, Addl SP Paramejit Singh, CPO Uttam Singh, ACD Kishor Singh Katoch, ACP Danish Rasool, Executive Engineers PHE, Mesh Dyon, BDO Kossidan Gandyal, District Information Officer and media persons in large numbers were present.

and also in the pipe-line. He appreciated the collective efforts of Administration, DDC Council/PRIs and support of more than 7 lakh people of District Kathua for bringing the entire district on the track to ensure sustainable development.

The issues which came for discussion include renewal of arms licenses in the district which has been stalled for the last over two years, illegal excavation of minor minerals, action against delinquent employees showing misconduct and indiscipline, adequate manpower and financial resources for the proper functioning of DDC council, expedition of construction of proposed DDC complex

at Kathua for improving functional efficiency and public convenience, giving impetus to expedite and recommence work on development projects including Juthana Bridge work, Hatli-Manu road work, bridge over Sewa river at Bari near Mela Ground, bridge over Beani Nallah between Mahanpur-Neyali, start work on new buildings of CHC Billawar, GDCs Ramkot and Marbeen, Mann to Banjar road, Machhedi to Lohai Malhar road, Hansa-Bhullari road and Sarthali to Bhandar road.

Besides the issues which came up for discussion include employment to youth in Industry and Central Projects, release of pending project of

land compensation, etc. Over and above, the meeting also highlighted the constituency wise issues and resolved to expedite things to provide the succor to the people by early completion of projects.

The DDC Chairman urged upon the Deputy Commissioner and the team of officers to make sincere efforts for early resolution of issues. The DDC Vice Chairman and members also apprised the Chairman and Deputy Commissioner about local issues concerning the different constituencies. The DDC also adopted a resolution on opening of new J&K Bank branches across the District, especially the areas which are still uncovered.

Seminar on drug abuse & addiction awareness held in BBIA Bhawan



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: BBIA in Association with J&K Police Department organized a Drug Abuse and Addiction Awareness at Bari Brahmna Industries Association Bhawan in the august presence of Sh. Shakti Kumar Pathak-IPS, DIG Jammu -Samba - Kathua Range as Chief Guest along with Sh. Benam Tosh, JKPS SSP Samba, Sh. Surinder Choudhary JKPS, Additional SP Samba, Officers of J&K Police Department and other State Govt. departments

Kathua Range on his Visit to Bari Brahmna Industrial Complex, Mr. Lalit Mahajan, President of the Association highlighted issues related to the units working in Bari Brahmna Industrial Complex, EPIP & Food Park which includes the Drugs Menace in Bari Brahmna Industrial Complex and surrounding areas with the consternation of Drug Peddlers illegally residing on the State Land at Baloke and requested to take remedial measures to Stop the selling of Drugs in the Industrial Area. Sh. Lalit Mahajan also highlight the other issues regarding the requirement of

Drug abuse and addiction which is a disease that affects the Brain and Behavior. Addiction to drugs increases the urge to use them, no matter how much harm the drugs may cause. Drugs may be abused to feel good, ease stress or avoid reality. Addiction is when a behavior cannot be stopped, and not just when it puts health in danger or causes financial, emotional and other problems for self or their loved ones that urge to get and use drugs can fill up every minute of the day, even if there is an intention to quit.

Chief Guest also deliberating with the Members in respect of various measures to be taken for the awareness amongst the Industrial Workers and for the Local Peoples and also requested the Member Units to adopt Di Addiction Centre by providing the Medical and Pera Medical Staff for the smooth running of Rehabilitation Drug -Di Addiction Centre at Gurha Salathia Vijaypur.

Vote of thanks was presented by Sh. Ajay Langer, Vice President of BBIA on behalf of the Association.

All Hajj pilgrims of Bani Tehsil vaccinated at SDH



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANI, MAY 16: All the sixteen Hajj pilgrims from Tehsil Bani have been successfully vaccinated against Polio, Influenza and Meningococcal infections during a camp specially organized for the pilgrims selected from the said Tehsil for performing the holy Hajj. The vaccination

proceedings were carried out quite professionally by the team of doctors and paramedics under the supervision and guidance of worthy CMO Kathua Dr Rakesh Magotra and Dy CMO Dr Nagpal with full assistance and support of Block Medical Officer Bani, Dr Dev Raj Mishra here today.

The Hajj pilgrims were seen full of enthusiasm when the vaccination was going on quite smoothly. Some of the pilgrims selected for the first time even turned emotional on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering of Hajj Pilgrims on the occasion, the CMO Dr Rakesh Magotra congratulated the pilgrims for being lucky to embark on

the most holy pilgrimage of the community. He said, "We all pray for your safe and sound spiritual sojourn during this holy pilgrimage to Mecca and safe return to your homes thereafter."

He confirmed that the Medical team has vaccinated all the Hajj devotees besides conducting a detailed check-up by the medical team under the supervision of BMO Bani.

He thanked BMO Bani for providing all the medical facilities to make these pilgrims comfortable and easy. Meanwhile, all the vaccinated Haj devotees including Ghulam Haider Malik, Ex Deputy Speaker thanked the BMO Bani and all the members of the medical team for ensuring an easy and comforting vaccination session for them. BMO Bani wished all the Hajj Pilgrims a happy and blessed pilgrimage.

NC holds potential to fulfil aspirations of all sections of society: Former-Minister

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: The educated youth of J&K is frustrated and hopeless as majority of them are getting overaged; and special employment packages should be extended to them by central govt, said former Minister and JKNC Zonal President, Babu Rampaul.

He added that the business community of J&K has also suffered adversely and it has pinned high hopes on J&K National Conference for mitigation of their sufferings.

Babu Ram Paul was addressing a Youth meeting organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary & Co-ordinator Jammu District (Urban), JKNC. Ram Paul was the chief guest on the occasion

While speaking on the occasion, Babu Rampaul urged upon the youth to get ready for playing a vital role to bring change. He said that the present scenario of Jammu and Kashmir has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

"Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned about their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", Ram Paul added.

Babu Rampaul while making comparative study of the regime of JKNC especially Sher-E-Kashmir Jb. Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, Dr.Farooq Abdullah, Jb.Omar Abdullah in which a lot of measures have been taken for the welfare of the people of J&K. Ultimately, He asked the party workers of J&K to remain united and work with zeal and dedication for ensuring the welfare of the common masses of J&K and to strengthen the JKNC party at the grass root levels.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that it was under NC's rule that the erstwhile state was among top states of our country. He said that from unemployment to literacy Jammu and Kashmir was and is in a far better position than other states of India. He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

He also lashed out at Centre for imposing ill-conceived policies on them. "Youth is under depression due to large scale corruption in the recruitment processes and have no avenues for jobs. Others who spoke on the occasion were Adv. Rajinder Chamyal, BD Dalotra, Dr.Gourav Bharat, S.Surjit Singh Sarsan, Adv. Aslam Choudhary, Arvind Singh Jamwal, S. Nirmal Singh, Rahul Mahajan, Narinder Kumar, Mool Raj, Ashok Tyagi, and others.

J&K Opposition parties welcome K'taka results, seek early elections

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Different mainstream opposition parties under the aegis of All parties United Morcha (APUM) have welcomed the outcome of elections in Karnataka, where the people have given the verdict of change and rejected the diversionary tactics of the ruling BJP and demanded early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a meeting by the representatives of mainstream opposition parties under the banner of APUM congratulated the congress leadership for the landslide victory.

Senior leaders of main opposition parties in J&K have said that people of Karnataka have given a verdict of change in the country and a way forward for the forthcoming general elections. The people have voted for the positive agenda of development

welfare and employment against price rise and corruption and rejected the vote bank politics of ruling BJP.

The meeting unanimously urged the Congress leadership at the Centre and the UPJA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi to invite the opposition parties for putting pressure on the Centre Govt. to hold early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir which has been deprived of democratic Govt. for last five years and the full-fledged state has been down graded.

The meeting felt that BJP is delaying assembly elections in the JKUT because the party sees the writings on the wall, as BJP will face a humiliating defeat in J&K in assembly elections as and when held. The people are totally fed up with the policies and programmes of BJP and has left the people at the mercy of irresponsible

and non-responsive bureaucratic regime with the resources of J&K opened for the loot of outsiders while locals are without jobs and business prospects. The unemployment is on the peak in J&K. The people are being heavily taxed while the price rise is on the peak.

The people of J&K want early elections to the state assembly under statehood, for which the opposition parties shall unitedly fight and struggle for restoration of democracy.

They appealed all other opposition political parties in the country and J&K, who are opposed to the policies and opportunist politics of BJP to unite to fight for the rights of the people of J&K.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdul Rehman (Ex-MP) and attended by Ravinder Sharma (Chief Spokesperson JKPC), Rattan Lal Gupta (

Provincial President - NC), Manish Sawhney - President Shiv Sena Udhav Bal Thakrey (JKUBT) Sr. IDP leader I.D. Khajuria (Convener APUM) Virinder Singh Soomra (PDP), Narinder Khajuria (IDP) - Com. Hari Singh (CPM), Vikas Bakshi (UBT) Sardar Narinder Singh Khalsa (Akali Dal A).

Sweets were distributed on the occasion to celebrate the victory. The APUM congratulated the Congress leadership for the landslide victory and effectively countering and defeating the opportunist agenda of BJP, starting from Bharat Jodo Yatra, till culmination of elections. The BJP attempt to polarize the atmosphere and hijack the elections, were defeated by the people of Karnataka, who have shown the way forward to the countrymen for the forth coming general elections.

Dy Mayor Kick starts construction work of lane & drain



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Continuing the campaign to provide better development as well as basic facilities to the people of the Jammu, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria kick started the construction work of lane & drain near Shri Gurudwara Sahib, Ekta Vihar in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency.

Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that it is the long pending demand of the local people and now the demand has been fulfilled. He said that earlier a lot of development works were done in this area and the pending development works will also be done in a phased manner.

He said that he will continue to work in the ward to provide basic facilities to the residents. The Deputy Mayor Jammu also added that the development works will be completed in a time-bound manner and strict quality control measures will be implemented to ensure that the construction meets the required standards. The Deputy Mayor further said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the amenities of the citizens will not be compromised. He said that the JMC is committed to provide the best possible services to the citizens and this project is a step forward in that direction.

Ka Vishwas aur Sab Ka Prayas. He said that Jammu Municipal Corporation will never lag behind in developmental works. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria also asked the locals to ensure that they do not litter in public places and dispose of their garbage in the designated bins. He also requested the residents to cooperate with the JMC department and take up collective responsibility for the cleanliness and sanitation of the ward. Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria also said that people now directly come to meet with their problems and they don't have to go anywhere for their genuine problems related with the development. Prominent among those present were Ranjit Singh, Harbans Choudhary, Jugal Kishore, Yash Raj, Rinku Singh, Maninder Singh, Saili Sachdev, Balkar Singh, Kulbir Singh, Raghu Baloriya, Saroop Singh, Jagir Singh and others.

Traditional culture & Audio Visual program organised by MJCIOS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Audio Visual and documentation of traditional culture, folk art form, music, dance & historical places in various areas of Jammu was organised by M. Jackson Cultural Institute of Society Jammu under scheme Preservation and development of cultural Heritage of Himalayas for the year 2021-22, supported by union Ministry of Culture.



The main focus of the society on trainings in traditional folk arts, preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art & crafts, cultural events etc. at Himalayan region i.e. Jaipota Ghat Akhnour, Ambaran Buddhist Stupa Histrical Place Akhnour, Mubarak Mandi Palace, Shiv Dwara Ambaran Akhnour, Jai Baba Mai Mal, Shiv Khori Cave

Ransoo Pouni, Butripta Akhnour and also organised audio visual programme at K.C Public school and santosh public school. General public student's teachers witnessed and appreciated the programme.

The programme was conducted by the members of the M. Jackson

Cultural Institute of Society included J.R.Sharma, Pawan K Sharma, Ravisharma Poonam Sharma, Radima Sharma, Manas Sharma, Yogi Mohit Sharm, The history of Baba Mai Mal is a renowned deity of Duggar Pardesh was also documented under this project. Baba Mai Mal was the hero of

farmer community Just like Baba Jitto of Aggar, he sacrificed his life to fight against injustice and cruelty to farmers. Baba Mai Mal was born at Palail hamlet of village Dager in Akhnour. His Childhood name was Ugg Mal alias Uggo. His father was "Pillo", a Uppul Brahmin and the mother was Radha who belonged to a poor family.

NC directs cadre to gear up for upcoming, ULB & Panchayat polls

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu has directed all the District and Block presidents of the party in Jammu province to gear up the cadre at grass-roots level for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections. He stated this while addressing functionaries of Jammu West constituency at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here today. The meeting was presided by Mr Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban.

The senior National Conference leader said that the Union Territory Administration has failed miserably on all fronts leaving the people of this sensitive region to fend for themselves. He asserted that only NC can fulfill the aspirations of the people of J&K in letter and spirit and the party owes responsibility to display the best performance in the Panchayat, ULB or even the impending Assembly elections and pave the way for ending the miseries of people who have suffered immensely due to LG's bureaucratic autocracy in absence of the people representatives government.

During the brainstorming session with the party leaders, threadbare discussion and deliberations were held on the upcoming Jammu Municipal Corporation polls crucial for the party and more than that for the people's welfare. He asked the

District and Block presidents to focus on reaching out to the people at their doorsteps and get their issues resolved. He said that the respective presidents can adapt the common strategy as per the local urges in their respective areas. He asked the party cadre to strengthen the base of the party at grass roots level by making the people aware about the key achievements during National Conference regime.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that after its utter failure the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its leaders are making every effort to divert the attention of the common people from its failures by parroting that successive regimes in J&K didn't do anything for J&K. He said LG Administration keeps criticizing and abusing the former governments in J&K on development issue but the fact remains that it is actually the BJP that has failed to do anything for people of J&K and plunged it into utter chaos. He accused the present Govt in J&K of having earned the distinction of multiple scams to its credit. He questioned the J&K Administration on what it has done for the last 9 nine years as BJP's proxy Govt while running the affairs of this State/UT. He said that the reality on ground is that the present administration has failed to fill the gap of development till date.

Rattan Lal said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is almost defunct as it is totally ineffective on ground. As if all this was not enough

that this civic body is lavishly wasting public money to the tune of crores of rupees in the name of Smart City Project while people's real sufferings continue to remain unattended. It would not be wrong to state that as of today, JMC has become a den of corruption, he asserted. He said that in every sector the situation is getting from bad to worse with each passing day and there seems to be no end to the miseries of people.

The senior NC leader said that after winning the upcoming Panchayat and ULB polls the party will carry out development works as per the aspirations of people of Jammu region and also roll back property tax. He said that Karnataka election result has proved it beyond doubt that people have rejected the religious card and communal hatred politics promoted by the BJP to exploit the people for vote bank interest and sooner than later BJP will be shown the door at the Centre as well as in the rest of India including J&K. Those who were present in the meeting included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Vijay Lohan P.P SC Cell, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Shabir Ahmed, S. Tejinder Singh, Nitish Gowsami, Seema Kumari, M.L. Sabarwal, Ramesh Abrol, Sahil Kerni, Amritraj Singh, Master Bal Dev Raj and others.

RAJOURI BRACES UP FOR AZAD'S VISIT

Azad has changed developmental landscape of landlocked district: Chib

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 16: Democratic Progressive Azad Party on Tuesday hold an Azad bearers meet in Rajouri distt and discussed in details regarding the upcoming visit of party chairman Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad. The meeting was presided over by General Secretary R.S.Chib, Provincial President Jugal Kishore Sharma, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson.

