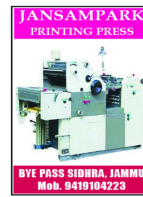




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SIU raids houses of 5 'terrorists' operating from Pakistan

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

The Special Investigative Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday raided five terrorists' houses in Kishtwar district in connection with a terror support and terror funding case, a senior official said. The houses belonged to terrorists who are operating from Pakistan and are engaged in revival of terrorism in the region, he said. "After obtaining search warrants from NIA Court, Jammu, in Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case, houses of five terrorists, who are presently operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, were searched in various locations," Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khalil Poswal said.



Five SIU teams along with police carried out the raids, he said. The SSP said the evidence found in the searches will be used to indict the targets' role in engaging in anti-national activities and perpetuating acts of terrorism. The SIU is raiding the houses of Shah Nawaz alias Nayem of Chirool Padyarna, Nayeem Ahmed alias Amir alias Gazi of Jamia Masjid, Mohammad Iqbal alias Bilal of Kichloo Market, Shah Nawaz Kanth alias Munna alias Umer of Hullah Kishtwar, and Javid Hussain Giri alias Muzamil of Kundali Pochal, he said. A special NIA court in Jammu had on April 26 issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists from Kishtwar operating from across the border. Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 terrorists. "Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them," Poswal said. (Agencies)

SIU carries out raids at 3 locations in Pulwama



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 17

Special Investigation Unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at three locations in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district in connection with militancy funding case. Quoting a senior police officer, that this morning SIU team raided three places in Reshipore Tral in connection with militancy funding case with FIR No.10 of 2023 registered at Police Station Tral. "There was no details regarding recovery or any arrests when this story was being filed.

LG inaugurates various key projects of JKIDFC worth Rs 97 crore



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 17

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated various projects worth Rs 97 crore of Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corpora-

tion Ltd. (JKIDFC), today. "Some of these projects dedicated to the people were pending for years. Our commitment and focus is on accelerated development and timely completion of projects," the Lt Governor said. The 15 projects e-inaugurated today includes CHC Chattergam Budgam; PHC Aaripanthan; Classroom/ Library block at Govt Women Degree College Pulwama; Mantaq College School. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Planned army withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir shelved 'indefinitely'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

The planned phased withdrawal of the Army from certain areas of the Jammu region has been shelved "indefinitely" in view of terror attacks being orchestrated from across the border, officials said here. They said the government had planned to reduce the footprints of Rashtriya Rifles, a counter-insurgency force of the Army, in the Jammu region and hand over the security to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary forces. The Army has three Counter-Insurgent Forces (CIF) in the Jammu region - Delta Force (which looks



after the Doda region), Romeo Force (looking after Rajouri and Poonch areas) and Uniform Force (looking after Udhampur and Banihal areas). Some units of the Army had planned to gradually hand over the security and law and order management to the local police and paramilitary units in South of Pir Panjal

Kashmiri Pandit family wants Father-Son duo's killing case reopened

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 17

A day after J&K police announced the arrest of two absconding assassins of Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, the family of Sarwanand Koul Premi, a well-known Kashmiri Pandit writer who was killed along with his son allegedly by militants in April 1990 has sought reopening of the case. Farooq had been killed 33 years back. The family has asked the J&K government to take the case of the father-son duo's killing to a logical conclusion. "We praise the J&K police for cracking the

assassination case of Moulvi Mohammad Farooq after 33 years... We once again urge upon the J&K Lt Governor as well Government of India for not only reopening of this case and taking this case to a logical conclusion, so as to bring the culprits of this whole conspiracy to justice," Rajinder Premi, son of Sarwanand Koul Premi said. The family said Sarwanand Premi, 65, and his younger son Verinder Koul, 27, were killed by the militants in April 1990 after they were kidnapped from their home at native village in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Government orders transfer, posting of 3 JKAS officers

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 27

The Jammu And Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered transfer of 3 JKAS officers in the interest of administration

with immediate effect. According to a government order, Sarib Sahran, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kokernag, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Kokernag, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner in the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, against an available vacancy. Rachna Sharma, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Jammu CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

HC seeks NIA's stand on bail pleas by two accused in terror case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on bail pleas by two persons arrested in connection with an alleged conspiracy to undertake terrorist acts in the country. A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh issued notice on the petitions by Haris Nisar Langoo and Zamin Adil Bhat, both arrested in October 2021, against a trial court order refusing to grant them bail earlier



agency to take up investigation after it was "reliably learnt that cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations are all active in Jammu and Kashmir and are being orchestrated from Pakistan and are conspiring both physically and in cyberspace and planning to undertake violent terrorists act in J&K and major cities in India, including New Delhi." In their petitions, Langoo and Bhat, aged 23 and 25 years, respectively, said they worked as part-time delivery boys at a local restaurant in CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Be fully prepared to meet all contingencies along LoC: Northern Army Commander to troops



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, and exhorted the troops to be fully prepared to meet all contingencies, officials said. The visit assumes significance in view of the G20 meeting scheduled in Srinagar from May 22-24. He visited the unit along the Line of Control

in Poonch and Rashtriya Rifles in Rajouri sectors to review operational preparedness, and was briefed on the counter-infiltration grid and processes being adopted, the officials said. He appreciated the measures adopted and lauded the troops for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. He further exhorted them to be fully prepared to meet all contingencies, the officials said. "This is the fourth visit of the unit along the Line of Control

Div Com, ADGP review law and order situation in districts of Jammu division

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, along with Additional Director General of Police Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh today chaired a meeting to review the law and order situation in districts of the Jammu Division. Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anny Lavasa; Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Chandan Kohli; Deputy Director Intelligence



Bureau were present in the meeting, while other Deputy Commissioners along with Senior Superintendents of Police participated in the meeting through video conferencing. The meeting deliberated on a range of issues related to the security, law and order situation in the districts. The DCS and SSPs informed the chair about the measures put in place

for maintaining peace and order to ensure security of the people. The Senior Superintendents of Police were directed to strengthen nakas, keep check on suspicious movements and ensure there was no law and order situation in the districts. The SSPs were further instructed to stay vigilant against any attempt by any person or group to violate the peaceful atmosphere of the districts or indulge in any illegal activity.

Tourists throng snow-filled meadowland of Bhadrawah, local businesses to get much-needed boost

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

Tourists in large numbers have begun to make a beeline for the snow-filled meadowlands of Jammu and Kashmir's Bhadrawah Valley, rekindling hope among business people here that it would boost the local economy which is still dealing with the



aftereffects of the Covid pandemic. Unseasonal snowfall over the past few days has spread a wonderful cover of white carpet on the green meadows, adding to their mundane beauty and bringing to life the high-altitude Guldanda meadow (6,555 feet) and Chattergalla pass. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Roadmap chalked out to deal with Anti-National elements in Poonch: Police

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday chalked out a roadmap to deal with anti-national elements involved in smuggling of weapons and narcotics from across the border in Poonch district. "A proper roadmap was finalized at a meeting of the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre chaired by Poonch Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Baskotra in the border district and attended by officers of Army, CRPF, BSF and intelligence agencies, a police spokesman said. He said the meeting was convened to review the overall security scenario of the district and discussed at length various issues, including the threat related to G20 meeting scheduled to take place in Srinagar from May 22 to 24. "A proper roadmap was chalked out against the activities of anti-national



elements, their modus operandi including smuggling of narcotics and weapons (from across the border)," the spokesman said. All supervisory officers were directed to brief the manpower regarding the present security scenario, laying of checkpoints and preventive action against miscreants, over ground workers and former militants, he said. The Poonch SSP also stressed on a close coordination among all security agencies to thwart the evil designs of anti-national and anti-social elements. The officers were also asked to keep a vigil on the social media platforms, the spokesman said. (Agencies)

BJP to launch Maha Jana Sampark Abhiyaan from May 30 in J&K: Ravinder Raina



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Bharatiya Janata Party will launch Maha Jana Sampark Abhiyaan from May 30 in J&K, said Ravinder Raina, President, BJP, J&K.

Ravinder Raina accompanied by other senior leaders was addressing the One Day Working Committee Meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir at Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh also addressed the party leaders by virtual mode in the meeting. Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and J&K BJP Seh-Prabhari Ashish Sood also addressed the meeting. MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, former Dy. CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former MP (Rajya Sabha) Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former Minister Sat Sharma and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal were also present on the stage.

Tarun Chugh, while addressing the meeting through virtual mode, said that under the leadership of PM Modi, there

has been a paradigm shift towards people-centric governance in these past 9 years. He said that there have been numerous structural transformations, which cover every sector of our society and economy. These 9 years have seen India rising and cementing its position as one of the strongest and most resilient countries in the world. He added that India is now steadily embarking on the path to becoming a superpower where its voice is heard and respected, where it is seen as a path shower to the entire world. He insisted that we are now truly unlocking the potential of India and creating a developed and prosperous nation for our future generations under the strong principled governance by Modi ji. He asked all the party leaders to ensure the reach of these achievements to the masses in the coming days.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meeting, announced that the party would soon launch Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyaan in J&K. The duration of the Abhiyaan will be one month, which will commence from May 30 and will continue until June 30. Raina informed that the time coincides with the successful completion of 9 years of good governance at the Centre by the Narendra Modi led Union Government; the party leaders at the Union Territory level must also take the achievements of the Modi government to the masses. The BJP stalwarts will themselves ensure this awareness campaign at the ground level.