The party leadership of the district discussed all the necessary arrangements and took stock of the preparations for the tour of Azad. "We are all set to greet our party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad in our district. Our workers are over excited and waiting for his visit," said Sushil Sharma Distt President Rajouri. The party leadership also held



a meeting and took review for the ongoing membership drive in the district. They have resolved to take the membership drive to the last person of the district and apprise people of party's progressive and developmental agenda. "When Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad was the chief minister of erst-while state he sanctioned medical College, schools and hospitals for the district. Since then we don't face difficulties in education and health sectors. Even the road connectivity

was enhanced with a grand network of roads and the district was uplifted through massive infra-structural development," R.S. Chib, Provincial Secretary, Ashok Sharma Provincial vice President, Sushil Sharma Distt President, Zahid Malik Zonal President, Lovely Gupta Secretary, Rajinder Sharma Secretary, Arun Sharma BDC Chairman, Khurshid Janam, Gulzar Khan, Sushil Jamwal, Varun Gupta, Mohd Rashid Shaheen, Sunash Vaid, Sardar Rajinder Singh & others

R.S.Chib, Jugal Kishore Sharma Provincial President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Masood Choudhary Secretary, Ashok Sharma Provincial vice President, Sushil Sharma Distt President, Zahid Malik Zonal President, Lovely Gupta Secretary, Rajinder Sharma Secretary, Arun Sharma BDC Chairman, Khurshid Janam, Gulzar Khan, Sushil Jamwal, Varun Gupta, Mohd Rashid Shaheen, Sunash Vaid, Sardar Rajinder Singh & others

Apni Party will ensure dignified life of youth in J&K: Manjit Singh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBHA, MAY 16: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh said that the Apni Party will give a dignified and prosperous life to the youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a meeting of youth at Panchayat Bari, the former minister said that the Apni Party will bring back the peace, and prosperity with equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir. "The youth in J&K are in distress with no hope of employment amid growing concern over the

unfair selection process in various recruitments. If we form the Govt, the dignified and prosperous life of the youth will be restored," he said.

He said that "We will end the discrimination with the people with the formation of the Govt in Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of statehood. The people in all the areas are anguished with the LG administration to ensure equitable development." The meeting was organized by Block President, Youth Wing, Bari Brahmama, Irshan Choudhary at Panchayat Bari. J&K Apni Party ST Wing President Saleem

Choudhary alongwith other leaders including Yaqoob Ahmed were present on the occasion.

He said that the people from both the regions demand holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as it would enable the people to elect the Govt of their choice and ensure justice with them.

"The tourism sector, recruitment to various jobs in Govt sector, price rise of essential commodities, harassment of people on the name of anti-encroachment drive, depriving poor from their constitutional right of holding the land, increas-

ing drug addiction and many other such issues have given rise to anti-LG administration sentiments," he said.

He said that development and unemployment are among the main issues faced by the people especially when there is no elected Govt.

"The bureaucrats are not answerable to the people, but the elected Govt is always answerable to the people who vote them to power. Therefore, restoration of democratic institutions in J&K is important," he said. Although he welcomed the proposal to hold elections for PRI etc in J&K, he warned that the Govt should not delay the assembly elections in J&K as it would widen the gap and mistrust between the Govt and the people.

Meanwhile, he referred to the developmental issues of the Panchayat Bari and assured that he would highlight their issues before the concerned authorities for early redressal.

RHS organises Counseling session for Students of 10th & 12th

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Rich Harvest School organized an amazing Counseling session for the Students of 10th and 12th -session 2022-23. The Principal Ms Anita Bhatia on behalf of Managing Director Sh. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak and Director Mrs. Ruchi Charak welcomed the Guests of honour Th. Gulchian Singh Charak-Former Minister R&B and higher education, Mr. Vikram Sharma- President Bar Association J&K High Court and Mr. Samar Dev Singh Charak-Secretary Dogra Educational Trust and the Meritorious Students along with their parents were overjoyed to be part of the auspicious ceremony.

The following Students were honoured for their diligence, dedication, devotion and achievements : Navika overall topper of 10th with an amazing aggregate per-



centage of 97.6%. The other award winners of 10th included Paranjay Ojasiw (96.8%), Anik Kalgotra (96.6%), Sohavi Sharma (95.8%), Vikas Malhotra(95.6%), Vihaan Sharma (95.4%), Mannat Gupta (94.6%), Neev Sangra (92.8%), Ayush Bhat (92.6%), Khushpreet Kour (91.8%), Aakash Sadotra (91.2%), Jasvinder Kour (91.2%), Krish Jamwal (91%) and Kanan Gupta (90.6%).

The class 12th awardees included Anshika Gupta (97%) 1 -

overall topper of 12th with 100% in Chemistry, Samranta Basotra (88%) topped in Non-Medical, Tavleen Sudan (89.4%) topped in Commerce and Rajneesh manhas (95.2%) topped in Humanities. The other shining stars of class 12th who scored above 90% were Manshika Karloopia (96.8%), Bhavana Sharma (95%), Janvi Sharma (94%), Niharika Sharma (93.2%) and Ipshta Sharma (92.4%).

The high fliers of class 12th - Anshika and Ipshta shared their mantra of

success with their juniors. They counselled the younger students to burn midnight oil, do plenty of self study and avoid participating in activities like social media which deviate your mind away from studies. They advised the present 12th to prepare themselves with regular and comprehensive study schedule and be fully armed for the forthcoming Board Exam in Feb/March.

The Managing Director told the students to remain steadfast and give their best for achieving their goals.

The honourable Guest Sh. Vikram Sharma Ji congratulated the Shining Stars of RHS for their magnificent Board Result and advised them to remain focused for the onward journey of success. The head of RHS Family Th. Gulchian Singh Ji Charak blessed the high achievers and wished them the very best in all their future endeavours.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor addresses...

Kashmir, the Lt Governor called upon all sections of the society to honour the hard work of 70% population of UT dependent on agriculture. This 70% population is the biggest strength of J&K and despite numerous challenges they are toiling day and night to feed the people, he added.

The Lt Governor shared the vision of the government, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, for creating a strong ecosystem for the growth of agriculture sector in J&K.

"The fast pace of progress in giving agriculture & allied sector in the last three years gives us hope that more and more youth will be inspired to take up farming and we will be able to build a better future for our young generations," observed the Lt Governor.

Speaking on key features of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program, the Lt Governor said, the HADP projects will enhance the capacity of small & marginal farmers, improve their access to technology, institutional credit, domestic & international market and develop critical infrastructure such as post-harvest processing facilities.

The Lt Governor highlighted the reforms introduced to strengthen the agri-economy and to deliver socio-economic benefits to small and marginal farmers of the UT.

We are implementing several new initiatives such as Rural Business and Service Hubs to provide critical inputs, market intervention in favour of farmers to ensure that the benefits of the crops reach directly to the farming community, he said.

The Lt Governor congratulated the farmers of Budgam for transforming the agricultural scenario of the district.

He further reiterated the government's commitment towards creation of a support system to facilitate the farmers, who are adopting the cultivation of Exotic Vegetables, Niche Crops, medicinal, high density cultivation and floriculture.

In the last financial year, 14 hi-tech poly green houses and 110 mushroom units were set up in the district. Moreover, five vegetable clusters growing organic, exotic & conventional vegetables have been established and all these efforts have resulted in the export of 43,000 MT of vegetables, 53 MT of Lal Mirch & 200 MT of sweet corn from the district during 2022-23, the Lt Governor further added.

Addressing the local issues of public importance, the Lt Governor said the administration is making consistent efforts for the welfare of the people and the work on the District Hospital for Budgam will start soon.

Sh Nazir Ahmed Khan, Chairperson DDC, Budgam expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Administration for introducing progressive agricultural reforms in the region.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Prof. Nazir Ah. Gani, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the key initiatives taken for effective implementation of projects under HADP.

A total of 10,695 training sessions are being organized across the UT during the 4-month long Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, it was informed.

The Lt Governor also felicitated the progressive farmers on the occasion.

Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; PRL members; senior officials; prominent citizens from all walks of life and farmers in large numbers were present.

Security along Jammu-Srinagar...

railway station was also tightened with all agencies directed to work in close coordination and keep a close watch to foil any attempt of anti-national elements to create any kind of sabotage.

Officers of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force, SKUAST Jammu also directed to intensify the patrolling at the railway platform areas and other sensitive areas of railway station Jammu, the officials said. (Agencies)

Raj Bhawan hosts...

education, agriculture and sanitation, the Lt Governor observed.

"In a historic move to strengthen the bonds between J&K and Sikkim and in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', an agreement was signed last year for collaboration on capacity building for Saffron cultivation and to enhance interaction between researchers & farmers," said the Lt Governor

Today, the celebration of the Statehood Day of Sikkim from this land of Vastata has further deepened the connect between the two regions, he added.

The Lt Governor also made a special mention of Padma Shri Tula Ram Upreti, a 98-year-old organic farmer from Sikkim and noted artist and painter from Sikkim. Padma Shri Khandu Wangchuk, and lauded their contributions in the respective fields.

Artists dedicating the love from Jammu Kashmir to Sikkim presented some spellbinding performances to mark the occasion.

Security forces Personnel and students from Sikkim living in J&K were the special invitees.

2 accused Hizb militants...

had hatched conspiracy to kill Mirwaiz, "Bangroo and his associate Rehman Shigan (both Hizb commanders) were killed in encounters while one accused was serving life. Two more accused—Javid Bhat and Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, both residents of Srinagar, were arrested by the State Investigating Agency (SIA). They were evading arrest as they were hiding in Pakistan and Nepal over these years. Both have been arrested and handed over to CBI as proclaimed offenders," the police officer said. "CBI team has arrived in Kashmir."

He said one of the arrested Hizb militants Zahoor Ahmed Bhat was the one who had entered into the bedroom of Mirwaiz and opened fire at him. The special DC, however, didn't reveal where the duo was arrested. "Both the arrested will face trial now," he said. The police announcement about the arrest of two remaining accused comes five days ahead of yet another "martyrdom" anniversary of late Mirwaiz Farooq.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here, a police spokesman said that in a significant operation, SIA of J&K Police arrested two Hizbul-Mujahideen terrorists—Javid Ahmad Bhat code Ajmal Khan S/o Late Habubullah Bhat R/o Solina Bala, at present Azad Basti Naitpora Srinagar and Zahoor Ahmad Bhat code Bilal S/o Late Muhammad Ramzan Bhat R/o Danderkhaw, Bataloo, Srinagar, who were absconding after murdering Mirwaiz Farooq on May 21, 1990. "The two had gone underground and during all these years were variously hiding in Nepal and Pakistan among other places before surreptitiously returning back to Kashmir a few years ago. Maintaining a low profile, changing addresses and shifting residences, they avoided the gaze of law enforcement agencies," the police spokesman said. He said that accused in CBI case RC05019905008 (pertaining to killing of Mirwaiz Farooq) they are now liable to immediately face trial in a designated TADA court in Delhi which has already completed the trial in respect of one of the five accused namely Ayub Dar code Ishfaq son of Late Abdul Ahad Dar of Rawalpura of Srinagar who has been convicted and serving a life sentence. "Two other absconding accused terrorists found guilty in the killing of Mirwaiz, Abdulhali Bangroo and Abdul Rehman Shigan, got killed in encounters with security forces in the 1990s," the statement said, adding that "To recapitulate, on May 21, 1990, Mirwaiz, Srinagar, head priest of Kashmir was killed by terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen accusing him of being a 'peacenik' and an 'Indian agent'."

The police spokesman said that case FIR No 61/1990 was registered in Police Station Nigeen, Srinagar to investigate the crime. "Thereafter the government of the day transferred the investigation to CBI on 11 June 1990," he said, adding that "After a long and arduous legal process of investigation and prosecution, the designated TADA court, in 2003, convicted the only and arrested accused Ayub Dar for life. The remaining four remained on run. While two (Abdullah Bangroo & Rehman Shigan) died in encounters, Javid Bhat and Ayub Bhat managed to evade."

The spokesman said that Ayub Dar, the convicted terrorist and one of the killers appealed against his conviction, which however, was upheld by the Division Bench of the Supreme Court in Criminal Appeal No.535 of 2009 on 21 July 2010. "Before killing Mirwaiz, all the five HM terrorists had gone to Pakistan for terrorist training in 1990. Back in Srinagar, Abdullah Bangroo received instructions in April 1990 from his ISI handler in Pakistan to eliminate Mirwaiz," the statement said. KNO

Those opposing...

economic fillip given huge potential of nature, adventure and pilgrim tourism in the Union Territory.

"Those opposing such an event in Kashmir and paragoning Pakistan are actually the enemies of the nation and welfare of the people of J&K across the country", Mr Rana said while addressing the Conveners and Co-Conveners of the BJP's Trade, Industries, Transport & Cooperative and Tourism Cells at the party headquarters there this afternoon.

He said Jammu and Kashmir's larger role in the country's growth story is rattling some feudal entities, who do not want the people to prosper and progress. They actually want the UT to remain in the cocoon of misery and tragedy to run their political enterprise and thrust on the people. The record of these political leaders stands testimony to under development of the then state despite flow of whopping funds from the Centre. Nepotism, corruption and mis-governance took toll on J & K's development. Now that the UT is treading on the path of peace, progress and prosperity, they find their political space shrinking and hence indulge in rhetoric, he added.

Referring to the slated G20 conclave at Srinagar, Mr Devender Rana highlighted its importance by saying that the participating member countries represent 85 per cent of global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, which in itself speaks of the high stakes involved in the meeting. Assembling the representatives of two-thirds of the world population in the picturesque Valley is a matter of pride for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Those raising questions over hosting of such an event in the Valley are not only suffering from the negativity syndrome but also insult Kashmir's hospitality which is known the world over. He reiterated that such international events are destined to lay a very positive and healthy impact on trade and economy in this part of the country.

He said the outcome of the conclave will have lasting impact on the trade, commerce and industry across the country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular, which is the centre of attention and attraction for global investment due to initiatives taken post August 5, 2019 political developments. Already some corporate houses of international repute have started their ventures and these will expand across the Union Territory within stipulated time-frame.

The meeting discussed issues confronted by the trade and industry, tourism, transport and cooperative sector in detail and suggested measures for addressing some critical points raised by the stakeholders from time to time. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Convener Trade Cell, Sham Lal Langar along with co convener Parshotam Kumar Sharma, Vikas Janday, Vishal Gupta, Jai Indar Jain; Convener Industries Cell Neeraj Anand, Co convener Kulwant Singh Bhatti, Chhmail Singh; Convener Cooperative Cell Sanjeev Gupta along with Co convener Ashok Singh, Convener Transport Cell Ashutosh Gupta along with Co convener Roshan Lal Sharma, Ajeet Jogi, Convener Tourism Cell Ravi Bakshi along with Co convener Parvash Bali.

Shopkeeper beaten...

he was going to his shop on May 12, resulting in critical injuries to him.

The victim was rushed to the district hospital and later referred to the Government Medical College, Jammu where he succumbed to internal injuries, the official said.

He said a four-member SIT headed by a deputy superintendent of police has started its investigation into the case. (Agencies)

Pak man detained...

possession of the man. On April 29, Indian troops detained a father-son duo from PoK after they inadvertently crossed into this side in Poonch district. Both were later repatriated to Pakistan. (Agencies)

Regional party income...

The figure indicates a rise in parties' income from unknown sources in comparison to 2020-21 when the total income of regional parties accounted for Rs 530.70 crore, of which Rs 263.93 crore or 49.73 per cent came from unknown sources.

According to the report, donations over Rs 20,000 are defined to have come from "known" sources as their donor details are available through contribution reports submitted by regional parties to the Election Commission of India (EC).

The "unknown" sources are income declared in the annual audit report by these parties but without giving the source of income.

At present, political parties are not required to reveal the name of individuals or organisations giving less than Rs 20,000 and those who donated via electoral bonds.

The ADR stated such unknown sources include donations via electoral bonds, sales of coupons, relief funds, miscellaneous income, voluntary contributions, and contributions from meetings or morchas.

The details of donors of such voluntary contributions are not available in the public domain.

The ADR said the total income of political parties from unknown sources amounts to Rs 887.55 crore, which is 76.15 per cent of their total earnings.

Of the Rs 887.55 crore, 93.26 per cent or Rs 827.76 crore of this came from Electoral Bonds, the ADR said.

The income from the sale of coupons formed 4.32 per cent (Rs 38.35 crore) and voluntary contributions a total of Rs 145.42 crore, which is 12.48 per cent of their total income from unknown sources of 27 regional parties.

Initially, 54 regional (recognised) parties were considered for this analysis. However, only 28 of them had filed both their Annual Audit and Contribution reports while the remaining parties had only submitted one out of the two reports.

While the total income of 27 regional political parties in FY 2021-22 amounts to Rs 1,165.58 crore, the total income of political parties from known donors stands at Rs 345.22 crore, which is 12.48 per cent of their total income, the report said.

The total income of political parties from other known sources like membership fees, bank interest, sale of publications, party levy etc. is Rs 132.61 crore or 11.38 per cent of the total income. (Agencies)

Chief Secretary...

length of 1272.44 Kms had been sanctioned under the first batch of the 3rd phase to be completed at a cost of Rs 157.86 Cr. It was also revealed that some additional roads and bridges are also proposed under this phase by the department that are favourably being looked at by the MoRD, GoI.

The meeting was apprised that the Department has laid a well thought out action plan for completing construction of 543 Roads and 47 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) at a cumulative cost of Rs 244.95 Cr including the balance of previous phases in the ensuing financial year.

The meeting further deliberated upon various reasons for delay in completion of the projects. It also held discussions about the ways and means of resolving these hindrances and expediting completion of these road projects.

Pertinent to mention here that the Department has incurred an expenditure of Rs 1114 Cr during the previous financial year. It has also spent around Rs 10656 Cr under PMGSY phase I & II completing record number of 2781 Roads and 186 LSBs of the cumulative length of about 17800 Kms thereby connecting 2096 habitations in the length and breadth of the UT. KNO

Presence of snow...

the frames, wildlife warden, headquarters, Arun Gupta said.

Listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the snow leopards are mostly found at an altitude between 3,000 and 4,500 metres and have been sighted in the snow-bound areas of the Kishtwar National Park and its adjoining areas in Jammu region, parts of central and north Kashmir and Ladakh.

In November 2021, the wildlife department launched a first-of-its-kind snow leopard population assessment expedition under the snow leopard project of the Union Ministry of Environment with a focus on identifying the landscape housing the species and challenges for their proper conservation.

"In one camera trap frame, three snow leopards have been captured roaming amidst the pristine snow-covered terrain of the Renai catchment of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, while earlier the department through outsourced scientific study has also captured two individual (one adult and one sub adult) in a single frame of camera trap in Nanth Nallah," Gupta said.

He said the study is part of the snow leopard population assessment and biodiversity documentation of protected areas being carried out by the department.

"The camera trap images showcase the remarkable adaptability of this elusive species, well-suited to thrive in the challenging high altitude environment of Kishtwar national park, which is renowned for its diverse array of flora and fauna, including several rare and endangered species," he said.

The park encompasses breathtaking alpine meadows, snow-capped peaks, and lush green forests, serving as a vital ecological corridor for many wildlife species.

Expressing his happiness over the sighting of the snow leopards, J&K Chief wildlife warden Suresh Kumar Gupta appreciated the efforts of the research team led by Regional Wildlife Warden Kumar M K and Wildlife Ranger, Chenab Division Kishtwar, Majid Bashir Mintoo.

"The successful camera trap sighting of the snow leopards is an affirmation of the effectiveness of the park's conservation strategies, which encompasses habitat protection, anti-poaching initiatives, community engagement, and scientific research," he said.

The chief wildlife warden said these combined efforts

No headway in constituting shrine board for famed Bawe Wali Mata temple

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The process of constituting the shrine board for Jammu's Bawe Wali Mata temple has been moving at a snail's pace as no headway was seen after a fresh process was initiated by the divisional administration in March this year.

Officials told the news agency that the demand was "old but serious".

An official said the talks to constitute a new board for the management of pilgrimage were started in 2016 after several organizations protested in demand for a proper board for professional management and development of an ancient site situated on a hillock at the bank of Tawi River in Jammu.

The government is contemplating constituting a shrine board for the management and development of the revered foot shrine of Bawe Wali Mata, he said, adding that the divisional administration also recommended handling over the affairs of the temple to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in 2007 till a proper board was not constituted.

However, more than five years have passed but no concrete steps are seen in this direction. Even the divisional administration shot fresh letters dated March 4, 2023, to Director Tourism and Deputy Commissioner Jammu for their comments on the constitution of the shrine board.

As per the letter, the government asked the tourism department and district administration to share their comments. "Deputy Commissioner Jammu and Director Tourism Jammu in their response stated that setting up of the shrine board for Bawe Wali Mata temple at Bahu Fort shall be in the interest of better management of the affairs of the temple and adjoining properties and it will also enhance the overall development of the temple and the historic fort," another official said, adding that there is no fresh development regarding the constitution of the shrine board for the temple despite DC and Director Tourism recommending the same.

have created a conducive environment for the snow leopard population to flourish within the park's boundaries and adjoining areas.

"The snow leopard holds immense ecological significance, acting as a keystone species in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem," he said.

By conserving this apex predator, he said Kishtwar national park also safeguards the diverse range of wildlife that co-exist within its boundaries, including the Himalayan Ibex, Musk Deer, and numerous avian species.

"This sighting of the snow leopard in the Renai area reinforces the importance of protected areas in safeguarding endangered species and underscores the need for collaborative initiatives involving local communities, governments and conservation organizations," he said. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra Singh...

(I/C Science & Technology; Minister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, this is for the first time a joint meeting of heads all S&T and academic institutions is being held here, the proceedings of which would be conducted by Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India.

It was also informed that this meeting will be attended by Vice Chancellors of different universities viz. Cluster University of Jammu (CUJ), Jammu University (JU), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Baba Gulshan Shah Badshah University (BGSBU); Central University of Jammu (CUJ); Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). Further, Directors/Principals of different central & state institutes of national importance will also join the meeting. These institutes include CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Indian Institute of Management, Jammu (IIMJ), Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu (IIT), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu and Principal [Government Medical College, Jammu (GMC).

In the meeting, Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor would give a road map for all the institutions to operate in synergy/collaboration to share research, infrastructures/facilities for a better outcome. Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR would also give insight for fostering a vibrant connect among these institutions.

India slams UN...

host its meetings in any part of the country. In his statement, Fernand de Varennes alleged that holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir while "massive human rights violations are ongoing is lending support to attempts by India to normalise the brutal and repressive denial of democratic and other rights of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities".

Slamming the statement, India's permanent mission in Geneva tweeted, "We @IndiaUN Geneva strongly reject the statement issued by SR on minority issues @fernandev and the baseless and unwarranted allegations in it. As G20 president, it's India's prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country."

"We are aghast that @fernandev has acted irresponsibly to politicize this issue, misused his position as SR to publicize on social media his presumptive and prejudiced conclusions in a gross violation of the Code of Conduct for SRs," the Indian mission said.

The UN Special Rapporteur also alleged that the government is "seeking to normalise what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international 'seal of approval', despite what Volker Turk, the UN high commissioner for human rights, told the UN Human Rights Council a few weeks ago was a worrying human rights situation in the Kashmir region". (Agencies)

Shiv Sena demands ban on "The Kerala Story" in J&K



JAMMU, MAY 16: Shivsena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)

party state office today, state chief Manish Sahni said that there was a clash between student groups in Jammu over the film, half a dozen students were injured and 10 students were expelled from the hostel for two months. He said that films are a means of entertainment but when films work to spoil mutual brotherhood and beautification, those films should not be allowed to be screened. Sahni said that when hate speech comes under the category of crime, then legal action should be taken against those films which are working to make a dent in mutual brotherhood. Sahni said that the BBC documentary on Gujarat was banned by the BJP, but like "The Kashmir File" the BJP-ruled state is trying to take political advantage of this film by making it tax-free.

DDC Member Inaugurates Black topping of Road worth Rs 2 Crores

JAMMU, MAY 16: DDC Member Bishnah Sh Dharminder Kumar today along with BDC Chairman Bishnah Surjet Kumar, Naib Sarpanch Ranjit Singh (Naughty) and Panch Kamal Dass Inaugurated the Blacktopping of road worth Rs 2 Crores at Village Chorli (Bulande de Kothe, Chorli, Bishnah).



Sarpanch, Naib Sarpanch, Panches and Public of Panchayat.

The estimate include Black Topping of road, Toe Wall with Filling of Road, DDC Member Appreciated work of PWD Department and Congratulated

Valvoline flags off 'Happiness Truck 4.0' Initiative, aims to Empower and Educate Mechanics

JAMMU, MAY 16: Valvoline Cummins Private Limited ("Valvoline Cummins"), the Original Engine Oil maker and a leading global lubricant manufacturer in association with Motor India, flagged off its 4th edition of 'Happiness Truck' an initiative which began its all-India tour for next 30-35 days across the length of the country. Kashmir to Kanyakumari, spreading happiness among mechanics, channel partners, fleet owners and drivers along the way. The 'Happiness Truck' was flagged off from Fruit Mandi, Srinagar with full celebration. The objective of Happiness Truck is to reach out and connect with mechanics, Fleet owners, and other service providers and involve them by empowering and educating them on the latest technologies. Besides this,

at every pit stop there will be an engagement program and light entertainment along with educational sessions. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sandeep Kalia, Managing Director, Valvoline said "At Valvoline, we believe in appreciating and empowering all our mechanic partners & engaging our fleet operators. The 'Happiness Truck' also follows the same philosophy of empowering and spreading happiness wherever it goes. Valvoline has been part of this initiative for 2 years now through which we have been able to connect with mechanics, service providers, and fleet owners and empower them with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed in the industry and has proved to be very successful in the past, and this year, we are committed to making it even more successful." "Mechanics have always played a

No dearth of talent in Jammu region, students breaking records in academics, sports: Kavinder

PROPER COUNSELING, GUIDANCE CAN CHANGE WORLD OF YOUTHS IN J&K



JAMMU, MAY 16: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday said there is no dearth of talent among youths in Jammu region and if they will be given proper counseling and guidance, sky is the limit for them. The BJP stalwart said this after felicitating

Muskan Gupta, daughter of Sham Gupta and Priya Gupta, who got 92 percent marks in 12th class CBSE exam. Kavinder Gupta along with Ankush Gupta Incharge Rashtriya Mahasampark Abhiyan and Kulbir Charak of BJP's Sanskriti and Cultural Cell visited Muskan's residence and felicitated her for achieving a brilliant result. Kavinder while congratulating the parents of Muskan, said that youths in Jammu and Kashmir have been excelling both in academics as well as sports showing the world that there is no lack of talent in J&K. He said that what was missing earlier was the will power of successive dispensations which seldom provided required edifice to the youths to show their skills and excel in studies and sports. Kavinder said that PM Narendra Modi's focused attention after the year 2014 has brought in needed changes in the region and today there is no dearth of infrastructure whether it is the field of sports or educational institutions as lately Jammu region has transformed into an education hub. He said that others should take cue from the success of Muskan and toe her line to ensure more such occasions for the UT to feel proud and elated. The former Deputy Chief Minister said that BJP shall go and felicitate all the sons and daughters of the soil who have achieved milestones in 10th and 12th exams, and also those who had given phenomenal performance in sports in national and international arenas to encourage others to make a mark in the field of education and sports.

Lecture Series initiated on "Indian Ethos and Human Values" at TBS, JU

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: The Business School, University of Jammu initiated a lecture Series on "Indian Ethos and Human Values", which is in line with the New Education Policy. The first lecture in the series on "The Timeless Wisdom of GITA" was delivered by Dr Arvind Jasrotia, Professor of Law and Registrar, University of Jammu. The event commenced with the formal welcome address by Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director The Business School. He apprised the audience about the event and the relevance of the theme in the present context of the Management Education.



The resource person highlighted the importance of Upanishads, GITA and Brahmasutra in creating philosophical ideology that marks the foundation for human values. He further emphasized that GITA has been studied and praised for centuries for its clarity, insight and wealth of spiritual knowledge that forms the guidebook for living a meaningful and joyful life. The spiritual journey from ignorance to knowledge enlightens the path of human beings to create a difference in society. The speaker related the teachings of GITA to Management education by bringing the old truths into a new context. The speaker explained that

Indian ethos and values guide human beings in living a life with truthfulness, purity, compassion, forgiveness, self-satisfaction, simplicity, equality and control. Prof. Alka Sharma delivered concluding remarks and formal vote of thanks, where she highlighted the role of spiritual quotient in the modern day workplace. While, Prof. Sameer Gupta presented a floral token of appreciation along with memento to the resource person. The thrilled audiences raised many queries and were really impressed to know about the wisdom of GITA. The session was attended by faculty members, research scholars and students of The Business School. The Session was coordinated by Dr. Saloni Devi and Dr. Sheleka Gupta who are also the coordinators for the lecture series.

Rozgar Melas providing succor to youths across India: Langeh

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Neelam Langeh, President BJP SC Morcha, J&K and former MLA said that the Rozgar Melas have been providing succor to the educated unemployed youths as hundreds of jobs have been offered to the younger lot through this initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi. The senior BJP leader said that the Rozgar Melas are providing the much needed platform to the job aspiring youths to avail the opportunity and get the jobs of their choices with little effort. He said that unlike in the past, when the aspirants have to run from pillars to posts for the jobs, the Prime Minister has made things easier for the people as under one roof many options are available and there is guarantee to have a secure future for those visiting these



job fairs. He said that Rozgar Mela in Jammu is testimony to the fact that government is committed to ensure bright future of the youths especially in the UT. Neelam Langeh said that people should avail this extraordinary opportunity to get maximum out of it. He said that the 'Rozgar Mela' is

a step towards fulfillment of the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accord highest priority to employment generation. "The new recruits selected from across the country, will join various positions/posts under Government of India like Train Manager, Station Master, Senior Commercial-cum-Ticket Clerk, Inspector, Sub Inspector, Constable, Stenographer, Junior Accountant, Postal Assistant, Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant, Senior Draughtsman, JE/Supervisor, Assistant Professor, Teacher, Librarian, Nurse, Probationary Officers, PA, MTS, etc", Langeh said, adding that the Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development.

AUM organised free ayurvedic medical camp at Devi Pindi Gau Shala



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Ayurved Uthtan Mandal an organization devoted for promotion of Ayurved in collaboration with Deva

pindi gou shala and Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital jammu organised a Free Ayurvedic Medical camp at village Puniya which happened to be the base camp of Devi Pindi yatra. Mahant tara das ji Maharaj inaugurated the camp. While speaking on the occasion Mahant ji appreciated the mission of Ayurved utthan Mandal which devoted itself for the

only goal i.e. promotion of ayurved and making it popular among the masses in India as well as abroad. The AUM has its branches all over India. More than 150 persons were benefitted by the camp. Free ayurvedic medicines were distributed among the ailing masses. Dr. Rajnish Chander Sharma President AUM and Dr. taran Singh General secretary AUM gave their services on the occasion along with Mr. davinder bakshi, Mr. satish Sharma President, Devi Pindi Gau Shala presented vote of thanks and presented his gratitude towards the Medical superintendent Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu.

MC Kishtwar seizes 300 kg Polythene below 120 Micron

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 16: In a major effort to combat plastic pollution, the team of Municipal Council Kishtwar and District Pollution Control Board conducted a rigorous crackdown on shops violating plastic usage regulations. During the operation conducted under the guidance of EO Municipal Council Kishtwar Ninan Sen and District Officer Pollution Control Board Mukesh Singh Bali, a staggering 300 kg of polythene below 120 micron was seized by team from

Violators. With an unwavering commitment to environmental conservation, the authorities have taken decisive action against the usage of plastic materials that do not adhere to government guidelines. The crackdown serves as a stern warning to shopkeepers regarding the consequences of non-compliance with plastic usage regulations. The EO stressed the importance of adhering to the guidelines set forth by the government. He emphasized that the excessive use of plastic poses a significant threat to the environment and public health. By conducting this operation, the

Municipal Council Kishtwar and District Pollution Control Board Kishtwar have demonstrated their commitment to enforcing regulations and preserving the natural beauty of the region. The seized 300 kg of polythene below 120 micron serves as evidence of the extensive use of non-compliant plastic materials. This crackdown acts as a deterrent to individuals who continue to engage in the illegal use of such materials. The authorities remain steadfast in their mission to eliminate the use of harmful plastics and promote eco-friendly alternatives.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Karnataka polls revive Congress hopes

The comprehensive victory of Congress in Karnataka, second state after Himachal Pradesh where the party managed to form its own government with a full majority, has turned out a huge morale booster for the party ahead of upcoming assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. These days, the party has been exploiting the verdict of Karnataka polls at national level including Jammu and Kashmir to consolidate its position and keep its flock together. Congress can count itself lucky that its self-goals during the campaign got buried under the clamour for change. How the Congress handles its newly gained heft is the real test, especially while stitching an Opposition alliance for the General Election scheduled to be held early next year. Furthermore, the Saffron Party's unsuccessful bid to retain power in Karnataka has insightful lessons for the party ahead of the Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. If corruption and anti-incumbency are the key factors, electoral concoctions such as caste affiliations and religious polarisation can quickly dissipate. Congress leadership must bear in mind that they have just won a battle while its struggle for others has just started. The prospects of harmonious co-existence between astute veteran Siddaramaiah and the high command's loyalist DK Shivakumar look bleak. Party chief Kharge has a job on his hands. It has been quite a difficult one, considering how the infighting in Rajasthan was being allowed to fester. The party does not want to repeat its mistakes in Rajasthan to ensure that its flock remains together. The newly elected MLAs in Karnataka have already passed a one-line resolution authorising party chief Kharge to appoint the legislature party leader, who will be the new chief minister. The job is not easy for Kharge as being considered by experts. Such has been the BJP's dominance of late that any setback it suffers is seen by the opponents as a reversal of fortunes. That's an illusion best ignored when dealing with a party that is relentless and incredibly organised in its pursuits, even to strike hard at the slightest hint of any fissure in the rival camp. What has further encouraged the Congress party is that Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has endorsed West Bengal chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's assertion that her party would support the Congress, wherever it is strong, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP, on the other hand, is definitely contemplating to do something extraordinary to maintain its dominance notwithstanding its winning streak has suffered a severe dent against the backdrop of back-to-back defeats in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. The growing popularity of AAP at national level is another major challenge for the Saffron Party to deal with. The upcoming assembly elections and Lok Sabha polls slated to be held within a span of one year would surely bring some interesting and startling results.