He also assigned duties to senior party leaders to make the Abhiyaan successful. Raina insisted that Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed an era of unprecedented development with focus on peace and prosperity in the region under the present dispensation. He said that BJP is diligently working on mission mode to convert Jammu & Kashmir into a favourite destination in multiple sectors like tourism, education, medical facilities while strengthening the overall required infrastructure to ensure this.

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Law Deptt of JU organises debate on same-sex marriage

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: The Department of Law at the University of Jammu organized the Intra Department Debate Competition for LL.B Students on the topic "In the opinion of the house Same-sex marriage should be allowed in India" in the Moot Court Hall of the Department of Law. The debate provided a platform for students of LL.B (3 Years course) to engage in a meaningful dialogue on the various aspects of same-sex marriage.

Prof. Satinder Kumar, Dean and HoD, Department of Law, University of Jammu delivered a welcome address and highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Department for the academic and intellectual growth of the Department.

The debate competition was judged by Prof. Dipankeren Gupta, Department of Economics, Dr. Garima Gupta, HoD Journalism and Mass Communication and Dr.

Jasleen Kaur of Department of Distance and Online Education. Total 25 students registered and participated in the debate competition. Prof. Sanjay Gupta announced the results of the Debate Competition and highlighted the importance of debating skills for budding advocates. Through this debate competition, the Department of Law, University of Jammu, seeks to encourage critical thinking, promote understanding, and foster a respectful environment for the exploration of different viewpoints.

The event provided a unique opportunity for participants to hone their oratory skills, showcase their research capabilities, and contribute to the ongoing discourse surrounding same-sex marriage. Ms. Aditi Thakur (LL.B 5th Sem) stood first, Mr. Akhil DK Singh (LL.B 5th Sem) stood 2nd, Ms. Ezza Shah (LL.B 3rd Sem) stood 3rd and Ms. Dravin Mahajan and Mr. Aniket (LL.B 1st Sem) received special mention. The debate addresses several pertinent questions, including the legal, ethical, and societal implications of recognizing same-sex marriage. Participants delved into topics such as equal rights, constitutional validity, social acceptance, and the impact on traditional notions of marriage and family.

Dr. Raj K Sandhu acted as the faculty coordinator for the debate and the organizing committee included Sunny Singh, Anuj Sharma, Toiba Andleeb, Habib-ur-Rehman, Ketan Kumar, Dr. Sonia Aneja, Assistant Professor, Department of Law delivered the vote of thanks.



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister on Wednesday asserted that G20 tourism working group meeting scheduled to be held later this month will go a long way in boosting the economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking during the meeting at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the BJP stalwart said that tourism sector which is the mainstay of UT's economy is likely to get the much desired lift opening new vistas of opportunities for the stakeholders to thrive, and get maximum out of it. He said that the foreign delegates which are going to take part in the

fore-said summit shall act as ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir because after their return back home, they would tell their coun-

trymen the true scenario of the UT which is feasible, pleasant and alluring as far as tourism is concerned and therefore chances are there that the countries which have issued advisories to their people not to visit Kashmir may change their stance opening up the flood gates for the foreign tourists to come to J&K and help

boost tourism and economy.

Kavinder said that the win-win situation which the J&K is likely to have after the success of G20 group meeting has become point of contention for the political entities, especially the members of Gupkar Group, who are opposing the G20 meeting in

Srinagar.

The senior BJP leader said that the conduct of aforesaid meeting will prove as a game changer for the people of J&K as a lot's being expected from this first ever international event being held in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of erstwhile state of J&K on August 5, 2019.

remove this anomaly of filing the claims by 15th. of succeeding month. AOI also requested that the delay in filing of reimbursement claims for previous period may also be condoned and necessary arrangements be made in portal to allow the entrepreneurs to file reimbursement claim for the previous period.

AOI also request that the clarification issued by the Finance Department may kindly be implemented in true letter and spirit. AOI wishes to apprise the Govt. that all these incentives were announced by the Govt. to make the existing industries sustainable.

The virtual denial of such incentives shall result in the closure of existing industry which is already under stress.

Sh. Rajesh Jain, President, AOI again appeals to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor to come to the rescue of existing industry by instructing the concerned authorities to implement all the declared incentives in true letter and spirit for the sustenance of existing industry.

AOI request the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Mehta Ji to look into the matter and issue instructions to the concerned authorities to make necessary amendments in the SRO 63 to

draw attention of the Govt. towards the clarification with respect to determination of amount of reimbursement under SRO 519, 521 and 63. The Finance Department has issued clarification vide its order No. FD-57/29/2022-03 dated: 26.04.2022 in respect of Reimbursement of CGST/SGST on the basis of monthly deposit of amount without deducting the amount available in the credit ledger in the particular quarter.

In this regard, we submit that since September Quarter 2017 Crores of rupees of Industrial Sector have been deducted by the State Tax Department for the amount reflected in the Credit Ledger at the end of each quarter resulting huge financial losses to the unit holders.

AOI request the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Mehta Ji to look into the matter and issue instructions to the concerned authorities to make necessary amendments in the SRO 63 to

NLC Bharat is the need of the hour: Former Lok Sabha Speaker

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Several prominent leaders have endorsed the National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat scheduled to take place next month in Mumbai. Cutting across party lines, the leaders have expressed that the exercise that will see congregation of over 2,500 legislators, will be a historic event.

Speaking at recent event organized at the Jio World Convention Centre, Sumitra Mahajan, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "MLAs and MLAs from different regions will come together to discuss sustainable issues, exchange perspectives, and learn about the challenges being addressed in their respective states. It is essential to prioritise the nation first, followed by the state, and then the individual constituency. Such gatherings facilitate communication and understanding between legislators from different regions, allowing them to learn about each other's constituencies and exchange ideas."

The leaders believe that in a

diverse culture like ours, there is a need to bring legislators from across the country, cutting across party lines to strengthen meaningful dialogue. Speaking through video conference during the recent event, Dr Meira Kumar, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "There are very few countries where there are multiple religions and sects. The forthcoming conference is all set to create history. Several issues related to social justice, international relations, or education, are going to be discussed. This is a great opportunity. We need to document the learnings from the conference properly so that it can serve as a learning document even years from now."

Rahul Narwekar, Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly too lauded the efforts put by the organisers of NLC Bharat. "Shri Rahul Karad ji, under whose views and vision this idea was conceptualised, deserves more than an applause for coming up with such a brilliant idea of getting legislators across the country on a common platform to ensure that we adopt the

best parliamentary practices and best principles of parliamentary democracy, which in effect is going to strengthen not only the values of democracy in this country but also give new ideas to legislators across the country."

He urged the need for the conference which will only strengthen our democracy. "As we all know, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India today stands to be the 5th largest economy in the world, which is the youngest populous country in the world with an average age of 27 years. And in the true sense, I must also acknowledge that the parliamentary system might have its disadvantages, but after comparing it across the world, it is the best among the best for sure, and therefore we must exert our individual efforts to strengthen the system. If we have to convert this advantage of being the youngest populous country in the world, we need to inculcate the values of parliamentary democracy in every youth in this country."

Aoi expresses concern of negative attitude of J&K admin towards existing Industry

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Association of Industries, Ganganal expresses its deepest concern about the negative attitude of the J&K Govt. Towards the existing industry. Govt. has issued an incentive of reimbursement of SGST on value addition. AOI wishes to draw the attention of the Govt. that AOI has many times requested to the concerned authorities to amend the clause 5.1 of SRO 63 dated: 05.02.2018 which says that the manufacturer shall file an application on prescribed format to be notified by Commissioner Reimbursement for the Tax paid in cash other than the amount of Tax paid by utilization of input Tax Credit under Jammu & Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Rules 2017 to the

AOI request the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Mehta Ji to look into the matter and issue instructions to the concerned authorities to make necessary amendments in the SRO 63 to

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Chandel claims Ramayana written by Lord Valmiki is original text

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Hinduist BJP leader Mr. Raju Chandel while speaking at a religious function in Jammu today said that Valmiki Ramayana written by Trikaladarsi Valmiki Bhagwan is the only real text, after that all the texts made after Bhagwan Valmiki have been biased. There was a Trikaladarsi Brahmarshi who composed the book Valmiki Ramayana on the life character of Lord Rama even before the birth of Lord Rama, which the whole world has been following for ages.

Following the life story of Lord Lord Shri Ram, we have been following him in our life and worshipping Lord Lord Shri Ram.

Chandel said that every person should follow the Ramayana of Lord Prabhru Shri Valmiki ji, written on the life character of Lord Shri Ram, so that all the people get the divine in this life and those who read Lord Shri Ram Valmiki Ramayana and give a place in his feet to the people who follow him and may the fame of his family and his family be bright in the world, such a blessing is given by Lord Shri Ram to the people who

follow Valmiki Ramayana.

Whoever recites Sanatani other Ramayana, who follows the Ramayana scripture whose facts have been tampered with, his knowledge remains incomplete and that person does not get Lord Rama. Follows the path of heaven opens for him and all his sins are forgiven. In this life he attains the supreme abode, just as the siner Ravana was loved by the siner Ravana for the last time at his feet after the death of Lord Shri Ram. Saying Shri Ram to him, gave him a place in his feet and freed him from sin.