Whisper of 'Brahmin conspiracy' proved fatal for BJP in Karnataka

UNLESS THE CONGRESS PROJECTS ITSELF AS A PARTY IDEOLOGICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE BJP, IT CAN'T CONSOLIDATE ITS SUPPORT BASE AMONG NON-BJP SUPPORTERS.

SABA NAQVI

After the Karnataka reversal, the BJP needs to rethink its electoral strategy of reducing local leaders in Assembly elections to background actors and making Prime Minister Narendra Modi the centrepiece of every state poll campaign. This strategy had not worked in Himachal Pradesh last year, when some local leaders rebelled even as the BJP high command foisted its choices on the state party unit and made the campaign revolve around the PM and national issues.

The BJP lost to the Congress narrowly in terms of vote share in Himachal Pradesh. Now, it has been defeated very decisively by the Congress in Karnataka. But the threat of unhappiness among traditional local leaders and the rebellion by some of them runs through both defeats. The consequences of the Karnataka loss are more serious as it is a cash-rich state that can give the Congress momentum ahead of the Assembly elections later this year. The defeat has also exposed the shortcomings of the 'double engine' slogan that the BJP promotes so vigorously, even as the prime-ministerial persona has been dented, at least for now.

But there's a deeper problem that this high command culture creates in states where the traditional BJP leadership is of an older vintage than what has emerged after Modi's 2014 triumph. A top-down approach means that the equations established on the ground, based on traditional caste linkages and networks — predating the focus on Modi and the strategy of unleashing Hindutva foot soldiers — get unsettled. This is precisely what unfolded in Karnataka. Not only was there deep resentment at what was perceived as the undermining of leaders of the 'old BJP' belonging to the powerful Lingayat community, but it was also spoken about as a 'conspiracy of Brahmins', allegedly led by BL Santosh, the general secretary (organisation) of the BJP — the contact person between the party's national leadership and the RSS — who is from Karnataka.

The whisper of this 'Brahmin



conspiracy' proved fatal for the BJP in a state where all caste groups are conscious of their rights and entitlements. This was all the more damaging as the Congress was playing the social justice card, and Siddaramaiah, its most charismatic mass leader, openly spoke about the humiliation of the Lingayat leaders of the BJP.

Many Lingayats, the traditional caste group on which the BJP had built its Karnataka presence, did switch to the Congress, as did large numbers of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The Congress fielded 46 Lingayat candidates; 37 won. The BJP fielded 69; just 15 won. The last-minute pre-election rejig of reservation quotas by the BJP to offset caste restiveness also backfired. The Congress, conversely, got support from all castes and communities.

The larger question now confronting the BJP is whether a party campaign can and/or should be built around one individual in a country of regional and linguistic diversity. How much appeal can a Prime Minister who is speaking in Hindi actually have in the rural hinterland of Karnataka, where the BJP performed dismally? True, he is the head of government with a pan-India image, but is that really a sensible choice for elections whose outcomes are determined by local concerns?

Three crucial state elections

take place later this year in the Hindi belt, where there are no linguistic barriers between the PM and the people. But there are questions about the state leaders and whether some of them would be allowed a free hand. Take Rajasthan, where there is a full-blown battle within the ruling Congress between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot. The BJP could have a good chance of winning, but things are as complicated for its Rajasthan unit as they are for the Congress. The most popular mass leader in the Rajasthan BJP is former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, but the central leadership is believed to have reservations about her. In March this year, the BJP named Lok Sabha MP CP Joshi as the state unit president; he is not known to have good ties with Raje. So, no one can predict whether it would be a Modi campaign in Rajasthan or one led by a state leader.

In Chhattisgarh, the BJP has no leader to match Congress Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. BJP state unit president Arun Sao recently stated that Modi is the most popular leader in the state, and so, presumably, the PM could drive the campaign. The influence of Raman Singh, three-time BJP Chief Minister (2003 to 2018), is believed to have waned and the RSS and its nominees (such as Arun Sao) are now in the driver's seat with less than six months to

go for the elections. RSS control, increased Hindutva mobilisation and positing the PM's persona now appear to be the formula as opposed to the Vajpayee-era tradition of nurturing strong state leaders.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was one of those state leaders, but is now serving his fourth term (in this term, he returned to power after defections from the Congress). He would be facing anti-incumbency, but, presumably, it's too close to the voting day to replace him. He has evolved a persona of appearing subservient to Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whom he has tried to emulate. There has recently been a high-profile defection from the BJP to the Congress (usually, it's the other way round) and Madhya Pradesh will have a contest.

Post Karnataka outcome, the BJP must realise that it was the intensely local nature of the campaign and strong state leaders that worked for the Congress. A prime-ministerial blitzkrieg could not retrieve the situation.

It's a great irony that a party that once mocked the high command culture of the Congress has created such a mighty one for itself. This can be an advantage in a national campaign, but it can certainly backfire in a state contest.

Is IAF's entire MiG-21 fleet facing 'May Day' call?

ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYA

Yelling 'May Day' thrice is the universally accepted and followed ultimate distress call of an airborne aircraft's pilot-in-command. The recent MiG-21 crash in Rajasthan — in which the pilot ejected but three civilians on the ground were killed — has renewed criticism that the aircraft is a relic of the past and a 'flying coffin', as if henceforth there will be 'May Day' calls for the Indian Air Force's (IAF) entire MiG-21 fleet which still consists of six squadrons of the Bison variant (Military Balance, 2022, published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies).

It is deplorable to use the expression 'flying coffin' as it will demoralise the fliers and associate staff of the operational MiG-21 Bisons. The importance of MiG-21 for the IAF must be understood in the wider perspective rather than jumping to conclusions.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the IAF had 41-plus operational squadrons which virtually constituted its sanctioned strength of 42. There were 21 fighter ground attack and nine multi-role fighter squadrons and one-plus squadron of electronic-counter-measure jet aircraft (Military Balance, 2001-02). The point to note is that 33 out of 41 fighter units were variants of MiG-21, 23, 27 and 29 only.



Thus, when more than 80 per cent of the fighters of an air force are of the same origin, those must be flying the most for training and operations also. Moreover, the understanding and spirit of cooperation that Moscow and Delhi developed over the years was somehow completely missed by the West's monumental politico-diplomatic and geopolitical misjudgment in the 1960s and till the 1971 India-Pakistan war and beyond, up to the end of the 20th century.

Obviously, whereas the West missed the opportunity to woo the South Asian giant, Moscow succeeded in receiving Delhi's reciprocal support in ample quantity and qual-

ity despite the then Soviet Union's 1989 retreat from Afghanistan.

Regrettably, what the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had successfully done pertaining to India's defence, diplomacy and development, none of her successors could sustain it the way it should have been done.

The need for fresh ideas to progress with the fast-changing and unfolding global power politics (with the rise and fall of several established nations) by changing one's approach to the IAF was missed by New Delhi.

Putting all eggs in one basket did not good to the IAF's capability. The dwindling fighters in operational

squadrons inflicted colossal damage on the Indian airbases, where squadron after squadron ceased operations and professionally trained and competent flight commanders and squadron commanders from squadron leaders and wing commanders upwards were grounded and missed career progression. If there's no machine, there are no men too in the mess, the hangar and on the tarmac. They are redundant at fighter bases.

Indeed, the worst thing that happened to the IAF was that timely replacement of the ageing fleet didn't take place. Several factors played a negative role.

First, there grew a powerful

'import lobby' of various foreign fighter manufacturers of the West. The second was the phenomenal growth of middlemen. The third was a section of the bureaucracy being complacent, with little or no interest in technical matters pertaining to sophisticated aviation; and, finally, one could see an intermittent cold war between the uniformed brass and their civilian counterparts on 'delays' and 'crass procrastination' at the decision-making level.

In the process, the indigenous plan too went wild, with low and slow speed, lacking in a sense of urgency. Chief after chief cried himself hoarse for whereafter to take on the emerging two- or three-front threat, all in vain.

With little progress in the indigenous fighter programme, import too slowed, owing to conflicting and competing foreign bidders in India's military mart. Thus, by 2005-2006, the number of IAF squadrons had shrunk to 38 (29 of which were MiGs of various types, with the variant 21 leading with 15 squadrons).

Interestingly, the original Moscow-maker of MiG-21 had ceased production long back. The onus now is solely on the Bengaluru-based HAL to repair and refurbish the aircraft.

There, however, was no respite in sight for the IAF when it found in 2010 that its operational squadrons had further dwindled to 37 (with 15

being MiG-21 and nine other MiG variants). The end result, understandably, was the endless woes of air warriors. It is blood, sweat, tears and aching hearts.

The number of IAF squadrons now stands at a perilous 31, well short of the sanctioned 42 squadrons — with six being MiG-21 Bisons (Military Balance, 2022).

Thus, the reality today is too harsh to be ignored and too demanding for a two- or three-front threat perception, notwithstanding the brave utterances of distraught senior air commanders. They do know in their hearts what they are dealing with.

All the more so, when shrill voices of television commentators instantly come up with a readymade solution for the 'obsolete flying coffin' through off-the-shelf import of western fighters.

India got caught in a web of imports, indigenisation and irreparable loss of flying machines and the consequential loss of lives of men behind the machines.

Yes, once again, a MiG-21 has crashed; but that doesn't make it a 'flying coffin' — after having flown with the fleet for more than 60 years.

Which major country like India would dare to use a fighter for so long? Blame the systemic failure and inherent fault line of competing rivals' eagerness to have a piece of India's fighter pie.

Sara Ali Khan seen leaving for Cannes at Mumbai airport, asks paparazzi 'pata chal gaya main kaha jaa rahi hoon?'

After launching the trailer for Zara Hatke Zara Bachke with Vicky Kaushal on Monday, Sara Ali Khan headed out of Mumbai. The actor was spotted at the Mumbai airport leaving in the night. As she chatted with the photographers on her way, they asked her about Cannes. She teased them that they already knew where she's headed. Sara is making her Cannes debut this year. A paparazzo account had posted a video of Sara arriving at the airport and getting ready to leave. She posed for a few selfies with fans. Sara was wearing a leather coat with jeans and blue heels. She also carried a small black crossbody bag. As she walked towards the entrance, she spoke with a few paparazzi about the Zara Hatke

Zara Bachke trailer. A photographer told her that they wanted a namaste video from her once she was in Cannes. To which she replied, "Pata chal gaya main kaha jaa rahi hoon (You guys found out where I'm going)". In the comments section of the video, one fan shared, "Can't wait to see her #cannes look." Another fan said, "You'll kill it as always #cannes." Others complimented her on her leather coat and her high blue heels. There are several actors headed to Cannes Film Festival this week. Besides Sara, actors like Anushka Sharma, Manushi Chhillar, Esha Gupta and Mrunal Thakur are also making their debuts on the red carpet this year.



MUGHAL-E-AZAM TO MANHATTAN : FERAZ ABBAS KHAN ON TAKING GRAND MUSICAL TO THE US

For theatre director Feroz Abbas Khan, taking the grand 'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical' to the land of Broadway, the US, has been the biggest challenge of his career. One of the grandest Indian musicals, on its maiden American tour, will be showing at the heart of Broadway theatre at New York's legendary Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, presenting a unique challenge to Khan - "showcasing our best alongside the best in the world".

"India's cinematic and dramatic traditions, from where 'Mughal-E-Azam' emerged, have always had matchless grandeur, musical and artistic depth. Not to mention a unique vocabulary. This production celebrates all of this and also India's syncretic culture, and the beauty of its arts, crafts, and architecture while retelling a majestic love story with enormous universal appeal.

"We are excited to showcase our best alongside the best in the world. We are well aware of the expectations and the comparisons that may be made. This is perhaps the biggest challenge of my career, but I am looking forward to it," Khan told PTI in an interview.

The musical, based on K Asif's 1960 film, has held more than 200 shows across six countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, and Qatar since its premiere in October 2016. The production has continuously adopted the changing technologies and tastes in music and design, however, its soul remains intact as Khan believes "classics have to be handled with care and respect". "So with 'Mughal E Azam- The Musical', the attempt has been to keep the core of the story intact and use the technology unobtrusively and only in the service of storytelling. As for the production, it has only grown better over the years," he said. Among the updates, the director said, celebrity fashion designer Manish Malhotra has reimaged the costumes and they are more vibrant and stunning than ever before.

SHAH RUKH KHAN REVEALS 'MANNAT' WAS GAURI KHAN'S FIRST PROJECT AS INTERIOR DESIGNER

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Monday said 'Mannat', his landmark sea-facing bungalow in suburban Bandra here, was his wife Gauri Khan's first project as an interior designer. The 'Pathaan' star said before he and Gauri Khan bought 'Mannat', they used to live at his director friend's house which was next to Taj Lands End, the five-star hotel. When the couple, now married for over 30 years, gathered some money, Shah Rukh Khan said they decided to buy a house, which went on to become 'Mannat'.

"We managed to buy (Mannat). But, then we didn't have the money to furnish it. We called one designer, and the lunch that he served us was telling us how he would design this house. It was



way more than the salary I used to earn in a month. So, we thought now that 'We have bought it, how do we do this

house?' "Then I said, 'Gauri, you have artistic talent. Why don't you become the

designer of the house?' 'Mannat' started like that. The money that we earned over the years... We kept on buying small things. Once we had little money, we bought leather fur sofas... And all the small things we used to buy," Shah Rukh Khan told reporters here.

The Bollywood star was speaking at the launch event of Gauri Khan's coffee table book 'My Life in Design'.

Gauri Khan said the book follows her journey as an interior designer and would come handy for any budding decorator.

"I have compiled everything for people to go through design. When I chose this profession, designing homes, bringing them to life... (It) was extremely satisfying and exciting.

At 81, Martha Stewart creates history as oldest Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue cover star

Martha Stewart has created history by being among the cover models for the 2023 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue. At 81, she has now become the oldest cover model in the publication's history.

In one of the four covers, the 81 year-old looked graceful as she flashed a smile and further revealed that she wore nine different swimsuits during the eight-hour photo shoot. "When we said this year was going to be epic, we meant it," Sports Illustrated said on its official Twitter handle.

"Thrilled to be on cover of the @SI_Swimsuit issue! I hope this cover inspires you to challenge yourself to try new things. Pick up on newsstands May 18th!" the 81 year-old tweeted with the image of her cover.

The lifestyle icon said, "When I heard that I was going to be on the cover of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit, I thought, Oh, that's pretty good, I'm going to be the oldest person I think ever on a cover of Sports Illustrated. And I don't think about age very much, but I thought that this is kind of historic." She further revealed how she shot for the cover at the Dominic Republic and went to pilates three times a week to prepare for the shoot. Speaking to The New York Times about the experience, she said, "All these people were prodding me and talking about the girls. I have never called my breasts 'the girls' in my life. I hate stuff like that... I had to make sure I was ready to pose in a bathing suit. It took a bit of vanity but also a bit of confidence.

During lie detector test, Priyanka Chopra confesses she's not watched RRR, 'lies' about Nick Jonas' acting skills

Actor Priyanka Chopra has said that she hasn't watched RRR, helmed by SS Rajamouli. In a new interview, Priyanka also 'lied' when asked if her husband-singer Nick Jonas is a 'decent actor'. The actor also said that Nick was the 'best singer' in the Jonas Brothers group. The group comprises Nick, Kevin Jonas and Joe Jonas.

Priyanka recently took a lie detector test with Vanity Fair where she was asked if Nick Jonas is a 'decent actor'. She said 'yes' but as per the test it was a 'lie'. When asked again she said, "I think he's an excellent actor. I think he's a phenomenal actor. I just keep lying about his acting." Priyanka was also asked if she gave Nick acting lessons and she said 'that day I didn't, maybe if we do it again'. She also added that

she has 'a little bit more experience'. Priyanka and Nick got married in Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace in December 2018. Later, the couple also hosted two receptions in Delhi and Mumbai. In January 2022, the two announced that they welcomed daughter Malti Marie via surrogacy.

When asked if she watched RRR, Priyanka replied she didn't. The actor said, "No, I just didn't get time. I don't watch a lot of movies but I watch a lot of TV shows. I watch Dubai Bling but I won't end up watching Tar." She was asked if she agreed with RRR actor Ram Charan being called 'the Brad Pitt of India' and she said 'yeah definitely'.

Priyanka went on to say that Ram has "immense charisma". She also added that she doesn't know if Brad Pitt is nice but 'Ram is nice'. When asked who was more handsome between Brad and Ram, the actor said that she 'grew up having a crush on Brad Pitt so it's unfair to ask that question'.

When asked to choose between Ram and his RRR co-star Jr NTR, Priyanka said that she 'might have to plead the fifth on this one'. The actor added that both Ram and Jr NTR are 'very loved in my country and I still need to go back often'.



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse's Davit Prabhakar lives in Mumbatta, does't like people saying 'chai tea'

The upcoming Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse introduces Miles Morales to several new Spider-Men from the multiverse. One of them is Spider-Man India and its fantastic! In the brief, nearly 30 seconds teaser, audiences finally hear Davit Prabhakar. Deadpool's Karan Soni is voicing the character in the English version, while cricketer Shubman Gill is voicing Pavitr in the Hindi and Punjabi versions. The clip shows Pavitr's first meeting with Miles and

footage of Pavitr on Twitter and wrote, "This new TV spot of #SpiderManAcrossTheSpiderVerse shows us new footage of Spider-Man India and its fantastic!" When Miles says he too loves 'chai tea', Pavitr is disgusted. He replies, "What did you just say? Chai tea! Chai means tea. You're saying 'tea tea!'" After seeing the clip, fans were immediately invested in the new character. One fan wrote in the comments section

of the post, "'Being Spider-Man is so easy' Awwwww.... He's gonna have a tragic storyline in this film isn't he." Another fan said, "The traffic bit kills me. I love it lol I love this character so much already." Yet another said, "Aunt May becomes Maya aunty." More fans said they wanted to see more of him, while another wanted to continue the joke from the clip, "I'm gonna purposely call it Chai tea cause tea is so funny to me."

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse will be released in India in 10 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam on June 2. The animated sequel is directed by Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson, and written by Oscar winners Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, and David Callaham. The film features the voices of Shameik Moore as Miles and Hailee Steinfeld as Gwen Stacy.

Aishwarya Rajesh says she'd have played Srivalli better than Rashmika Mandanna in Pushpa



Actor Aishwarya Rajesh, who was recently seen in Tamil coming-of-age thriller Farhana, said in a promotional interview that she would've been better as Srivalli than Rashmika Mandanna in Allu Arjun's Pushpa. She said if she was offered the opportunity to play the character of Srivalli, she would've jumped at it.

In Nelson Venkatesan directed Farhana, Aishwarya plays a young mother from an orthodox Muslim family who takes up a job at a call center and how her life changes over a series of calls.

In a promotional interview, Aishwarya spoke about her brief stint in Telugu cinema. Having predominantly worked in Tamil films, she has starred in a lone Telugu film, World Famous Lover, co-starring Vijay Deverakonda. "I like the Telugu industry but I want to do a good Telugu film like a comeback, which will make my family proud because of my roots. I starred in World Famous Lover opposite Vijay Deverakonda but it didn't work out as expected," she was quoted in a report by India Today. She further added that if she had the opportunity to work in a film like Pushpa, she would've suited Rashmika Mandanna's character Srivalli more than her. "In case I were given the opportunity, I would have jumped at it. Rashmika played Srivalli well but I feel and believe I would suit the character better," she said. Aishwarya rose to fame after she worked in the award-winning Tamil film, Kaaka Mutai. Since then, she has worked in several Tamil movies such as Boomika, Driver Jamuna, The Great Indian Kitchen, Soppana Sundari and Run Baby Run among others.

7 superfoods you can eat daily for longevity



Everyone promotes a balanced diet, but having meals with all the nutrients is not possible. One food might be a rich source of fibre or protein, but might be lacking in certain vitamins. Another one could be full of antioxidants, but again might not be a good source of certain minerals needed by your body. That's why there are superfoods, which are beneficial for your body.

HealthShots connected with Dr Shahid Shafi Bhat, Consultant Internal Medicine, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, Moradabad, to know all about superfoods.

What are superfoods?
According to Dr Bhat, superfoods are foods that have a very

high nutritional density. This means that they have the power to give you a substantial amount of nutrients with less calories. They contain a high volume of minerals, vitamins and antioxidants – everything that your body needs. Antioxidants, which are natural molecules found in specific foods, help to neutralise free radicals in our bodies. Free radicals are natural byproducts of energy production that can harm our bodies. Antioxidant molecules decrease or reverse the effects of free radicals that have close links with health problems such as:

- Heart disease

- Cancer
 - Arthritis
 - Stroke
 - Respiratory diseases
 - Immune deficiency
- Superfoods to eat daily
You can add colour to oatmeal with berries or sack on nuts. Here are some of the superfoods you can eat every day!
1. Blueberries
Be it fiber, manganese, vitamin K or antioxidants, it's all there in blueberries. They may lower blood pressure and prevent heart disease.
 2. Goji berries
These are a small red berries high in vitamins C and E, along with different types of flavonoids. Want to have

healthy liver, eyes, and kidneys? Have this superfood and enjoy its health benefits.

3. Leafy greens
If you want to dig into leafy green superfoods, go for kale,

7. Seeds
Sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, chia seeds or flaxseeds are some healthy options that you can have as snacks. Eating seeds has been linked to lower rates of

HEALTHY EATING IS ALL ABOUT PICKING THE RIGHT FOOD. THAT MEANS EAT SUPERFOODS EVERY DAY TO GET MAXIMUM NUTRIENTS.

spinach and collard greens. These foods are rich in vitamins A, C, E, and K, and also contain an abundance of carotenoids, iron, magnesium, potassium, and calcium, says the expert.

4. Salmon
The high omega-3 fatty acid content in salmon and other fatty fish like trout and herring, can reduce cholesterol and decrease the risk of abnormal heartbeats (benefits of eating fish).
5. Nuts
Nuts like walnuts and almonds are a good source of plant protein. They also contain monounsaturated fats, which might help in reducing the risk of heart disease.
6. Cruciferous vegetables
These include vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, kale and turnips. Cruciferous vegetables are an excellent source of fiber and contain phytochemicals like indoles, nitriles and thiocyanates.

cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure as well as cholesterol.

Who should avoid eating superfoods daily?
The expert says that extra care should be taken while eating superfoods if people have a chronic disease.

- People with kidney disease should take leafy vegetables with caution, as it can dangerously increase potassium in them and even lead to cardiac arrest.
- Got liver disease? Then don't take animal protein, including fish in excess amount. It can cause hepatic encephalopathy, which is the loss of brain function when a liver that's damaged doesn't remove toxins from your blood.
- Oxalate containing foods like nuts should be avoided if you have kidney stones. So, don't have them.

Traces of ancient viruses in DNA of humans could help fight cancer: Study



A study has found that remnants of million-year-old viruses passed down in humans, could have been hiding inside DNA, and might help the body fight cancer. Scientists believe that the findings could be useful to treat more people to survive lung cancer.

A group of scientists were studying lung cancer and analysing why some patients respond better than others to immunotherapy.

Lung cancer is a type of cancer which begins in the lungs and spreads to other organs. It is common cancer, caused by harmful cells in lungs and grows unchecked.

While the scientists at the Francis Crick Institute were studying lung cancer and related immunotherapy, they found that the dormant remnants become active when cancerous cells go out of control and then help the immune system target and attack the tumour.

Julian Downward, who is the associate research director and head of the oncogene biology laboratory at the institute, said: "This work opens up a number of new opportunities for improving patient responses to immunotherapy, a crucial step in helping more people survive lung cancer."

The study titled "Antibodies against endogenous retroviruses promote lung cancer immunotherapy" was published in the journal Nature this week.

A part of the study mentioned that anti-tumour antibodies are frequently induced in multiple cancer types, targeting both internal and tumour cell-surface antigens.

And these tumour-associated antigens (TAAs) include non-mutated differentiation antigens and shared tumour antigens, as well as antigens derived from endogenous retroviruses (ERVs)

NATIONAL PROTEIN DAY: EVERYDAY TIPS FOR HEALTHY PROTEIN CONSUMPTION

WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSUME ENOUGH PROTEIN, IT IS ALSO CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THAT THE SOURCES OF PROTEIN ARE HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS. CHECK OUT SOME EXPERT APPROVED TIPS FOR HEALTHY PROTEIN CONSUMPTION.

Protein is an essential macronutrient that plays a vital role in building and repairing tissues, regulating hormones, and supporting a healthy immune system. While it is important to consume enough protein, it is also crucial to ensure that the sources of protein are healthy and nutritious. Despite its many benefits, many people struggle to consume enough protein in their diet, which can lead to a host of health problems.

That's why National Protein Day is an excellent opportunity to focus on incorporating more high-quality protein into your daily routine. Whether you're a vegetarian, vegan, or meat-eater, there are plenty of delicious and healthy protein-rich foods to choose from. (Also read: Protein power: Check out these best sources of protein for a morning boost)

On National Protein Day,

Soumava Sengupta, CEO, BUILD, shared some tips with HT Lifestyle for healthy protein consumption.

1. Choose lean protein sources: Lean protein sources such as chicken, turkey, fish, and legumes are excellent options for healthy protein consumption. They are low in saturated fat and provide important nutrients like iron, zinc, and vitamin B12.
2. Incorporate plant-based proteins: Plant-based proteins such as tofu, tempeh, nuts, and seeds are great sources of protein for vegetarians and vegans. They are also typically high in fibre and other important nutrients.
3. Don't forget about eggs: Eggs are an excellent source of protein, as well as vitamin D, vitamin B12, and choline.
5. Balance your meals: When planning meals, aim to include a source of protein, carbohydrates, and healthy fats. This will not



4. Use protein powder wisely: Protein powder/ whey proteins can be a convenient way to add protein to your diet, but it is important to choose a high-quality, minimally processed brand. Additionally, be mindful of added sugars and other additives in protein powders.
5. Balance your meals: When planning meals, aim to include a source of protein, carbohydrates, and healthy fats. This will not

only help ensure that you are getting enough protein but also help keep you feeling full and satisfied.

6. Snack smart: Snacks can be a great opportunity to sneak in some extra protein. Some healthy protein-packed snack options include Greek yogurt, string cheese, and hummus with veggies.
7. Watch your portions: While protein is important, it is also

important not to overdo it. Aim for a portion size of about 3-4 ounces of lean protein per meal.

8. Stay hydrated: Drinking enough water is important for overall health, including proper digestion and absorption of nutrients like protein. Aim to drink at least 8 cups of water per day.

Incorporating healthy protein sources into your diet is essential for overall health and wellness. By choosing lean protein sources, incorporating plant-based proteins, and balancing your meals, you can ensure that you are getting enough protein to support your body's needs.

Additionally, snacking smart and watching your portions can help you avoid overdoing it on protein. With these everyday tips for healthy protein consumption, you can feel confident that you are providing your body with the nutrients it needs to thrive.

5 Lifestyle Changes One Should Make To Stay Fit



Staying fit and healthy has become an important part of almost everyone's life. While many people follow diets to keep themselves fit, some people opt for physical exercises like hitting the gym, doing yoga and others. Though staying fit might turn out to be difficult at times amid the hectic schedule, making some simple lifestyle changes will also help in staying fit and healthy. An Ayurvedic expert Dr Diva Bhavsar Savaliya took to her Instagram recently and suggested some lifestyle changes to make to keep oneself healthy and fit. She wrote while sharing, "Avoid these habits to stay Healthy."

Lifestyle Changes To Stay Healthy
Eating without Hunger/ Appetite - Hunger is a sign that your previous meal is digested well. When you eat without appetite, you are over burdening your liver. The best rule you need to follow is to eat only when you are hungry. Eating without hunger can disturb your gut and reduce your metabolism.

Study Finds Exercise More Effective Than Medication to Manage Mental Health

Exercise plays a key role in our health, and studies have shown that being active can boost your memory, lower your risk of future hospitalization, and even lower your risk of cancer. Now, there's evidence suggesting that exercise may be more effective than medication at managing mental health disorders like depression and anxiety.

The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, encompassed 97 different analyses over 1,039 trials, involving 128,119 participants, making it the most comprehensive review to date. The researchers found that physical activity significantly improved symptoms of depression, anxiety, and distress.

Specifically, they found that physical activity is 1.5 times more effective than counseling or the leading medications (important note: the study did not indicate what medications were included in the analysis). The results also showed that introducing periods of exercise that were 12 weeks or shorter was the most effective at reducing mental health symptoms, highlighting the speed at which physical activity can make a change.

The largest benefits were seen in



people with depression, HIV and kidney disease, in pregnant and postpartum women, and in healthy individuals. Higher intensity physical activity was associated with greater improvements in symptoms, likewise with shorter bursts of activity versus longer durations.

Physical activity is known to help improve mental health. Yet despite the evidence, it has not been widely adopted as a first-choice treatment, said Ben Singh, M.D., lead researcher, in a press release. "Our review shows that physical activity interventions

can significantly reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety in all clinical populations, with some groups showing even greater signs of improvement."

This study also highlighted the fact that all movement is good movement—that all types of physical activity and exercise were beneficial, including aerobic exercises such as walking, resistance training, Pilates, and yoga.

How does exercise improve mental health?
Among other things, exercise

improves resilience, reduces anxiety and stress, and reduces the perception of pain, which is a major contributor to depressed mood for many, explains Amit Sachdev, M.D., director of the Division of Neuromuscular

Medicine at Michigan State University.

"Any attempt to exercise usually helps with our mental well-being," says Dr. Sachdev. "For those who aren't engaged at all, doing something [active] often refocuses some of their energy. For those seeking pain relief and, by extension, depression relief, they will need to work hard to very hard to get natural endorphins released."

It's important to keep in mind that this study did not look at the actual mechanisms of action of physical activity on mental health, but most scientists agree there are likely multiple factors that contribute to the impact of pa on mental health and well-being, says Carl Marci, M.D., physician, neuroscientist, and author

of Rewired: Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age. "These include direct physiological factors including reduced heart rate from increased vagal tone [or activity of the vagus nerve] and the release of BDNF, [a

Can exercise replace medications for mental health disorders?
The answer is not one size fits all, and no one should stop any medication prior to speaking with a healthcare professional. But for some people, yes, says Dr. Sachdev. "The challenge is, brains are really hard to predict." We have many drug classes

available to medicate mental health, says Dr. Sachdev. "Take anxiety for example. If we had a single nerve transmitter problem leading to all anxiety, then we would need just one drug class." However, brain chem-

istry is not so simple, he notes. "I would include exercise in the routine of every patient with anxiety, but I would not be discouraged if exercise alone left a gap that still needed to be treated."

Dr. Marci believes the consistency of the findings in this study is comparable to any review of medication or psychotherapy interventions. "Keep in mind, all three (meds, therapy, physical activity) likely work on different mechanisms and so the combination can be very complementary."

No treatment or intervention is a perfect solution, so we have to set expectations, says Dr. Marci. "There is a difference between mild to moderate depression and anxiety and major mental illness like schizophrenia or severe bipolar disorder.



Corrupt leaders devoid of right intentions cannot defeat BJP : Anurag Thakur



SHIMLA, MAY 16: Corrupt politicians without leadership qualities, policies, and right intentions will not be able to defeat the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as people want to see Narendra Modi become the prime minister again, Union minister Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.

Thakur was responding to West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's remarks that her party will support the

Congress where it is strong in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

It was the first time that Banerjee cleared the air on TMC's stand on a possible strategy for opposition unity in the electoral battle ahead.