NC pays glowing tributes to Prem Nath Raju on his 22nd death anniversary



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Wednesday paid glowing tributes to former minister, former Provincial President Jammu and senior party leader Prem Nath Raju on his 22nd death anniversary, describing him as a leader par excellence who devoted all his life in service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Leading the party cadre in paying floral tributes to Prem Nath Raju at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here this morning, Provincial President Jammu Mr Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the immense contribution of the veteran leader in the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that the

departed leader worked with a sense of commitment, devotion and dedication. Gupta said that Prem Nath Raju worked tirelessly for the upliftment of poor and down-trodden in different capacities as officer and minister. His contribution in strengthening National Conference at the gross root level in the Jammu Province remains a high point of his political career, he said, adding that the veteran leader made a distinct mark by serving the people, which will remain as a source of inspiration for the coming generations. Mr Gupta further said that Prem Nath Raju worked for strengthening the fabric of secularism and brotherhood in the state of J&K. He lived a simple life and served the

people of remote areas. While paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Central Secretary described the late leader as a person of immense qualities who remained at the forefront in solving problems of the people. He said that the veteran leader worked hard in various capacities as a party functionary, former minister and Provincial President Jammu for people belonging to all walks of life. His services shall be remembered for the years to come. Paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President also recalled the Contribution of Mr Prem Nath Raju in strengthening National Conference in the Jammu region besides

tirelessly working for upliftment of the people. "Mr Prem Nath Raju worked with both Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah and galvanized the party at all levels", he added. Paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary Jammu and Abdul Gani Malik former minister said the towering leader left an indelible mark on the National Conference cadre by dint of his determination and hard-work besides strengthening the party at gross root level. He said the best tribute would be to strengthen the party at gross root level and make it a vibrant force to satiate the urges and aspirations of the people. He said that the late leader will be remembered for his high political caliber and having passion for serving the people, especially poor and down-trodden. Several senior leaders, including: Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Bushan Lal Bhat Es-MLC, Abdul Gani Tell P.P OBC Cell, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Nar Singh P.P Labour Wing, Waris Gill, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Ashok Kumar Dogra, Jatin Bhat, Devi Dayal Jogi, Karan Singh, Veer Ji, S. Nirmal Singh, Puspita Dogra.

Old times reminisced at "MILAP"- DDC Alumni Meet 2023

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, MAY 17: Dogra Degree College organized its Alumni Meet in college premises. It aims to reconnect alumni with their alma mater and serves as a link between their past journey at the college and their bright future as professionals and role models within the society. The event began at 11:00 am with the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries. Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College welcomed the alumni and appreciated their zest to assemble for the meet despite their busy schedule and called for greater participation of alumni for the development of the Institute as many of them hold positions of responsibility in various government and Private organizations. In her welcome address the principal updated the alumni about new initiatives taken up by the college since the college was established in 2008. Speaking at the occasion, Th. Gulshan Singh Charak, Former Minister & Chairman, Dogra Educational Trust, said, "We at Dogra Degree

College are keen to provide all of our past students a platform to stay connected amongst themselves and also stay committed to the Institute and students across different batches including the present students. He congratulated and blessed the Alumni for their accomplishments and wished them luck for all the future endeavors. Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust delivered the keynote address and recalled the noble vision of the founder to provide quality higher education to everyone. He appreciated the team of Dogra Degree College for organizing the alumni meet which creates a special bond between

the students who have passed out and who have established themselves already in the outside world and further said that it is a perfect platform to meet your peers and teachers and revive the contacts and memories. Prof. Dushama Sharma, Director, DGC & CD, appreciated for having good count of Alumni that included old as well as recent batch passed out. She congratulated and blessed the Alumni for their achievements and wished them luck for all the future endeavors. Alumnus from each department shared their experience and expressed their gratitude to the college and their happiness in getting reunited with their friends and faculty. Around 50 alumni from across various batches had participated in the meet and promised to provide immense support towards the institute through regular webinars, seminars, placement opportunities, guidance and motivation. The cultural performances by the present students intrigued the audience with the display of their talent and creativity. The event was hosted by Ms. Aditi Khajuria, Faculty DDC & vote of thanks was moved by Ms. Kanchar Dubey, IQAC Coordinator, DDC. The function finally wound up with the playing of National Anthem followed by lunch hosted by the management.

Jammu Motor Vehicles, the brand-new Mahindra Dealership starts delivering SUVs



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Jammu Motor Vehicles LLP (an Authorized Dealership of MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA) at B C Road, Rehari, Jammustarted delivering Mahindra SUVs today to its customers. The two SUVs, XUV 700 & Thar 4x4 were delivered by Mr. Swatanar Aggarwal-Chairman of Aggarwal Group & Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal-Managing Director of the Group in the Presence of Mr. Ajay Aggarwal, Mr. Vineet Aggarwal & other Directors & family members of Aggarwal Group along with dignitaries from prestigious Banks, NBFCs, Customers and Staff Members of Jammu Motor Vehicles LLP. Jammu Motor Vehicles LLP, an Authorized Dealership of MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA has been started by Mr. Vineet Aggarwal, a scion of the Aggarwal Group, the most dynamic & charismatic business leader, has proven his mettle in the Jammu Bajaj dealership having been conferred upon with numerous prestig-

tigious Awards in last 25 years- recognition of his sustained efforts for performance in Sales & Service, high levels of Customer Satisfaction & Retention and for exhibiting a visionary leadership demonstrating 360-degree dynamism in all aspects of business. Mr. Pankaj Aggarwal & Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, Directors of the Group handed over the keys of XUV 700 to the customers Mr. Gagan Jain, Owner of Nazrana Designer Jewellery and Vardhman Jewellers, Karan Market and Thar 4x4 to Mr. Pallav Gupta in a grand ceremony at the B C ROAD Showroom and congratulated Jammu Motor Vehicles Team for their splendid work and wished them great success in the times to come. Mr. Vineet Aggarwal spoke on the occasion, "Jammu Motor Vehicles has a wide range of Mahindra Vehicles & Network across Jammu by way of having Personal Vehicles Showroom at B C Road, Rehari and Kunjwani, offering a complete range of Premium &

Personal SUVs. like New Thar, SCORPIO, XUV 700, SCORPIO CLASSIC, XUV 300, BOLERO Neo and e-SUV XUV 400 in their different variants and price Range along with the facility of In-House Finance & Exchange of Used Cars to Customers". Going further, Mr. Vineet Aggarwal stated that Jammu Motor Vehicles has established its active presence in the Commercial Vehicles Segment sales by having its Showroom at Greater Kailash, Jammu presenting vehicles like Bolero Pick up, Maxx Pick up, Bolero Camper, and Bolero Maxitruck Plus along with Last Mile Mobility Vehicles like Alfa, Jeeto, Supro, Treo Auto, and Treo Yaari, etc. where all kinds of sales are being provided by well-qualified Sales Professionals. He continued, "Jammu Motor Vehicles has its state-of-the-art Workshop and Bodyshop with professionally trained manpower and high-tech diagnostic and repair equipment at the Lane No. 12, Industrial Area, Gangyal, Jammu to provide best possible services to customers". While concluding the function Mr. Nitin Aggarwal, Partner of Jammu Motor Vehicles thanked all distinguished guests for gracing the occasion. Customers Mr. Gagan Jain & Mr. Pallav Gupta for taking delivery of XUV 700 & Thar 4x4 and for their presence, and valuable time. He assured us that Jammu Motor Vehicles LLP will strive hard to serve its customers and make all possible efforts to provide the best services at all times it remains.

MRM welcomes newly joined Socio-Political figure, hold workers meet

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: While welcoming newly joined prominent Socio-Political Figure and an Advocate by profession Jammu Adv. Tanzir Khatana, "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" (MRM) J&K and Ladakh Organiser Gulshan Kumar today convened workers meeting at Jammu on Wednesday. Adv. Tanzir Khatana a prominent Socio-political personality and an advocate by profession today joined "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" (MRM) through an impressive organisational function at Delhi-6 restaurant Jammu. Expressing his views, Adv. Khatana said that MRM is the sole organisation that has a vision and capability to bring about Social and Economic transformation in the country. "The agenda of the society is to carry all the sections of the society together towards accomplishing equitable development of



all the regions, religions and castes," Adv. Tanzir observed. Speaking on the occasion, Gulshan Kumar said that other organisations are playing divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir but in today's world, there is no space for fake and vote bank politics as people are mature enough to understand their designs.

Gulshan said that MRM is the sole organisation that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Ali Mohd Chechi Co-Convenor (J&K), Amir Iqbal Khan (Spokesperson and Media/IT head JKUT) and others.