Interacting with media persons on the sidelines of an event here, Thakur, the Information and Broadcasting and Youth and Sports Minister, ridiculed the talks of opposition parties coming together to defeat the BJP, saying such

"Thugbandhans" have always failed. Even if the opposition leaders come on the same platform, they will play "musical chairs" with everyone eyeing the PM post, he said.

Asserting that the BJP would again win over 300 seats in the next general elections, he said Modi has been working tirelessly for the people of the country for the last 22 years.

The PM made a commitment to give 10 lakh jobs in the government sector in one year and today, after the fifth edition of issuing appointment letters to 71,000 people, including 381 people in Himachal, the total number of beneficiaries has increased to about 3.60 lakh, Thakur said.

On the political crisis in Pakistan, Thakur said, we do not want our neighbour to be a failed state and the power should not go into the wrong hands. "Whoever is in power in Pakistan should not aid and encourage terrorism in India," he said.

The conditions are turning from bad to worse in Pakistan and it is repaying what it has sown, he said, adding that relations between the two nations would improve only if Pakistan vows to 'crush' terrorism.

Union for Canada's second biggest airline says pilots issue 72-hour strike notice



CALGARY (CANADA), MAY 16: The union for Canada's second-biggest airline has issued a 72-hour strike notice to WestJet, and they warn the airline could be shut down before the weekend.

The Air Line Pilots Association said in a statement late Monday that pilots plan to begin lawful job action early Friday, which "could include grounding all aircraft and effectively shutting down operations."

The Calgary, Alberta-based airline flies to more than 110 destinations including the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe and

Asia. It has a fleet of more than 180 aircraft.

The WestJet Group responded with a lockout notice, saying a work stoppage could occur as early as Friday at 3 a.m. MDT (0900 GMT).

"The decision to issue a lockout notice, in response to the actions taken by the union today, was not one that was made lightly, and we sincerely regret the inconvenience and uncertainty this continues to cause for our guests," WestJet Group CEO Alexis von Hoenbroech said in a statement.

The statement noted the lockout

notice doesn't mean a work stoppage will occur, and that both parties remain at the bargaining table. But it said the company would "begin preparations to operate a reduced schedule" and warned it would be "a significant reduction from WestJet and Swoop's current networks."

WestJet said that travellers impacted by flight delays or cancellations will be refunded or reaccommodated as applicable.

The union represents about 1,600 flight crew at WestJet and subsidiary Swoop, and had warned Friday that a walkout could come as early as this week as talks dragged on.

The workers' issues revolve around job protection, pay and scheduling. WestJet said its pilots are among the best paid in Canada, but that a contract on par with those recently secured by some US pilot groups would be financially unworkable and put the company's future at risk.

The union said in its statement that it could have filed the strike notice over the weekend, but in a bid to keep the airline operating, it agreed to extend negotiations.

'Will not backstab, blackmail', says DK Shivakumar before flying to Delhi

BENGALURU, MAY 16: Congress Karnataka president DK Shivakumar, one of the frontrunners for the post of Chief Minister of the southern State on Tuesday made it clear that he would not resort to "backstabbing or blackmail" regardless of the party's decision. In an exclusive interview with ANI, DK Shivakumar said, "If the party wants to give me the responsibility, ours is a united house, our number is 135. I don't want to divide anyone here. Whether they like me or not, I am a responsible man. I will not backstab and I will not blackmail."

The Congress won 135 seats in the recently held election to the 224-member Karnataka assembly. Shivakumar earlier today arrived at the Bengaluru airport ahead of his departure for Delhi amid ongoing talks in the Congress party for the next Karnataka CM. The Karnataka Congress president will meet the party's high command ahead of the party's announcement on the post. "The Party is my god... We have built this party, I am a part of it and I am not alone in this," he said before his departure from Bengaluru.

"We have built this party (Congress), we have built this house. I am a part of it. A mother will give everything to her child," he said. Asked about his expectations as the state party president, Shivakumar said, "I don't want to comment on what has happened earlier. How it happened. That is a closed chapter we formed the government we lost the government, we lost a coalition government. Who is responsible for the victory and loss there is no use of talking about it now. Let us not sell this story... let us sell the future." Congress leader Siddaramaiah, the other frontrunner for the chief minister's post, arrived in the national capital on Monday. Shivakumar, who celebrated his birthday yesterday had stayed behind in Bengaluru citing a stomach infection. Both he and Siddaramaiah had been called to Delhi by the top leadership of the AICC for a discussion. The Congress won 135 seats in the 224-member assembly.

The party's central observers for Karnataka had yesterday briefed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on the views of the newly elected MLAs. According to party

sources, Kharge will consult Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra before announcing a final decision.

"The name of the next Karnataka CM will be announced in the coming 24 hours," they said.

The Congress legislative party had met late evening on Sunday in Bengaluru and passed a one-line resolution empowering Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge to pick the head of the legislative party.

On Monday, Shivakumar said that all the MLAs are together and the party's high command will take the call on the chief minister. Speaking to ANI, Shivakumar said, "The party high command will take a call. I don't want to comment or speak anything more. Whatever I had to say, I have spoken already. I do not want MLAs (support)... that is not important to me. Ours is a Congress block. 135 is the number and I am one of its members. We all are one and will work together." Meanwhile, Congress veteran Siddaramaiah met with the top leadership of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) at Delhi's Lodhi Hotel late on Monday night.

I-T dept detects Rs 40 cr 'unaccounted' income after raids on West Bengal-based business group

NEW DELHI, MAY 16: The income tax department has detected illegal black income of more than Rs 40 crore after it recently raided a West Bengal-based group "controlled" by a person with an active political background, the CBDT said Tuesday. The sleuths also seized cash and jewellery worth Rs 2.73 crore during the searches on the business group which has not been identified.

The taxmen alleged that the group

was "suppressing" its yield and making unaccounted cash sales of edible oils and DORB (de-oiled rice bran).

"Several instances of cash transactions not recorded in regular books of account have been detected during the search operation," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement without specifying when the searches were conducted. The CBDT frames policy for the I-T department.

It said the group is engaged in a vari-

ety of businesses ranging from production and sale of edible rice bran oil, mustard oil, DORB, different types of chemicals and real estate, etc.

A total of 23 premises of the business group apart from its close business associate spread across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal and Guwahati in Assam and surrounding areas were covered, the statement said.

Pak Assembly's move to form committee to file case against Chief Justice

ISLAMABAD, MAY 16: In the latest manifestation of increasing schism in Pakistan, the parliament on Monday passed a resolution to set up a five-member committee to prepare and file cases against Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial in the Supreme Judicial Council for his "misconduct and deviating from oath".

Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Pakistan Peoples Party leader Dr Shazia Sobia tabled the resolution in the National Assembly for the formation of the committee to file references with the Supreme Judicial Council against any judge or judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The lower house unanimously adopted the motion.

The Supreme Judicial Council is the only forum to proceed against any sitting judge.

The move comes as the government has increased pressure on the Supreme Court after a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Bandial on Friday granted bail to former prime minister Imran Khan after he was arrested on charges of corruption.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that the time has come for Parliament to play its constitutional role in this situation.

Asif demanded the formation of a parliamentary committee to probe the judiciary's undue support to Khan as well as sending a reference to the Supreme Judicial Council under Article 209 of the Constitution on the matter. "In the 75-year history of the



country's judiciary, there had been incidents that have had a profound impact on the country, but recently a group in the judiciary started supporting a political group," he said.

"The time has come for Parliament to send a reference of misconduct to the Supreme Judicial Council, under the authority and law given to it by the Constitution, Asif added.

On the attacks on the Corps Commander's house in Lahore, a Rangers post in Karachi, the Army's General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and the PAF Base at Mianwali, he said that protection was being provided to those who desecrate the "memorials of martyrs."

He said that Khan's violent supporters on the direction of their leadership had attacked Jinnah house, which was a shameful act as the building was a national heritage of the country. The development comes as PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif on

Monday demanded the resignation of Chief Justice Bandial and blamed him for the "anarchy" and "crisis" in the country as she joined the ruling coalition's sit-in outside the apex court to protest some of the recent rulings which they said provided blanket relief to Khan.

The resolution was unanimously adopted but it has no legal value unless changes are made in the relevant laws to file a complaint against judges of superior judiciary, according legal experts.

"The current law says that the president should file a reference (complaint) against a sitting judge on the advice of the prime minister, senior lawyer Hamid Khan said, adding that the president should also apply his mind before filing the complaint. The resolution shows the increasing divide between the judiciary and parliament amidst the deepening political unrest and economic meltdown.

Jalandhar bypoll: Mann says oppn ran negative campaign AAP talked about development

CHANDIGARH, MAY 16: After his party won the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday alleged that opposition parties ran a negative campaign but AAP put up a positive agenda and sought votes on the basis of development.

Mann said AAP talked about farmers and labourers, giving 300 units per month free electricity to people opening 'mohalla clinics', building schools and roads, ensuring congenial atmosphere for industry, whereas the opposition "sought votes in the name of caste, religion".

"We sought votes on the basis of development and work we have done," Mann said.

He said the rival parties ran a "negative campaign" and frequently trained guns on the chief minister.

"But I did not respond to their attacks. I left that to people and people of Jalandhar gave the reply. I am happy at the reply people have given them (in Jalandhar)," he said.

He said before the bypoll, opposition parties said it was going to be a "semi-



final" ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections. After the results, they can be heard saying the ruling parties generally win bypolls, he said. Mann was addressing a gathering in Patiala, where he launched a modern bus terminal spread over eight acres and built at a cost of nearly Rs 61 crore.

The chief minister said the bus terminal will have 45 counters and shops, and it will handle 1,500 buses, while ramps have also been built for the physically challenged. Speaking about the bypoll, Mann said the people of Jalandhar have 'shut many mouths'.

"I keep saying that people are supreme, but they

(rivals) don't realise. They have a problem in digesting how common people are now occupying seats of power where they used to be once," he said.

On Saturday, the AAP breached the Congress stronghold over Jalandhar and won the seat by a margin of 58,691 votes.

The chief minister also targeted the BJP. "We have won by nearly 60,000 margin. Now, BJP people are saying we have got 35 per cent vote share and 60 per cent are against us. I want to tell them that in 2014, when they claimed there was a 'Modi wave' (in the country), they got 31 per cent votes (vote share). That

means 70 percent voted against them. Rather than accepting defeat in Jalandhar after having lost security deposit, they are coming up with such things," he said.

He said some people were saying that had erstwhile allies SAD and BJP been together they would have won Jalandhar seat.

"I am saying let all of them join hands, even then they will lose," said Mann.

"There is no such thing as vote bank, people only vote on the basis of work and development," he said.

He also attacked SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, Akali leader Birkam Singh Majithia, Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa, BJP leader Amarinder Singh, asking, "Will these leaders teach us how to run Punjab and how to solve people's problems?"

"They studied in expensive schools, travelled in expensive cars and then wearing dark goggles they come to give sermons," said Mann.

Capt Amarinder says Bhagwant Mann does not have experience. I told him people are fed up with experienced leaders like him," he said.

RTE Act: HC asks Delhi govt CBSE, NHRC to respond to plea seeking common syllabus curriculum across India

NEW DELHI, MAY 16: The Delhi High Court Tuesday sought the response of the Delhi government, CBSE and NHRC on a petition challenging certain provisions of the Right to Education Act, 2009 for being "arbitrary, discriminatory and violative of common syllabus and curriculum for students of classes 1 to 8 across the country, including madrasas and vedic pathshalas.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad issued notices to the newly impleaded parties - Delhi government, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Besides, the bench also issued notices to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations on the petition and asked the parties to file their replies. The court listed the matter for further hearing on August 16.

The high court had earlier issued notices to the Union ministries of Education, Law and Justice and Home

Affairs on the petition and asked them to respond.

The PIL said existence of sections 14(4) and 1(5) of the RTE Act and the absence of a common curriculum in mother tongue leads to the fostering and perpetuation of ignorance and delays the attainment of fundamental duties. Petitioner advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay said it is the duty of the Union to effectuate a common education system but it has failed in the fulfilment of this necessary obligation as it has simply adopted the pre-existing National Curriculum Framework (NCF) of 2005 which is very old. The plea challenged the provisions under the RTE Act which exclude madrasas, vedic pathshalas and educational institutions imparting religious knowledge from its ambit.

"The injury caused to children is extremely large because rather than implementing a common education system for all the children upto 14 years... the Centre inserted sections 14(4) and 1(5) to deprive educational excellence to madrasas, vedic pathshalas and educational institutions imparting religious instruction.

"The petitioner submits that sections

14(4) and 1(5) not only offend Articles 14, 15, 16, 21, 21A but also contrary to Articles 38, 39 and 46 and Preamble," the plea said. Section 14(4) of the RTE Act states that subject to the provisions of articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution, the provisions of this Act shall apply to conferment of rights on children to free and compulsory education. Section 1(5) of the Act says nothing contained in this Act shall apply to Madrasas, Vedic Pathshalas and educational institutions primarily imparting religious instruction.

The plea said the prevailing system does not provide equal opportunity to all children as the syllabus and curriculum vary for each strata of the society. "It is necessary to state that the purposive and harmonious construction of Articles 14, 15, 16, 21, 21A with Articles 38, 39, 46 confirms that education is a basic right of every child and the State cannot discriminate against this most important right... Right of a child should not be restricted only to free education, but must be extended to have equal quality education without discrimination on the ground of child's social economic and cultural background.



DC takes On-the-Spot action to address public concerns in Samba Township

CONDUCTS ON-SITE INSPECTION OF ONGOING WORKS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of the Samba market, old Samba city, and adjoining areas to assess the prevalent issues and ensure prompt solutions. The visit aimed to address concerns related to encroachments, cleanliness, street lights, power supply, water availability, and infrastructure development.

During the inspection, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma observed encroachments by shopkeepers in the main market, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and affecting the overall aesthetics of the area. Taking swift action, the DC imposed penalties on shopkeepers found littering in front of their shops, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness.

Another significant issue identified was the inadequate street lighting in certain areas. To enhance security measures, the DC directed the installation of CCTV cameras in shops for surveillance purposes, ensuring a safer environment for residents and businesses alike.

Furthermore, the tour brought attention to the need for addressing hanging power supply lines and loose cables, posing potential hazards to the community. Immediate inspections were conducted, and necessary measures will be taken to rectify the issues, ensuring uninterrupted power supply and minimizing risks. Acknowledging the importance of adequate water supply, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the filtration plant in Samba town, the OHT at Bantalab Chowk, and the water supply scheme at Salmeh. The Jal Shakti department was directed to alert their field staff to ensure consistent water supply to the residents. In addition to these infrastructural concerns, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of community development. The Public Works Department (PWD) was instructed to resume work immediately on the community hall at Bantalab Chowk and initiate beautification projects in the area, uplifting the overall ambience and creating a more welcoming atmosphere. Taking a strong stance against derelict officials, the Deputy Commissioner ordered explanations

from the Tehsil Supply Official and Junior Engineer to hold them accountable for their negligence. Stringent action will be taken to rectify the shortcomings and improve service delivery.

Moreover, Deputy Commissioner Sharma expressed his commitment to maintaining a clean city by advocating for zero littering and implementing door-to-door waste collection systems.

He also emphasized the importance of uninterrupted power and water supply, ensuring 100% service availability to the residents. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals, who shared various issues and demands. The residents appreciated the initiative taken by the DC to personally visit the ground and address their concerns, acknowledging the positive impact it will have on the development and well-being of the district.

International Dengue Day observed at AMT School Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 16: An event was organised at Government AMT School Poonch to mark International Dengue Day.

Speaking at the event, Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Anis Altaf Nabi highlighted that dengue can be prevented by controlling the mosquito population through measures such as removing stagnant water sources, using mosquito nets and wearing protective clothing. He said that such events will continue to be organised in the future to create

more awareness about dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Deputy CMO, Parvaiz Ahmed Khan spoke about the importance of educating the public about the prevention and control of dengue.

International Dengue Day is observed every year on 16 May to raise awareness about the prevention and control of dengue, a mosquito-borne viral disease prevalent in many parts of the world. District Health Officer, Faima Bandy besides teaching staff and students of AMT School were present on the occasion.

Udhampur Administration establishes Industrial facilitation desk

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 16: District Administration Udhampur today established an Industrial facilitation desk here at the District Head Quarter, to facilitate availability of land to industrialists willing to invest/ set up industries in the district.

In this connection, the DC stated that the industries facilitation desk shall collect the data of big chunks/ parcels of feasible state land for establishment of industrial Estates from the Tehsildars and put up compiled data before ACR who is also the (Nodal Officer).

The identified sites should be accessible/ feasible for the purpose as per the instructions received from higher authorities. Besides, the state land and the industrial facilitation Desk shall also get identified private land for the establishment of industrial units in the District.

Talash "Back2School": Kishtwar Admin gears up to deploy Seasonal teachers to teach OoSCs of nomad families

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 16: District Administration Kishtwar, under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav, IAS today evening conducted a virtual meeting with Chief Education Officer and all the Zonal Education officers of the district with regard to the readiness of the seasonal teachers, their deployment to Dhokas in seasonal centres to teach "Out of school children" (OoSC) who travel with their parents to distant regions/dhokas on mountains during the summer season.

Chief Education Officer, Prahlad Bhagat apprised all concerned officers including guest faculty cum experts from Delhi about the preparation of forthcoming deployment of seasonal teachers and their forthcoming training on foundation literacy and numeracy besides their ongoing enrolment process in schools.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized that 15 to 20 mnemonics material in handout shape may be prepared for these seasonal teachers so that they can exercise a limited cognitive.

Excise Department team inspects Liquor vends in Udhampur district

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 16: On the directions of Excise Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the direct supervision of the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu Kusum Sharma, an Excise department team of Udhampur-Reasi Excise Range led by ITO Rupali Vaid today Conducted surprise inspections of liquor vends in District Udhampur.

During the inspection, UPI Payment System, POS, display of MRP in flex, vend information board and CCTV working/Non working was checked.

During inspection, strict instructions were passed regarding the adherence to current Excise Policy 2023-24, Excise Act and rules.

During the course of inspection, M/s Santosh Kumari, Wine Shop Ramnagar, TAC W.No 5 and M/s Baljit Singh Baloria Wine Shop MC Udhampur and M/s Mohammad Sarber Wine shop, w.no. 3 were booked under section 49(b), J&K Excise Act, Smt. 1958.

The Excise Department has launched a multi-pronged strategy to prevent overcharging i.e UPI Payment System/POS, display of MRP in flex and vend information board. If any vendor sells the liquor above the MRP prescribed by the Excise Department, then complain to the department officers on the following mobile No. mentioned in the vend information board and action will be taken immediately.

GDC Kalakote organises workshop on 'Solid waste Management'

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KALAKOTE, MAY 16: Department of Environmental Sciences Government Degree College Kalakote, in collaboration with NSS unit of the college, today organized a workshop on 'Solid Waste Management' under the banner of G20 Mission & LIFE Initiative of Government of India.

The Programme was organized under the patronage of the college Principal, Dr. Seema Arora. The event commenced with the welcome address by, Khalida Parveen (Environmental Sciences). She informed the participants about the motto of programme. Students from different semesters of the college actively participated in the event. The Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the students and congratulated the faculty members for organizing such events.

SFCAC Committee meeting held at Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 16: A meeting of the Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya at Miri Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

District Social Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta briefed about various aspects of Mission Vatsalya, an umbrella scheme for child protection services in the district. She informed that the case files need scrupulous and prioritisation by the SFCAC committee and that cases are sponsored for a period of 3 years.

PSPS Govt College for Women hosts activity session on "transgender: representations and realities"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women hosted a programme and interactive activity titled "Transgender: Representations and Realities."

The event was organised by the Electoral Literacy Club, Rainbow Club, and Department of Social Work in collaboration with IQAC to raise awareness about the issues faced by transgender individuals and to promote understanding and acceptance of the transgender community.

The event began with lamp lighting. A formal welcome address was given by Dr Pooja Charak, HOD Political Science and Convener of Electoral Literacy Club. Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the College spoke about the challenges the transgenders face in accessing healthcare, education, and employment. She also highlighted the importance of representation in the media and the need to challenge stereotypes and



misconceptions about transgender individuals.

Resource Persons of session were Jaspreet Singh, Research Scholar, Central University of Jammu and Ms Jyoti Sharma, Advocate Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Jammu. The event also featured an interactive session, where resource persons had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about transgender issues with staff members and students.

Prof. Yash Paul, Convener IQAC, Dr. Rupinder kour, HOD,

Department of Education, Dr. Bhagwati and Dr. Poonam were also present during the event. Prof. Paramjeet Singh, Dr. Harmeet Singh, Dr. Varun Sharma, Dr. Sunita, Dr. Vandana Sharma, Dr. Ujjwal Sharma, Dr. Syed Shehna, Dr. Suraj Mohani Jamal and Dr. Ashok Kumar organised the event.

Prof. Eisha Gohil, HOD of Department of Psychology and Convener of Rainbow Club, presented a formal vote of thanks. Meliha Mushtaq and Shaheen Kotwal of Semester Vth and IVth respectively moderated the event.

Single Window Committee approves 3 Quarry License Site Plans in District Kishtwar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 16: The Single Window Committee of District Kishtwar under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav, today approved 3 minor mineral Site Plans of Kwar (Patel Engineering) & Pakal Dul (L&T) Hydroelectric Power Projects here in a meeting.

The meeting was attended by all members of the Committee including DFO Kishtwar Sagar Singh, Tehsildar Kishtwar Muneesh Kumar, Tehsildar Nagensi Majid Jehangir, DO Pollution Control Board Mukesh Singh Bal, District Mineral Officer Kishtwar Dr. Brijesh Manhas, ExEn PWD Ravinder Kumar and ExEn I&FC Sunil Sharma besides others.

During the meeting, DMO Kishtwar apprised the Chair about various aspects of the quarry License Site Plans submitted by Kwar (Patel Engineering) & Pakal Dul (L&T) District Kishtwar under the Single Window Committee. After thorough discussion and verification, approval for 3 site plans out of total 5 site Plans were accorded by the committee including 2 at Tehsil Nagensi and 1 at Tehsil Kishtwar. One site plan for Kwar was rejected and another site plan was sent for reconsideration. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar stressed for the submission of NOCs or otherwise strictly adhering to the guidelines and rules of various departments.

DC Poonch flags off Swachhata Carvaan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary flagged off a Swachhata Carvaan vehicle from DC Office Complex today to promote cleanliness and hygiene among the public.

During the programme, Deputy Commissioner interacted with students and spoke

about the need for maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in their surroundings. He highlighted the benefits of a clean and healthy environment and the importance of adopting good sanitation practice. He also administered the Swachhata pledge to students to motivate them to involve themselves in cleanliness activities.

A series of events, including

Nukkad Natak, Debate Competition, Drawing competition and cleanliness drive were organised at different locations in the district to engage and involve the community in the initiative. The Swachhata Carvaan is a programme aimed at generating awareness and embarking behavioural changes among rural masses regarding Swachh

Bharat Mission (Gramin) and achieving sustained ODF status in rural areas. It was launched on 24 April 2023 from Panchayat Palli, District Samba on the eve of National Panchayati Raj Day by Hon'ble I.G.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Malikzada Shera U Haq;

Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development, Abid Hussain Shah; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; Tehsildar (HQP), Jahangir Hussain; District Panchayat Officer, Chanderkant Bhagat besides other district officers and school children.

DC Reasi discusses arrangements for 3- Day Aghar Jitto Mela



JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, MAY 16: To discuss the arrangements for the smooth conduct of 3-day Aghar Jitto Mela commencing from 3rd June-2023 in district Reasi, a meeting of district officers of stakeholder departments was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner, Babila Rakhal here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Detailed discussions were held on various arrangements including security, sanitation, health care, traffic management,

in promoting religious tourism and in boosting the economy of the area.

The Executive Engineer PHE was asked to make adequate arrangements regarding drinking water supply at the mela site, while XEN PDD was directed to provide uninterrupted power supply during the mela days. Regarding providing First aid facilities at the mela site, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer to deploy a team of doctors and an ambulance for the same.

It was decided that District Police would deploy adequate security personnel during mela days. Special directions were given to NHPC for installation of mobile/ temporary Toilets. SDM Katra was nominated as Mela Officer and BDO Katra was directed to ensure sanitation drive.

Day 2 of Mounгри Mela: Cultural programme mesmerize devotees

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 16: On the 2nd day of three-day annual Shiv-Parvati Mounгри Mela, thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district thronged to Mela site and paid their obeisance to Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva.

To entertain the pilgrim-visitors and further strengthen the warm ties of mutual love and understanding amongst different sections of the society, a scintillating cultural programme was presented by the DIPR Udhampur in collaboration with the Cultural Wing of DIPR J&K.

The artists of the Information Department, renowned local artists of the area and students participated in



the programme.

Tehsildar Mounгри, Narinder Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion. Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Services & Sports, in collaboration with the Education Department, organized rural sports activities.

The district administration has made adequate arrangements of water, electricity, health-care, security, transport etc for the successful conduct of the mela.

An awareness stalls were also put up by various departments on the occasion.

A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other eatery corners have been put up by the local and outside vendors which were one of the main attractions for the general public visiting the Mela site.

During the Mela, checking of rates and quality of eatables is being strictly maintained by a team of officers.



DC Kathua inspects arrangements for Amarnath Ji Yatra at Lakhanpur

CONVENES MEETING WITH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today visited Lakhanpur to review the arrangements being put in place for upcoming Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023.

The DC was accompanied by SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal; Registrar Kathua (Nodal Officer), Suresh Chander, CPO, Uttam Singh. He inspected the area earmarked for reception of yatis and other civic amenities made available for the pilgrims at Lakhanpur entry point.

The DC directed EO Lakhanpur Municipal Committee to ensure necessary repair and made all toilet complexes under its jurisdiction functional before the start of the yatra. He also directed XEN PWD to take up Blacktopping/ Pothole repair work on



Lakhanpur corridor and complete it in a time bound manner. The DC Rakesh Minhas laid thrust on taking all necessary steps by concerned departments so as to make the experience of yatis at Lakhanpur clear and hassle free. He said "every effort shall be made to make Lakhanpur facility centre a multi-facility hub to cater all needs of incoming Yatis/Devotees".

While referring to the innovative steps taken by the district administration, the DC informed that slew of measures such as augmented lodging facilities for 7500 yatis/per day, 06 RFID counters for registration, neat and clean lavatories besides arrangements for entertainment of yatis at Lakhanpur will be taken care of through dedicated channels to provide a seamless experience to the yatis, Earlier, DC Kathua had maiden interaction with the members of District

Development Council at DDC office Lakhanpur.

On the occasion, DDC Chairperson, Mahan Singh said the district has achieved remarkable progress in the last fiscal year and expressed hope that PRIs and District Administration will work in tandem to make Kathua among the top performing districts of J&K UT.

The DC expressed hope that with the cooperation of elected PRIs coupled with their rich field experience will pave the way for achieving development targets earmarked for the district as per the popular aspirations of the people. He said the District administration will make concerted efforts with PRIs to improve its standing on Good Governance Index parameters. The DC also underlined the need to focus on important sectors of health and school education wherein he urged the meeting to come forward and make concerted efforts to reduce Infant Mortality Rate besides maintaining good teacher-pupil ratio through staff rationalization as these two sectors hold special significance for holistic development.

On the occasion, the District Development Council submitted a memorandum of demands and urged for early resolution on the listed matters. They also expressed hope that District Administration and PRIs will make joint efforts to meet the popular aspirations of the district populace besides giving due consideration to vox populi of the peripheral regions of the district. Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh and other members of District Development Council Kathua were also present.

Vaccination of Haj pilgrims starts in Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 16: The vaccination of Haj Pilgrims has started in Poonch district under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Poonch, Yasin Mohammad Chowdhary.

265 Haj pilgrims have been vaccinated so far, including 167 males and 98 females. The vaccination drive includes OPV, Inactivated Influenza Vaccine, Meningococcal Vaccine and Covid-19 vaccine. All Haj Pilgrims underwent a health check-up and their Covid-19 vaccination certificates for all doses, including the precautionary dose, were checked as per SOP.

The vaccination process is being supervised at the district level by Chief Medical Officer, Anis Altaf Nabi; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and District Immunisation Officer, Zoonah. At the block level, the vaccination process is being supervised by Block Medical Officers.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Parvaiz Ahmed Khan informed that the vaccination drive includes 128 Haj Pilgrims in Block Mendhar, 52 in Block Surankote, 22 in Mandi and 63 in Urban Haveli Poonch. Out of the total number of Haj Pilgrims, 39 are above the age of 65 years.

The district administration urges all eligible people to get vaccinated and follow Covid-19 protocols to stay safe from the pandemic.

District Health Unit Kathua observes National Dengue Day

Sensitization drive carried out across the district

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 16: National Dengue Day was observed at Chief Medical Officer Kathua as well as in other health Institutions of District Kathua today under the overall guidance and supervision of Chief Medical Officer.

At the Chief Medical Officer's Office, an awareness lecture was delivered by District Health Officer, Dr. Uttam Chand in presence of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Neeraj Nagpal, Malaria Staff and other staff members.

The speakers spread awareness regarding Signs & Symptoms, Spread, Prevention, Control and Treatment of Dengue on the theme "Harness Partnership to Defeat Dengue".

The staff and the general public were asked to take all preventive measures to stop transmission of Dengue in the imminent rainy season. The Public was advised to avoid self medication like taking of Aspirin, Ibuprofen without prescription as intake of these medications can cause complications in Dengue patients.

Audience was also sensitized about how to deal with the dengue cases and not to create panic as 95% of dengue positive cases settle down on its own without any complications. It was also informed that a Platelet component Laboratory is functional at GMC Kathua for diagnosis, besides a dedicated IPD Facility for dengue patients is available in the hospital.

Meanwhile, all BMOs were advised to keep a close eye on reported Dengue fever cases besides taking precautionary measures such as spraying in Dengue affected areas along with line listing of Dengue cases to curb further spread in the District.

DC inaugurates Vaccination camp for Haj pilgrims at DH Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Musarrat Islam today visited District Hospital and inaugurated the Vaccination camp for Haj-2023 Pilgrims.

Medical Superintendent DH, Dr. Virender and other senior officers of District Administration and Health Department were also present on the occasion.

The DC took stock of the vaccination process and inspected the arrangements put in place to facilitate the selected Pilgrims of Ramban.

Interacting with the Hajji-2023 Pilgrims, the DC congratulated them for the Holy Hajji-2023. The DC urged them to pray for the well-being and prosperity of the people of the district. The vaccination was aimed to protect the Hajji pilgrims from various infections, ensure their health and safety, and protect them from any contagious disease. Pertinent to mention that after screening, 115 people of the district have been selected for the Hajji 2023 and have been vaccinated at different vaccination counters designated at DH, Ramban, CHC Batoe, SDH, Banihal, PHC Ukhal and CHC Gool today and tomorrow. Later, the Deputy Commissioner went around the wards and interacted with the patients and attendants to enquire about the health facilities being provided to them by the Hospital Administration.

POWER SHUTDOWN

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chowadi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to JIO Reliance Office and Part of Greater Kailash shall remain affected on May 17 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Nandpur, BSF, Pindi, Addehar, Baba Chamliyal, Jhereda and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, Sarore, Deoli, Kotli and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Nanah, Barnoti, Marheen, Paharpur, Channi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Jhona and adjoining areas shall

remain affected on May 17 from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Grid Station Samba, Samba Town, IGC Samba Industry, Koli Mandi, Budhiana, Mandian, Hospital, Gagwal, Sherpur, Nichala, Rajpura and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 5:30 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Industries under Feeder-IIDC-1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th shall remain affected on May 17 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Jogpur, 17 miles, Swankha Morh, Najval and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 17 from 7 am to 11 am. Likewise, the power supply to Industry feeder area and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 19 from 7 am to 11 am. International Dengue Day observed at AMT School Poonch

POONCH, MAY 16: An event was organised at Government

AMT School Poonch to mark International Dengue Day.

Speaking at the event, Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Anis Altaf Nabi highlighted that dengue can be prevented by controlling the mosquito population through measures such as removing stagnant water sources, using mosquito nets and wearing protective clothing. He said that such events will continue to be organised in the future to create more awareness about dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Deputy CMO, Parvaiz Ahmed Khan spoke about the importance of educating the public about the prevention and control of dengue. International Dengue Day is observed every year on 16 May to raise awareness about the prevention and control of dengue, a mosquito-borne viral disease prevalent in many parts of the world.