One day Art campaign for children, youth inaugurated

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Inaugural of One Day Art Workshop Campaign for children and youths of Jammu and Kashmir was conducted for the first time by Mahit Fine Arts Institute on 17th May 2023. Introduction of basic drawing with latest techniques in the field of painting on canvas. The whole concept of Workshop was to explain use of latest tools and techniques used in acrylic painting and encourage the children & Youth to take it as profession so that creativity of youths can be channelised properly with sustained efforts. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr Navneet Kour the founder Chairperson of NGO SUPPORT & Vice Chairperson of All India Sustainable Development Council. A renowned Artist Mr Sikandar from Chandigarh conducted the Workshop and explained new techniques to be adopted by young artists who are perusing



art as career. The students were assisted by Mr Sikandar throughout the workshop. "Strong emphasis on drawing, painting and other pursuits to encourage youths to use their creativity which can foster their growth as well as their emotional and social well being, engaging with creative pursuits which would help children emotionally and intellectual development in a great

way to combat their childhood anxiety said", Dr Navneet Kour. She further added that we are committed to making meaningful contributions to the sustainable goals. Mr Pankaj founder & promoter of Mahit Fine Arts institute said that Mahit art will be conducting such type of creative fun and interactive workshops specially designed for the school going children's and youths so that

they can explore their local art and promote art and craft of Jammu and Kashmir. These workshops shall emphasize on importance of fun and creating supporting environment for young generation. It is important to foster cooperation rather than competition among young children's cultivating respect for each other. We need to create an healthy environment for young generation.

Gupta urges LG to raise awareness about road safety through traffic wardens

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Expressing concern over frequent loss of lives on Jammu roads and in other districts due to accidents, National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K Chief, Rajesh Gupta today said that miserable conditions of J&K roads have become a virtual death trap. Gupta redirected his demand and appealed to LG for raising awareness about road safety, Road Safety Fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatal-

ities, besides deployment of Ambulances. The NDPI leader said traffic authorities should take the services of NGOs, College, University and give them training as traffic wardens as other big states do. Taking note of regular incidents of road accidents in particular areas, Gupta urged Lt Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to direct concern authorities of the health department to explore possibility of developing more trauma centres near accident-prone highways to help

accident victims during the crucial golden hours. He expressed serious concern over the frequent road accidents and loss of large number of lives. Gupta further demanded LG to raise awareness about road safety, Road Safety Fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatalities, besides deployment of Ambulances. The NDPI president said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable.



Amid tussle over control of JKNPP, late founder's son expels party president

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

Amid the ongoing fight for control over the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), president Vilakshan Singh was expelled from the party by its London-based chief patron Ankit Love who accused him of being a "secret agent" of the BJP.

Singh was appointed president of the JKNPP on June 15 last year following the death of founder Bhim Singh. Ankit Love is Bhim Singh's only son and Vilakshan Singh's cousin.

"Vilakshan Singh is a charlatan and a fraudster who had been bizarrely complimentary of BJP, praising them for having 'consistent ideology' on TV this week," Ankit was quoted as saying in a party statement.

The party said Ankit has been "firmly accusing



Vilakshan Singh of being a BJP secret agent".

Ankit also accused Vilakshan Singh of theft of properties worth crores of rupees belonging to his parents.

"FIRs have been filed against Vilakshan Singh with the police... He had planned to form an alliance with the BJP in exchange for illicit payments to give the secret promise to give the BJP coalition support in exchange. Something my mother would never

have allowed when alive," Ankit said and demanded a thorough investigation.

Ankit's mother Jay Mala died recently and he arrived in Jammu on May 5 to perform her last rites. Ankit was allowed to come to India after his name was removed from a blacklist on submitting an apology to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for participating in an anti-government protest in London last year.

The party has been in a disarray following Bhim Singh's death and the family is engaged in a tussle to take its control.

Earlier, Ankit had accused Vilakshan Singh of failing in his responsibility of arranging "better security, supervision and safe accommodation" for his mother and party co-founder Jay Mala, who died after falling from stairs on April 26.

Shortly before Bhim Singh's death, two of his nephews – former minister Harsh Dev Singh and former legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia – resigned from JKNPP along with many other senior leaders to join Aam Aadmi Party.

While Mankotia, who had also served as JKNPP president, later joined the BJP, Harsh Dev Singh returned to the JKNPP recently and claimed to have been elected as party president.

However, Harsh Dev Singh's return brought Vilakshan Singh and PK Ganjoo, a close aide of Bhim Singh, together and they contested Harsh Dev Singh's claim. They asserted Vilakshan Singh was the president of the party and Ganjoo its working president.

However, Ganjoo joined Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party on May 6.

G20 meeting in Srinagar opportunity for J&K to showcase its true potential: Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 17

The G20 meeting in Srinagar next week is a "big opportunity" for Jammu and Kashmir to showcase its true potential, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters before joining the one-day working committee meeting of the BJP at its headquarters here, Singh said, he along with Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, will attend the meeting to be inaugurated by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

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

"It is a big opportunity for J&K to showcase its potential. The delegates will mostly go to Dal Lake for sightseeing and watch cultural programmes on May 22 but the real business will be happening



during the next two days," Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Singh, who represents Udhampur parliamentary constituency of Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha, said such an international event taking place in Srinagar would send a positive message in the country and across the globe.

On the agenda of the working committee meeting, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is completing nine years in office and the party intends to cele-

brations in Jammu and Kashmir.

A BJP leader said the meeting was convened to chalk out a detailed programme to educate people about the government policies and achievements over the past nine years.

Meanwhile, the Union minister is chairing a high-level meeting of heads of various educational institutes here on Thursday.

All Vice Chancellors of universities, directors of institutions and other heads of institutions are attending the meeting to deliberate and decide on how to foster strong inter-institutional collaboration among the universities and institutions of the region, an official said.

Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government Prof Ajay Sood and Director General, CSIR and Secretary DSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi are also attending the meeting, the official said.

Restoration of basic rights in J&K our priority: Mehbooba Mufti

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 17

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said elections to Jammu and Kashmir assembly were not her priority as her party would like to focus on restoration of basic rights of the people of the union territory.

"Election is a distant issue. The priority should be restoration of basic rights of people which are being denied. People should have the freedom of movement, freedom of expression," she told reporters here.

The former chief minister said if her party had resources, they would have fought in the Supreme Court the cases of those Kashmiri detainees who are lodged in various jails of the country post-2019.

"Their families don't have resources to mount a legal battle and their cases are rarely being heard," she added.

Asked about Union Home Minister Amit



Shah's recent remarks on Article 370, Mehbooba said she cannot engage on the importance of Article 370 with those "who have destroyed the Constitution of the country".

"What do I tell them? The BJP is not respecting the constitution of the country. BJP has implemented their communal agenda. They don't know what the significance of Article 370 is. It was a bridge between Jammu and Kashmir and the country which they have broken," she alleged.

On the criticism from a certain foreign agency on holding a G20 meeting in Kashmir, the PDP presi-

dent said the government was trying to present a picture of normalcy in the valley to the international community.

"People are being harassed. Agencies like NIA, SIA and SIU are carrying out daily raids. Schools have been shut for 10 days while shopkeepers have been told to keep their shops open. Everybody is being threatened. In such a scenario, you want to present Kashmir as a trophy in the G20 by painting a picture of normalcy. You and I both know what is right in Kashmir!" she claimed.

On the violence in a Jammu medical college over "The Kerala Story" movie, Mehbooba said, "Unfortunately the BJP government is promoting such movies which spread hate and division in the society." "We saw its results in the GMC Jammu where students were bathed in blood. The reason was the argument over 'The Kerala Story'. I think the nation needs to act sensibly on such matters like the people of Karnataka did in the recent elections," she added.

On the arrest of two absconders in the Mirwaiz Mohammad Farooq murder case, the PDP president said action against those involved in killings including those of Kashmiri Pandits was welcome.

"No one is against taking action in such cases but one has to ask why are Kashmiri Pandits, who lived here through the worst of the times over the past 30 years, forced to flee to Jammu. Why is Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest for so many years now?" she asked.

Cabinet clears Rs 17,000 Cr-IT hardware PLI scheme 2.0

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware with a budgetary outlay of Rs 17,000 crore.

Electronics manufacturing in India has witnessed consistent growth with a 17 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in the last 8 years and is expected to cross a major benchmark in production – USD 105 billion (about Rs 9 lakh crore) – this year.

"For IT PLI, the budgetary outlay is Rs 17,000 crore. The tenure of the programme is 6 years," Union Minister for IT and Telecom Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware covers laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs,



servers and ultra-small form factor devices.

The minister said the scheme is expected to lead to incremental production of Rs 3.35 lakh crore, incremental investment of Rs 2,430 crore and create incremental direct employment for 75,000 people during the scheme period.

The approval in February 2021 governed the PLI scheme for IT hardware, covering the production of laptops, tablets,

All-in-One PCs and servers with an outlay of Rs 7,350 crore.

However, industry players had requested the government to enhance outlay for the segment.

PLI Scheme, launched in April 2020 with a focus on mobile phone production, has given a massive boost to electronics manufacturing in the country.

India has become the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones. Exports of mobile

phones crossed a major milestone of USD 11 billion (about Rs 90 thousand crore) in March.

The global electronics manufacturing ecosystem is coming to India, and it is emerging as a major electronics manufacturing country.

Building on the success of the Production Linked Incentive scheme (PLI) for mobile phones, the Union Cabinet has approved PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware. (AGENCIES)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

IG inaugurates various...