District Health Officer, Faimda Bandyopadhyay teaching staff and students of AMT School were present on the occasion.

Tulip garden Sanasar records visit of over 53000 tourists



RAMBAN, MAY 16: Sanasar Tulip Garden -the J&K's second biggest and Jammu division's biggest Tulip garden, witnessed a huge footfall of the tourists this year. More than 53 thousand tourists from different places of the country visited the spread over 40 kanal (5 acres) of land in the picturesque Sanasar area famous for its green Alpine meadows. Around 2.75 lakh tulip bulbs of 25 varieties had been planted.

The Tulip Garden was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT, Manoj Sinha on April 8 in a grand function. The tourists from all over the country and even outside the country are visiting Tulip Garden in Sanasar in herds thereby boosting the socio-economic status of the area. As per the Assistant Floriculture Officer, a total 53355 tourists have visited Tulip Garden Sanasar this year including 21150 domestic tourists 32203 from outside J&K and a few foreigners.

MDS organises 3 Day workshop on Mushroom Cultivation

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: In view of increased demand of Mushroom in (J&K) UT, Mushroom Development Scheme (MDS) Jammu organised three day training workshop on Modern techniques of mushroom production to transform farmers as agri-entrepreneurs with special empha-

size on Button, Dhingri and Milky mushroom.

More than 20 Mushroom Growers from Bishnah, R.S. Pura, Akhnoor, Dansal Marh area participated in the training programme held at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Sanjay Dhar, Mushroom Development Officer Jammu, while interacting with farmers (Mushroom

Growers) said that now the mushroom can be produced round the year and gives more profit within a short period of time with less investment. He further said that the cultivation of all the three types of mushroom has very good potential for the new growers particularly the unemployed youths, landless/border area farmers and women because of its easy

method of cultivation and less investment.

Earlier, R.K. Hitaishi, Joint Director (Exten.) Jammu and A.S. Reen, Joint Director (Inputs) interacted with trainees and inaugurated the session. Kamaljeet Sharma, Subject Matter Specialist-III discussed the cultivation practices of all the varieties of mushroom being cultivated in Jammu

District. Bhopinder Singh and Mohan Singh, Agriculture Extension Assistant also interacted with the growers and advised the growers to grow Mushrooms.

Concludingly, Certificates of participation in the training programme were also handed to Mushroom growers who participated in the 3 day training programme.

Sunderbani: Forest Deptt organises awareness activities involving students

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 16: A Pledge taking ceremony and cleanliness drive was held today in Govt. Higher Secondary School Channi in Sunderbani Forest Range.

Bal Krishan, BDC Chairman Siot, was the chief guest and Vinod Behnal Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunderbani, Kapil Kant, Tehsildar Sunderbani, Umer Jeet BDO Siot/Sunderbani, Deep Sharma, Principal GHSS, Prat, Darshan Lal, Sarpanch Prat were the guests of honour.

Dr. Rakesh Verma, Range officer Sunderbani, welcome the guests and gave detailed information about aims objectives and activities undertaken during under Mission Life to combat challenges of climate change. He further explained that Mission Life is an India led Global

mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment. The word Life means "Lifestyle" for Environment," he said and added that "there is a need for all of us to come together and take Lifestyle for Environment forward as a campaign. This can become a mass movement towards an environmentally conscious lifestyle."

Vinod Baniyal, ADC said that individual action is the core of Climate responsibility. "The average carbon footprint of a person in India is 0.56 tons per year compared to the global average of 4 tons. India's traditional knowledge of social norms and daily household practices strongly positions it to lead the narrative of addressing climate change through individual behaviours, in the form of a movement (Jan Andolan) life," the ADC maintained.

Bal Krishan, Chairman BDC Siot, said that his team of PRIs is always ready to support the forest department in all its affairs, be it prevention of forest fire, encroachment issues, plantation programmes or environmental protection.

Deep Sharma, Principal GHSS Prat extended his vote of thanks to all the guests as well as PRI Members and Students present during the Programme.

Further a Pledge taking ceremony and cleanliness drive was also conducted in the premises of Govt. PS Prat.

The officials of the Forest Department also cleaned and maintained Water bodies (Bowlis) along Channi Mela Road. The programme was jointly organised by Rajinderdev Sharma, B.O Dharamsal, Ved Parkash BO Devak and Rangeel Singh B.O Sunderbani.

Div Com, ADGP chair 15th board meeting of Jammu Smart City Limited

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Divisional Commissioner and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Jammu Smart City Limited, Ramesh Kumar, along with Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh on Tuesday chaired the 15th board meeting of the JSCL here today.

At the start of the meeting, Commissioner JMC & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), Rahul Yadav, gave a detailed presentation on the project and listed agenda points for discussion.

He apprised the Board that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has approved extension of Smart Cities Mission for the period up to June 2024. He also informed the chair that the majority of the projects will be completed by December this year, while the few will be completed before the fiscal year ending March 2024. The Board of Directors also accorded sanction to process for floating tender with participation limited to PSUs for the establishment of a Data Center for the Integrated Control Command Centre (ICCC) under Smart City Mission. It was also decided in the meeting to reconsider the project of set-

ting up Smart Toilets in prominent locations in the city for the convenience of the people.

Apart from this, the Board of Directors also directed the CEO to conceptualize the project for the beautification of Airport Road, Jammu.

The Divisional Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the pace of project execution by JSCL and directed the stakeholders to maintain synergy to complete projects within the stipulated time frame. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA) Shiv Kumar Gupta; ACEO, JSCL Rakesh Gupta, DD, CPWD, Nominee Director, MOUHA Hemraj Anand and Museum, J&K, Pradeep Kumar; joined the meeting online.

Chief Engineer, I&FC, Manoj Gupta; Chief Engineer, Ravi-Tawi Irrigation Deptt., Sunil Bhasin; Manager II, JSCL, J P Singh; Assistant Director Archives & Archaeology Dr Sangeeta Gupta; Director Projects, JSCL Sunil Thuss; Director Technical, JSCL S.L. Kapoor; GM Finance, JSCL Ashish Anand; GM IT, JSCL, Manoj K Joshi; DGM-A, JSCL Gurmeet Singh; were also present in the meeting.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Auction	
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for lot over Firozpur Division as per detail given below:-	
Auction Catalog No.	EA-FZR-PARKG-23-14
Name of work	Allocation for Comprehensive Parking Contract at Gurdaspur & Dina Nagar Railway Station over Firozpur Division for the period of three years.
Auction Start	30.05.2023 12:00 hours
Lot No.	Station Name
PARKING-FZR-GSP-AM-88-23-1	Gurdaspur & Dina Nagar
Auction Catalog No.	EA-FZR-OH-23-7
Name of work	Archives of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead of Water Tank at Railway Station (Firozpur Division)
Auction Start	30.05.2023 10:30 hours
Lot No.	Station Name
Name of Station	Kapurthala, Jalandhar Cantt., Makhu, Firozpur, Nankoiar & Jalandhar City.
Only registered Vendors can participate. For other details please visit Railway website www.irapp.gov.in 1482/23	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

CS chairs UT level standing committee meeting of PMGSY

DEPTT PLANS TO COMPLETE 590 ROADS, 47 LONG SPAN BRIDGES DURING CURRENT FY

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the UT Level Standing Committee Meeting of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) here. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu/Kashmir and many other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized upon connecting all the inhabited villages. He called for striking the balance between the ecology and development. He asked the department to explore all the possibilities so that minimum damage is caused to environment while constructing these roads.



Dr Mehta further impressed upon resolution of local problems by concerned Deputy Commissioners to avoid any hindrances for one reason or another. He also advised sensitizing the people about the benefits of these road projects so that unnecessary resistance is avoided and delays are minimized. He appreciated the Department for carrying out the task of giving last mile connectivity to all the habitations. He said that the task is quite vital for development of any area.

Giving details the Principal Secretary, PWD, Shailendra Kumar apprised the meeting that the department has framed an action plan for completion of balance works under PMGSY I and II also besides taking in hand the works allocated under PMGSY III sanctioned in the month of August last year.

It was given out that 155 roads of the length of 127244 Kms have been sanctioned under the first batch of the 3rd phase to be completed at a cost of Rs 1357.86 Cr.

It was also revealed that some additional roads and bridges are also proposed under this phase by the department that are favourably being looked at by the MoRD, GoI.

Int'l Wheelchair Basketball Player calls on Lt Governor



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Ms. Ishrat Akhter, International Wheelchair Basketball Player from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated Ms Akhter for her achievements in sports arena and assured all the support from the administration for future endeavours.

Later, Adv. Waseem Gul, President Kashmir Advocate Association also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of concerning issues of legal fraternity of Kashmir division.

The Lt Governor assured Sh Gul of appropriate redressal of all the genuine issues put forth by him.

Facilitating customer convenience, J&K Bank enters into tie-up with top builders in Mohali



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: With a view to facilitate its customers hassle free home purchase in the upcoming housing projects at Kharar near Mohali, J&K Bank today entered into tie-ups with three top rated builders of Tricity area of Chandigarh UT, Punjab and Haryana.

The MoUs were inked with the builder companies M/S East Avenue Infracore for their Nirwana Heights Project, M/S Omni Pacific Colonizers Pvt Ltd for their Amayra Luxury One Project and M/S Ubberr Realty for their Ubberr

Mew Gates Project.

Zonal Head Kathua, Sanjeev Kumar signed the MoUs on behalf of the Bank at a simple but impressive function held at the Bank's Mohali Cluster Office. He also exchanged the copies of these agreements with the representatives of the builder companies in presence of Cluster Head (Mohali) Iltikhar Abdullah, Branch Managers of Tricity Area, office of marketing team and functionaries of builder companies.

While impressing upon the representatives of builder companies to extend every possible concession to the customers of the Bank with special offers and hassle-free delivery.

The representatives of the builder companies echoed the confidence of participants that the objectives of the tie-ups will be achieved because of the win-win-win proposition for customers, bankers and builders.

Pertinently, through these tie-ups, Bank will facilitate its customers especially from J&K and Ladakh hassle-free loans, assured delivery at preferred rates and waiver in many charges pertaining to such purchases if they plan to own a flat near Chandigarh and Mohali.

Stressing upon the significance of such tie-ups, Cluster Head (Mohali) urged the companies to give wide publicity to the arrangement and ensure preferential treatment to

AHD Kishtwar organises Fodder Seed Distribution Program under IFFDP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 16: Department of Animal Husbandry Kishtwar today organized a simple but impressive program in the office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer for distribution of free of cost Fodder Seeds among the farmers under Integrated Feed and Fodder Development Programme.

District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav was the Chief Guest. Among other present were Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Varunjeet Singh Charak; DYSSO, Lal Sharma. Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. S.K Sen; Block level Officer of Animal Husbandry Department and staff of CAHO office were also present.

More than 50 Dairy Farmers participated in the programme.

The District Development Commissioner urged the youth of Kishtwar to come forward and take the benefits of schemes of the department for employment and income generation. Appreciating the Animal Husbandry Department, he hailed the achieving of targets of the Departmental schemes, benefits delivered to common masses and his efforts put in to conduct cleanliness and plantation drive in Administrative complex.

Later, the District Development Commissioner, ACR and CAHO distributed the fodder seeds kits among the farmers.

State Taxes Department holds interactive-cum-educative session for traders, D.D.O's, PRI's at Bani

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 16: State Taxes Department today held an interactive-cum-educative session for traders, D.D.O's and PRI's of sub-division Bani of district under "Kar-tavya" tax awareness initiative.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh

stressed on timely filing of returns, tax compliance by issuance of invoice importance of tax compliance behaviour. She exhorted upon the traders to seek registration as well as file timely returns.

The Commissioner also informed the traders about opening of Suvidha Kendra's at district level for ease of traders besides redressing their

problems and inconveniences. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Commissioner Administration and Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra educated the participants regarding tax compliance and stressed on the DDO's to file GST return on the works allotted and TDS deducted by the DDO's from contractors.

Ranjeet Singh, Dy. Commissioner Enforcement Kathua enlightened the participants about enforcement activities of the department. Sandeep Gupta STO and Naresh Singh, Inspector also spoke on the occasion and gave a brief about the return filing and new registration while as Deepali Kanna STO, spoke in length about e-way bills.

During the programme a question answer session was also held.

Earlier, the programme started by planting of Doodar sapling by Commissioner State Taxes in premises of Hr. Sec. School Bani under "Mission Life", an initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forests of Govt. Of India. Later a pledge ceremony was also held.

Grassroots Day celebrated in Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar

SECRETARY SPORTS COUNCIL TOURS DOWNTOWN

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: The J&K Sports Council team led by Nuzhat Gull toured the iconic Badamwari gardens in downtown early morning and interacted with a number of locals here today. The Secretary Sports Council was flanked by Waseem Raja, Additional Secretary YSS and Nuzhat Farooq Sports Officer Kashmir along with coaches and other officials.

Sharing details, Secretary Sports Council said that this initiative is a part of the community reach out program and today our team reached Badamwari and Kalai-andar areas to meet elders and sports enthusiasts.

She said the Sports Council team sensitized the locals about the rise in drug addiction cases and how sports can help to mitigate the effects of prevailing social issues. She

said that these people come out early in the morning to maintain good health and they can act as ambassadors of fitness, sports awareness, and a link of the community's approach towards various government initiatives. The Sports Council team made people aware about the government's initiatives to involve the general public in sports under Jan-Baghidari-Abhiyaan, enabling a vibrant sports ecosystem in the union territory.

During her interaction, Secretary Sports Council sought feedback from the public regarding the role Sports Council can play for creating a vibrant sports ecosystem in downtown and elsewhere in

J&K. Nuzhat Gull said that the Sports Council in its pursuit to encourage a healthy lifestyle shall follow with more such events in future. The move she said is also aimed at raising awareness about the lifestyle diseases and the measures to keep such ailments at bay.

A group of women while on morning walk in the garden demanded for an open-air gymnasium in the area, to which the Secretary Sports Council responded in affirmative.

The J&K Sports Council Football Academy observed the Asian Football Federation (AFC) "Grassroot Day" in Bakshi Stadium. The day is celebrated throughout the Asia Subcontinent. The renowned J&K soccer star Ahmad Ishaq along with more than 60 young participants attended

the celebrations. Ishaq while interacting with young players exchanged some useful tips with the prospective football stars of the J&K.

He also advised the players to maintain the highest standards of discipline if they want to excel in sports, as ethics and sports go hand in hand, he added. Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull announced the opening of Grassroot Football School on the occasion and thanked all the kids for turning to the venue in large numbers.

Nuzhat Gull also exhorted the kids to make the most out of the new sports policies and infrastructure laid across the J&K while appreciating the motivation and enthusiasm of the participants.

Meanwhile, a cricket match was also organized by J&K

Sports Council for visually impaired cricketers in Bakshi Stadium Srinagar.

The match was played between North Kashmir XI and South Kashmir XI. After winning the toss, North Kashmir XI decided to bat first and scored 81 in their allotted quota of 10 overs. Chasing the total, South Kashmir XI scaled the total in just 7.3 overs backed by some splendid batting by both the players.

Prior to match players from both the teams had an interaction with Altaf Ahmad, Deputy Manager Bakshi Stadium who also distributed the uniforms among both the teams. The concluding ceremony of the match was attended by Nuzhat Farooq Sports Officer Kashmir who also distributed medals among both the teams.

Director SHD inspects activities of Department in Samba, Kathua Districts



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 16: Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu, Dr Naseem Jaaved Chowdhary today conducted a day long tour of Districts of Samba and Kathua.

He inspected VAS HQ at Rehian in Samba district and interacted with the staff. He inspected the proposed site for establishment of livestock Mandi.

He visited VAS HQ at Channi Arorian and advised the staff to work for the welfare and downtrodden communities engaged with sheep and goat rearing by providing them facilities and awareness at their doorstep. He enquired about the status of availability of medicines and vaccines at different SECs of the district.

At Govt. DCF Rajbigh, he inspected the Goat sheds, Govt. livestock, agricultural operations and preparedness for implementation of HADP in ensuing years.

On his way back, he interacted with the sheep breeders at Mansar and Surinsar. He listened to their grievances and assured them all possible help from the department with regard to health coverage to their livestock and employment generation.

He was accompanied by Dr Surinder Gupta Deputy Director (Central), Dr Satish Gangwal DSHO Samba, Dr Anil Kaul APO Jammu Wardwan and Ms Shivali Sethi DDP&S.