Awardee of the effluent Treatment Plant at Industrial Growth Centre, Phase-I Samba; IT Tower Building-II, Rangreth; Checkwarf Mal Khul; improvement of Kenz Khul, WSS Mohra Jonglan; Water Testing Laboratory at Zainkote; Road from Domant to Jakti Panjeer; Kanshipur Ashram Road to Lower Gad Garh Jammu; Boys Higher Secondary School at Gujjar Mandi Rajouri; Sewerage Scheme at Patnipot and sports facility at University of Kashmir.

The Lt Governor also released pictorial compendium, a compilation of 1507 projects of JKIDFC completed at a cost of Rs 2504 crore, ending December 2022.

JKIDFC has successfully completed 464 connectivity projects (309 Roads & 155 Bridges) worth Rs 901.25 cr; 65 Health Sector projects at a cost of Rs 236.42 cr; 112 Power projects for an amount of Rs. 187.68 cr; 329 Water Supply Projects worth Rs. 394.17 cr and 116 Education Sector projects at a cost of Rs 168.98 cr. Moreover, 212 projects for Sports development & Youth Engagement (85 projects & 127 Sub projects) for an amount of Rs. 124.15 crore have been completed.

All these projects under various sectors/schemes are decided to public welfare and will hugely benefit the people & strengthen the socio-economic development of the UT.

Pertinently, JKIDFC is the first organization across the country that has incorporated Geo-Tagged Images for all its ongoing projects.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries and other senior officials were present.

Planned army...

that of 10 Army personnel. Seven civilians were killed in Dhangri village of Rajouri on January 1 this year. Of them, five civilians were killed in a terrorist firing on January 1 evening while two minors lost their lives when an IED, left behind by the terrorists before fleeing, exploded the next day.

Five Army personnel were killed in cold blood when terrorists attacked their vehicle at Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district on April 20. The Army personnel were on their way to distribute 'iftar' material to a nearby village during Ramadan.

Five para commandos were killed and a Major-rank officer injured when terrorists set off an IED in Kandi forest, Rajouri on May 5.

The proposal to withdraw the Army from the hinterland was under discussion for some time and a firm recommendation was to be taken at the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) headed by Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha. The UHQ has top representatives from the Army, police and paramilitary forces.

Post abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the law and order and terror-related incidents had shown a decline with the number of stone pelting incidents reduced to zero. (Agencies)

Kashmiri Pandit...

Within a week after the incident, the Premi family left Kashmir.

The family said an FIR was registered in police station Dooru Anantnag, but this case was closed as untraced after a brief period, as no effective and expeditious investigation was done.

The Family said the Police had arrested eight suspects involved, but later the case was closed as untraced.

Rajinder Premi said the family had approached the authorities with the request of handing this case to CBI for an expeditious and effective investigation, but due to unknown reasons was not allowed by the then J&K government.

They said the case of the father-son killing was not reopened despite the recommendations of the state Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in 2012.

Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government recognised the literary contribution of Sarwanand Premi, who was conferred the Lifetime achievement award posthumously on Republic Day. Sarwanand Premi authored more than three dozen books, which include translations of the "Bhagavad Gita" into Urdu and 'Ramayana' into Kashmiri. He also translated into Kashmiri Rabindranath Tagore's 'Geetanjali'. (Agencies)

HC seeks NIA's stand...

Srinagar and no incriminating material was recovered from them to suggest they were part of any of the proscribed organisations or were actively working in furtherance of the ideology of terror outfits.

The petitioners also said the FIR in the present case was vague and did not name the petitioners and the lower court order of March 3 refusing to grant them bail should be set aside.

In April 2022, the NIA filed a charge sheet in the case under various sections of the UAPA, which included the

offences of waging war against the country, conspiracy and attempt to commit such acts.

Eight operatives of various proscribed terror organisations were arrested on October 22, 2021, during multiple searches spread across six districts of Jammu and Kashmir for terrorism conspiracy, according to NIA. (AGENCIES)

Government orders...

(South), is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary in the Government, Information Technology Department.

Ajay Sharma, Jr. JKAS, District Information Officer, Samba, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department.

Be fully prepared to...

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) of the Rajouri-Poonch sector since the April 20 terror attack on an army vehicle that killed five personnel.

He earlier visited the sector on April 22, April 26 and May 6. (AGENCIES)

Tourists throng snow-filled...

(10,400 tourists), which are brimming with visitors from across the country.

Located on the Bhadarwah-Pathankot National Highway about 35 km northeast of Bhadarwah town, the win meadows have emerged as darling of tourists in the recent times and given stakeholders such as small-time vendors, cab operators, hoteliers and guesthouse owners a reason to smile.

With a large swathe of the country reeling under gruelling heat, tourists from the plains are beaming with joy as they experience the beauty and chill of the white snow away from the peak summer temperatures back home.

"We came to pay obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and thereafter our plan was to go to Kashmir. But the tour operator suggested us to visit Bhadarwah as the Jammu-Srinagar Highway was closed. We decided to give it a try. And believe me the tour of this beautiful valley is worth every penny!" said Santosh Jangam, a tourist from Mumbai.

Another tourist from Mumbai, also named Santosh (45), said it was like a dream "playing with snow in mid-May when our place is under an intense heat wave".

"The vast meadows give an impression of being covered with white carpet and snow-filled mountains. It's mesmerising and magical. We are fortunate and lucky to be here at Guldanda," he said.

"We were in search of a Virgin destination for our honeymoon that ended at Bhadarwah Valley," said Sunny Kumar, who has come from Patna.

"It's like a dream come true that when our native place is experiencing intense heatwave, we are in woollen playing with snow. This place is vaster and far more easily accessible than the Rohtang pass as it took us just 40 minutes from our hotel at Bhadarwah town to reach Guldanda. If better facilities are provided here it can become a world class destination," he said.

Mohd Yusu Wani (37), a tea vendor at Guldanda, said the tourist inflow has given small businesses like his own a new lease of life as government jobs "have dried up and there are very few business opportunities".

"The sudden inflow of tourists has saved us from bankruptcy and since last month we are doing good business at Guldanda," he said.

Fifty-three-year-old Shahib Ahmed, a resident of Basti village, who runs a small business of local cuisines said his family has joined him to meet the high demand.

"I have been serving local cuisine like makke di roti (corn-floor bread), salet Kashmiri tea (Sheer Chai) and white butter. The tourists are loving it. My entire family including my son and wife have joined me to meet the high demands due to the rush of visitors at our Desi Chai tea stall which we run from a makeshift tented accommodation at Thanthera," said Shahib Ahmed (53) of village Basti.

The last couple of months have been good for the tourism sector in Bhadarwah. The region witnessed booming tourism seasons, especially after the Doda district administration held a series of events like a snow carnival at Jaie, followed by a snow festival and J&K's maiden snow marathon at Guldanda meadow.

"The last few months were one of the best for the tourism industry as the Bhadarwah Valley witnessed a record number of tourist arrivals during this season," said Vishesh Paul Mahajan, the Doda Deputy Commissioner.

"Tourist arrivals have spiked after the recent snowfall," the DC said.

"We have an average of around 9,000 tourist arrivals here daily. Most of the hotels are fully occupied or booked," he said.

J&K passing through tough times, dire need to unite & restore people's confidence: Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, MAY 17: Javed Rana, senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) leader and President of the party for Pir Panjal Zone has said that the erstwhile state of J&K has been passing through tough times post Article 370 abrogation especially due to the absence of a democratically elected representative Govt. He said that today there is a dire need for unity among the people in Pir Panjal region besides the need for the restoration of trust and confidence of the people in Civil and Defence administration.

He was speaking to the media persons during his visit to Bhata Durian where he paid tribute to martyr soldiers and a civilian who lost their lives during the post Article 370 abrogation period. Rana said that today there is a need for people friendly governance and appealed to the military, police and civil authorities for restoring confidence and trust of the people that seems to have been shattered in the



region especially due to harassment met to them during the recent days.

Regarding the death of the Civilian, the senior NC leader said that the matter needs to be probed thoroughly to ascertain whether it is really a suicide or not and if it is a suicide what are the reasons that led to suicide. Let's wait for the enquiry report and see what comes to fore in it, he added. He assured the victim family that he will also meet the Lt Governor and the GoC of Army in this regard and also advise them about the dire need for unity and restoring people's confidence so that the battle against Pakistan which is

violating the LoC through infiltration of terrorists, etc so that this fight can be taken to a logical conclusion.

Meanwhile, he lauded the Army for being people friendly adding that the army under GoC has been always people friendly and has worked for their welfare. Reiterating his appeal to the Civil, Police Army administrations to restore confidence and trust of the people and restrain from unnecessary harassment to them.

Asserting that it is the duty of the people to cooperate with the authorities in administration to maintain integrity and peace but for that the Civil

Administration needs to gain confidence and trust of the people first, he said that if the people are picked up and interrogated without any substantial ground then it amounts to sheer harassment to them with the authorities reaching to no logical conclusion in this security related significant issue.

He said, "I can state with full trust and confidence that not a single person in Mendhar constituency is anti-national. The people of Mendhar have always stood for the nation and even made sacrifices for the cause of the nation and shall continue the same in all times to come.

10th Anniversary of Art of Giving celebrated

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Art of Giving- a philosophy of life by Professor Achyuta Samanta, an event was organised here today at Dogra Higher Secondary School (DHSS).

Mr. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Cabinet Minister, Jammu and Kashmir was the chief guest on the occasion whereas Padmashree Professor Vishwa Murli Shastri, Former Director/Principal Central Sanskrit University was the guest of honour and Mr. Parshotam Kumar Dadhichi, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir presided over the function.

The event began with the lighting of ceremonial lamp. Mr. Gambhir Singh Charak, Managing Director, DHSS in his welcome address, expressed his gratitude towards the



invited dignitaries and the convener Art of Giving (AOG).

Dr. Varun Suthra, Convener AOG gave an audio visual presentation about the philosophy and showcased the life and works of its founder, Professor Samanta. He disclosed that AOG has been celebrated for the past 10 years across the globe at various centers. "This year's theme is 'Helping the Help' where

we are expressing gratitude towards the people who serve us in different walks of life. On the 10th AOG day celebrations we have decided to express our sincere thanks to the people who serve us be it nursing staff, municipal staff, drivers, domestic helps, teachers etc anyone who you feels is serving you," he added.

Mr. Dadhichi stressed upon the need of inculcating the values of giving

among children and youths. Professor Vishwa Murli explained the benefits of giving in making society peaceful.

Mr. Gulchain expressed thanks to Professor Samanta for his initiative to inspire the youths to do good for society. He stressed upon the need to support social and humanitarian causes.

Ms. Davinder Kour, Principal DHSS expressed vote of thanks.

Vikramaditya visits ancient temples at Utter Behni, Purmandal Shrines

TAKES STOCK OF FUNCTIONING OF TEMPLES, GIVES DIRECTIONS TO PROVIDE STATE OF ART FACILITIES TO VISITORS



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 17: Vikramaditya Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust and former MLC today visited various ancient temples at Utter Behni and Purmandal shrines, and took stock of the functioning of these noted religious destinations visited by the devotees coming from across the country and even abroad. Vikramaditya commenced his whirl-

wind tour of various temples from Abhimukteshwar Temple in Utterbehni and took stock of its functioning and the facilities which are being provided to devotees.

The former MLC performed Pooja and took a round of temple complex. Later, he interacted with priests, supervisors and other staffers to have first-hand knowledge about the working of the temple. He also directed the concerned staff to maintain

cleanliness and serenity in and around the complex to ensure tidiness and good vibes. Vikramaditya also visited the nearby location where Chandan trees have been planted in large numbers. He directed the concerned staffers of the Trust to take good care of the precious plants.

Later, the Trustee visited Ranbirsingheshwar Temple and Maharani Shopian Temple besides 200 years old Gadhadhar Temple in Utterbehni and

took stock of the functioning of these religious sites. He showed keen interest in the upkeep of these temples and accordingly directed the caretakers to ensure proper management of these temples.

Later, Vikramaditya Singh visited Purmandal Temple which is also called as Umapati Mahadev Temple and interacted with Temple Priests and staff.

The Trustee asked the staff to work dedicatedly to provide maximum facilities to the visiting devotees. He also asked Trust's staff to remain cautious of the notorious elements, who could make attempts to encroach the temple land. He said that any such attempt should be reported to the Trust's Main Office and the local police to stop illegal encroachers from encroaching the Trust's land. Brig (Retd) R.S Langeh, President of the Trust; Ashok Kumar (SSP Retd) Secretary, Varinder Jawmal, Additional Secretary, Land Record Office, Sat Pal Sharma and others accompanied the Trustee.

NYK will organise Yuva Utsav in GDC Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 17: Nehru Yuva Kendra Udhampur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. Of India is going to organize District Level Yuva Utsav on the theme "PanchPran" in collaboration with NSS unit of Govt Degree College Udhampur on 25th May and in collaboration with NSS unit of GDC Reasi on 26th May. In a press conference with media persons, District Youth Officer Sh. Khushal Gupta urged the talented youth of both the districts Udhampur & Reasi to register themselves through the designated google form and get an opportunity to participate in the District Level event. This year, the Yuva Utsav has five components i.e. Young Artists Camp



(Painting), Young Writers Camp (Poem), Photography Workshop, Declaration Contest, Cultural Festival (Group Dance only). For Painting, Poetry and Photography contests, the first winner will be awarded Rs. 1000/-, seconded winner will get Rs. 750/- and third winner will get Rs. 500/- along with mementoes and certificates of appreciation. In Declaration contest, the first, second and third winners will get Rs. 5000/-, Rs. 2000/- and Rs. 1000/- respectively. In Group Cultural contest, the first prize is Rs. 5000/-, second prize is Rs. 2500/- and third prize is Rs. 1250/- . The winners of each event will qualify for the State Level contest followed by the National Level Yuva Utsav.

Khushal Gupta spoke that PRIs, ULBs, Civil Society organisations, NGOs and Heads of educational institutions have a major role in ensuring that the talented youth of their respective areas get registered and participate in Yuva Utsav. He added that the interested candidates can register themselves well before 22nd May. The link of the Google Form can be received by contacting 01992-270576, 9906249020, 9592289025. Youth can also ask queries and seek clarifications through these numbers. Stalls and exhibitions of the key development departments will also be installed at the venue through which young people will be able to get information about the various social and financial inclusion schemes of the Govt of India.

Two day Tech Fest "Nirvikalpa-2 K23" concluded at YCET



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: On the First day of "NIRVIKALPA-2K23" inaugural ceremony was followed by many events which saw a huge participation from the students of YCET, IMS, IICS Polytechnic, GCET, MBSCTE and Govt. Polytechnic for Women. At day first this gala event also attracted the jubilant crowd with the mesmerizing band performance by Raghujeet Singh & Band and the energetic live performance by D.P Singh and group. The young

crowd was well captivated and enjoyed the performances.

On the valedictory function Dr. Ravi Shanker Sharma, KAS, was the Chief-Guest and Mr. Chand Singh JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government Transport Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu, was the Guest of Honor.

Er Vidhi S. Singh, Chairman, JGEL, Th. Shiv Dev Singh Jawmal, Vice Chairman, JGEL and Er Renu Bangroo, Managing Director, JGEL, welcomed the Chief Guest and the Special Guest by present-

ing them bouquets and mementoes.

Er. Rajnish Magotra, HOD Civil Engineering Department, YCET, presented the formal welcome address.

The Chief Guest in his speech encouraged the next generation of engineers to energetically take part in such technical fests. Additionally, he commended the YCET for holding such an important occasion.

Chairman, JGEL, Er. Vidhi S. Singh, in his speech, uplifted the students and appreciated their participation in vari-

ous events during the two-day tech fest. He motivated and encouraged the students with his inspiring words.

Some of the highlights of the program conducted on day two were Fashion Show, Display Your Talent, DJ, etc.

Fashion Show bagged the occasion with ample of hooping and applauses. Audience was fascinated with the drop-dead catwalk by the students of YCET and IMS. Fashion Show was then followed by Display Your Talent, where students from various institutes participated and show cased their talent. Prize distribution was also held where the prizes (cash prize and trophies) to the winners among the 20 events were given.

In the end, the event was summed up with the vote of thanks presented by Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics, YCET.

Dr. Mukesh Kumar Rana, Director, YCET, also gave his warm wishes.

The tech fest was an electrifying and memorable experience for one and all.

ASCOMS celebrates Fresher's Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences celebrated Freshers day on Wednesday the 17th of May, 2023. This cultural event was organized by Department of Sports, Cultural & Academics under the guidance of Dr. Ravinder K Gupta, Vice Chairman, Sport & Cultural Activities. The Chief Guest of function was Mr. Davinder K Batra, Secretary, Mr. Manik Batra, Trustee, ASCOMS was the Guest of Honor and Mr. Bisham Batra, Trustee, ASCOMS was the special guest on the occasion. The others present were Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, Dr. Ravinder Gupta, Vice Chairman Sports & Cultural Activities, various HODs, faculty members of ASCOMS, ASCONE & ASCOPS,

staff, students and parents of newcomers. Various scintillating cultural events depicting all Indian cultures from Kashmir to Kanyakumari were presented by the 1st Prof MBBS students with full enthusiasm which enthralled the audience. During the function, various contests were also conducted during the cultural program and these contests were judged by Mr. Manik Batra, Mr. Bisham Batra, Dr. K.S.Mehta, Prof & HOD, Surgery and Dr. Sapna Puri, Prof & HOD, Obstt. & Gynaie in which Mr. Ayush Gupta was crowned as Mr. Fresher while Miss Tamanna Sharma was crowned as Miss Fresher. Miss Shipra Gupta was adjudged as Miss Incredible and Mr. Ashutosh Pandey as Mr. Incredible while as Miss Kasak Katoch was judged as Miss Charming and Mr. Arun Ghai as Mr. Charming.

The Chief Guest on this occasion Mr. Davinder K Batra, in his address appreciated the organizing committee for organizing such a wonderful event. He said that it's a moment of great privilege and honour for him to extend a hearty welcome to all newcomers.

He also said that our college doesn't only focus on education but it works in a 360 degree manner by developing personal qualities such as leadership, teamwork, determination, flexibility, confidence, self-belief, respect etc, in all to mould a versatile person in you. Mr. Batra appreciated the student for presenting the incredible performances.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal in his address appreciated the students for their scintillating performance in today's function which kept the audience spell bound. He congratulated all the newcomers for achieving for

their success in getting a seat in this prestigious medical college. He said that this is a first step towards their dream and achieving the goals. He also thanked the parents of the students for becoming part of this occasion. While concluding his address, he said that you all should meet and greet everyone and make a cordial relationship with all and always try to be extraordinary in every case to stand out as we all have very high expectation from all of you. Dr. Malhotra also appreciated the efforts put in by the students under the supervision of Dr. Ravinder K Gupta, Vice Chairman Sports & Cultural Activities for organizing this event. Prizes were distributed among the winners by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, Special Guest, Director Principal and Vice Chairman, Sports & Cultural Activities.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Water Management

Water is going to be the most critical factor in the national security of India in 21st Century. Water, being a strategic asset, has become a major source of discord within SAARC countries and India's relations with China and Pakistan, though India lives in a water-stressed region. India is the fastest growing economy and it would have to demonstrate its leadership qualities in South Asia. It should lead in the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). That's the way out. Otherwise, the other prospect is the spectre of war looming large. The country's water requirements owing to the daily needs of ever growing population, energy requirements, food security through agriculture produce and the quality of life have expanded, while the water resources have shrunk due to various man-made and natural reasons. This is the reason that there is an urgent need to improve water management within the country and the people at the helm of affairs should keep in mind that there is no other substitute to it. Importantly, India would need to heighten its diplomacy particularly with its neighboring countries and play a dominant role in shaping the water management policy. Its criticality can be sensed from the fact the way the states within the country are angry with one another over the waters of the rivers, and the neighboring countries are demonstrating their water super power status in an aggressive manner. China's reluctance to listen to the Indian concerns over the damming of the Yarlung river - which is known as Brahmaputra in India - is a worrying scenario. China has not entered into any agreement with any of the countries downstream. India should up its diplomatic ante to claim its due share in the waters of the trans-boundary rivers. China's dams and plans to divert the water of the rivers flowing out of the Tibetan plateau to meet its own needs in the northern region should not be taken lightly or business as usual. On the other hand, Pakistan is making all out efforts to redefine the terms of the diplomatically and politically weak Indus Water Treaty (IWT). In fact, India should step up the diplomatic efforts and see to it that the generosity shown by New Delhi in ceding 80 per cent of water under the Treaty is rectified. This World Bank brokered treaty of 1960 has become an albatross around the neck of India. As a responsible member of the international community, India cannot deprive its western neighbour of what is due to it in terms of water flowing from its six rivers. But then it takes two hands to clap, Pakistan has mounted a fierce campaign of terrorism to put India into corner on the issue of water. Islamabad refuses to recognize the impact of climate change on the water resources, particularly glaciers. She should be made conscious of climate change. The opacity of China is worrisome. So is the attitude of Pakistan, which knocks the doors of international court at the drop of hand. India cannot, and should not give in to such pressures. It would have to either use deft diplomacy or guard its water resources with all the might at its command. Water will be a tool of bargain in the 21st century when it comes to the relations between nation states. India's water issues with Pakistan and China have the potential to become catalysts for conflict.

PAKISTAN AFFLICTED BY INTERNAL RIVALRIES

THE MAIN EXTERNAL POWER GIVEN TO USING AND FOSTERING PAKISTAN'S HOSTILITY TOWARDS INDIA REMAINS CHINA.

G PARTHASARATHY

Responding to a query by a Pakistani journalist on his fiery bowling against Indian batsmen in 1982, Imran Khan asserted that when he played against India, he regarded the game as jihad. While much has changed in the cricket world since he was the Pakistan team's captain, Imran's present jihadi instincts appear to be directed more against the Pakistan army than against India! Imran's ire evidently arises from his feeling that he lost his majority in the parliament due to the machinations of the then army chief, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

While there may be a good reason for Imran's ill feeling towards General Bajwa, it is widely believed in Pakistan that Bajwa was responsible for the back-channel negotiations with India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Jammu and Kashmir. This was the period when cross-border terrorism across the Line of Control was rarely witnessed. While cross-border terrorism still continues, as was seen recently in Rajouri, it is evident that Pakistan will take time to return significantly to its old ways. However, as the adage goes, old habits die hard. Moreover, India does have options for responding in kind to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism.

In the larger perspective, one has to bear in mind where things stand now in Pakistan, which is in an economic mess. Its foreign exchange reserves have been falling drastically. Its reserves today can barely meet a month's requirement for essential imports. The inflow of foreign exchange from friendly countries has been hampered in the absence of clearance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has not been forthcoming for months.

The US has also been insistent on Pakistan fulfilling its commitments before the IMF could certify that it met the requirements for further assistance. There appear to be doubts in the USA about Pakistan's assurances on its economic policies. More importantly, the US has concerns about the policies of Imran, who is likely to be the frontrunner in any forth-



coming election in Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan are paying a heavy price because of the follies of the country's political leadership and the incompetence of its military rulers since the days of Field Marshal Ayub Khan. There have, however, been instances when military rulers such as General Musharraf learnt the right lessons from follies like the Kargil misadventure to seek a realistic and reasonable solution to the Kashmir issue.

We also find young, immature and overzealous ministers such as Bilawal Bhutto going off the bend and creating misunderstandings. Bilawal has only to be reminded of the path his mother and grandfather took on relations with India.

The principal external power given to using and fostering Pakistan's hostility towards India remains China. Beijing has traditionally been the principal instrument in encouraging Pakistan's hostility to India - by strengthening Pakistan's conventional, nuclear and missile capabilities. This propensity of China is now evident across India's neighbourhood, extending from the Strait of Malacca to the Strait of Hormuz.

China is now determined to use Moscow's growing dependence on it to influence Russia's policies towards India and Pakistan. Russia's hostility towards Pakistan remained high when Islamabad was found to be

providing weapons to Ukraine, evidently at Washington's behest. This policy was largely influenced by the then pro-US General Bajwa. But the extent of Chinese influence on Russia's policies became evident when Moscow suddenly started changing policies and opened the doors for supplying petroleum to Pakistan at rates similar to those provided to India.

One also saw changes in Russian policies through the statements made by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu during the meeting of the defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Goa. Shoigu criticised groupings such as Quad, of which India is a member, asserting that they were set up to 'contain' China. Moscow has clearly chosen to back Chinese ambitions in the Asia-Pacific Region. Shoigu's statement came along-side blunt statements by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar drawing attention to China's violations of border agreements with India.

Shoigu's comments came at a time when a meeting in Saudi Arabia brought together US NSA Jake Sullivan and Doval, along with leaders from two of the most powerful Arab states in the Persian Gulf - the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, and the UAE's NSA, Sheikh Tahnoon. This meeting,

according to the White House, was to "advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East Region, interconnected with India and the world." Clearly, this meeting sets the stage for discussions which PM Modi will have with President Biden in Washington.

The meeting in Saudi Arabia was preceded by Doval's visit to Iran, where he met President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

India has been unable to purchase oil from Iran in recent years because of US sanctions on Tehran. Nevertheless, the Chabahar port in Iran provides India crucial access to Afghanistan. India is among the countries which have successfully balanced their relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran. China has played a vital role in bringing to an end the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran - an action that makes the conduct of diplomacy and expanding economic cooperation across the oil-rich Persian Gulf Region much easier. But China also appears determined to take an adversarial position on India's relations with its South Asian neighbours. This move is accompanied by China's deliberate effort for expanding its military cooperation with Pakistan, while simultaneously countering India's efforts for promoting cooperation with its ASEAN neighbours.

Karnataka poll shows EC's independence has been diluted

ZOYA HASAN

Elections in India are held regularly and conducted successfully. A large part of this success is due to the Election Commission (EC), which is a widely trusted constitutional body that functions independently of executive control and interference. The EC's reputation for independence and fairness is not just its individual attribute but also forms an important part of the political system's legitimacy and the people's trust in democratic institutions. The EC, on the whole, has ensured a level playing field. However, legal safeguards to guarantee this have been compromised lately. Critics point out that its actions and inactions are often supportive of the ruling party. The complaints centre on its failure to act against violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Questions have also been asked about the scheduling of polls to suit the convenience of the ruling party.

The change occurred after the BJP became the first party in three decades (after the Congress in 1984) to win a parliamentary majority on its own in 2014, signalling the return of a dominant executive. This has constrained most institutions, including the EC. It was noticeable during the 2019 General Election when the EC's actions were widely questioned.



When the MCC was imposed in March 2019, the EC made it clear that the candidates should avoid mentioning the armed forces in their campaigns to derive political mileage from them. But this principle was not adhered to by top leaders of the ruling dispensation as first-time voters were urged to keep in mind the 'sacrifice' of the forces while casting their votes. This was not just a direct invocation of the Balakot airstrikes but also a clear violation of the EC's appeal to the parties. Yet, it failed to take action against the BJP, but was quick to take action for similar violations by Opposition parties.

The bigger majority in the 2019

election further strengthened the executive and this further constrained the EC's ability to act as an independent referee. During several Assembly elections held since 2019, political leaders have repeatedly violated the MCC, which prohibits appeals by candidates, their agents or any other persons on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language, but none of them have been penalised for egregious violations. As a consequence, communal campaigns and hate speech have been normalised.

In the just-concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, the EC failed to create a level playing field. It has been accused of turning a blind eye

to the numerous infractions of senior BJP leaders and their repeated invocation of religion in the campaign.

The top leadership, from the Prime Minister downwards, sought to equate the Bajrang Dal, a right-wing organisation with ties to the BJP, with Bajrang Bali, a Hindu god. Voters were exhorted to say 'Jai Bajrang Bali' while casting their vote.

The Bahutva Karnataka, a citizens' forum for communal harmony and democratic values, complained against the soliciting of votes in the name of a Hindu deity by the PM and other BJP leaders. Section 123 (3) of the Representation of the People Act forbids appeals to vote on

grounds of religion and community. The Congress, too, asked the EC to restrain the PM from taking the name of the Hindu god. But the EC took no action, even as it issued a notice to the Congress for a comment about Karnataka's 'sovereignty' that Sonia Gandhi had not even made. It also served a show-cause notice on Karnataka PCC president DK Shivakumar for the Congress' political advertisement alleging a '40% commission sarkara.'

However, the EC failed to act on complaints against the appeal to religious sentiments by top leaders of the ruling party. Nor was any action taken when leaders delivered hate speech or made defamatory remarks against the Congress, accusing it of supporting terrorism and the banned People's Front of India (PFI). The Union Home Minister even suggested that the state would be rocked by communal riots if the Congress came to power.

These absurd charges were clearly designed to polarise the electorate and inflame passions with the aim of consolidating the Hindu vote. But the commission neither issued show-cause notices nor took any action against these violations.

The EC's handling of complaints, through action or inaction, was arbitrary in Karnataka. Thus, the EC is progressively not being seen as an unbiased umpire. This is partly because the government controls the

EC personnel's appointments and finances. This has been true in the past as well, but under the current regime, it seems the controls are more extensive.

The Supreme Court flagged the issue of appointments in the historic judgment of March 2, 2023, which ordered an end to the practice of the government appointing election commissioners on its own. The order was aimed at preventing the EC from becoming, in the words of the SC, "a servile commission" and vitiating the purity and integrity of the poll process.

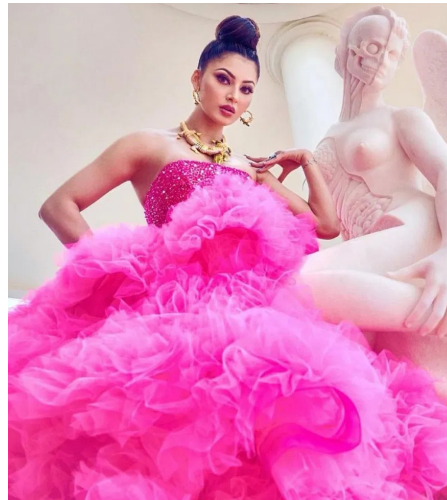
The phrase "servile commission" was mentioned in the Constituent Assembly by the Chairman of its Drafting Committee, BR Ambedkar. During the discussions on the draft Constitution, Ambedkar admitted that there was nothing "to provide against nomination of an unfit person to the post of the Chief Election Commissioner or the other Election Commissioner." The apprehension that the election commissioners are likely to be "under the thumb of the executive" resonates in the reiteration of the expression "servile commission" by the apex court.

The EC's neutrality is essential for its success. Elections in first-past post electoral systems, such as India's, are high-stakes contests. The highly competitive and closely fought elections require the EC to be impartial.

Urvashi Rautela wears unique lizard necklace at Cannes Film Festival 2023, internet reacts: Chipkali agar zinda ho gai?

Urvashi Rautela often grabs attention for her unique sartorial choices. On Wednesday, the actor shared photos and videos from her first appearance at Cannes Film Festival 2023, where she wore a larger-than-life pink dress. While some praised her over-the-top outfit, calling it 'beautiful', others could not get past her choice of accessories - a golden lizard necklace, and matching earrings. Urvashi was seen in multiple designer looks at last year's 75th Cannes Film Festival. On Tuesday, she made her mark at Cannes Film Festival 2023 in a pink gown. This is Urvashi's first look from the prestigious film festival this year. The actor took to Instagram to

share photos and videos of herself, which attracted all kinds of reactions. She wrote in her caption, "76th annual Cannes Film Festival red carpet opening." One commented on the actor's video, "Gale mein chipkali agar zinda ho gai toh photoshoot chod kar aise bhagoge aap (You will run away from the photoshoot, if that lizard around your neck 'wakes up')." Another one said, "I cannot unsee that lizard necklace... so wild..." Another commented, "What is that around her neck?" However, some liked the look. One fan called Urvashi the 'Queen of Cannes 2023'. Another said, "You nailed it, such a great look." Others left comments like 'fabulous' and 'beautiful'.



IT WAS NEITHER ADHYAYAN NOR KANGANA RANAUT'S FAULT: SHEKHAR SUMAN ON SON'S BREAKUP



Shekhar Suman has opened up about his son Adhyayan Suman and Kangana Ranaut's past relationship and said that relationships do not always work the way people want them to. Adding that in the case of his son's breakup, it was neither Kangana, nor Adhyayan's fault. Kangana and Adhyayan were in a relationship in 2008-2009 for a few months. They also worked together in Raaz: The Mystery Continues. They had an ugly breakup and he even made several allegations against her, accusing her of trying to influence him. Talking to Bollywood Hungama, Shekhar said, "I was never against his relationship with Kangana, or anyone else. It is a phase in life. Sometimes there are mistakes, sometimes you succeed in your first relationship. Society loves drama and the day people would have wanted Kangana and Adhyayan's relationship to end, right from day one. Sometimes even your friends do not want your happiness. It (breakup) was neither Adhyayan nor Kangana's fault. It was the fault of circumstances because of which some things happened which were not meant to be."

SCHEANA SHAY AND BROCK DAVIES: LOVE, MARRIAGE, AND A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY ON VANDERPUMP RULES

Vanderpump Rules season 10 star, Scheana Marie Shay, has tied the knot with her partner Brock Davies last August, and netizens are eager to know more about their current relationship status. As one of the OG members of the VPR cast, the 38-year-old has experienced her fair share of ups and downs in her romantic aspect, all of which have been captured onscreen. From the popular VPR figure's highly publicized relationship with her first husband Mike Shay to subsequent dating endeavors, Scheana's journey to finding lasting love has been a roller-coaster ride. While many viewers initially had reservations about Brock, it quickly



became apparent that he and Scheana were a perfect match. Their relationship eludes a sense of ease and compatibility that many admire. Despite the 'Wedding Day' star sometimes demanding and high-maintenance

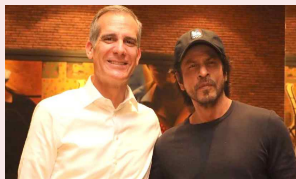
nature, Brock brings out a more laid-back and contented side of her. It's evident that she has found happiness and stability with her current partner, as showcased in the most recent season of Vanderpump Rules. Recently, the duo welcomed their daughter Summer Moon Davies during the previous season, marking a new chapter in Scheana's life. Following their wedding, which was featured on Vanderpump Rules season 10, fans eagerly anticipated if VPR personality and Brock were cut out for married life. The couple has proven to be resilient and committed to each other. It was later revealed that Scheana and Brock had already legally tied the knot a year prior to their extravagant destination wedding.

Mrunal Thakur wears black outfit as she flies out to Mumbai ahead of her Cannes red carpet debut, poses with paparazzi



Actor Mrunal Thakur, who is all set to attend Cannes Film Festival for the first time, flew out of Mumbai. In a video shared by a paparazzi account on Wednesday, Mrunal was seen arriving at the Mumbai airport in her car. For her travels, Mrunal opted for a sleeveless top, matching pants and heels. She also carried a bag and a jacket with her. Mrunal posed for the paparazzi and also winked when they thanked her. Before entering the airport terminal building Mrunal posed with the photographers stationed there. Before leaving, Mrunal shared a glimpse of her preparations for the event. Talking to her Instagram Stories, she posted a picture of some creations of renowned fashion designers Falguni and Shane Peacock. She was seen resting her head on a person's shoulder and holding Falguni's arms as they looked in front of them. She wrote, "Truly mesmerized @falguni-haneapeacockindia. If only I could show you the dress... But I can't just yet." Talking about her Cannes debut, Mrunal said, as quoted by news agency ANI, "I am thrilled to be attending the Cannes Film Festival for the first time. It is an honour to represent Grey Goose at such a prestigious platform. I am looking forward to interacting with global filmmakers, exploring new opportunities, and showcasing the talent that Indian cinema has to offer." Mrunal will be in the French Riviera from May 17 to May 19. Apart from Mrunal, Sara Ali Khan, Anushka Sharma and Manushi Chhillar are also making their Cannes debut this year.

US Ambassador Garcetti meets Shah Rukh Khan



US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti met superstar Shah Rukh Khan at the actor's residence Mannat where they discussed the "cultural impact" of Hollywood and Bollywood. Garcetti also posted pictures from his meeting with the Hindi cinema star at his sea-facing bungalow in suburban Bandra on Tuesday on Twitter. "Is it time for my Bollywood debut? Had a wonderful chat with superstar @iamsrk at his residence Mannat, learning more about the film industry in Mumbai and discussing the huge cultural impact of Hollywood and Bollywood across the globe. #AmbExploresIndia" he tweeted. Garcetti, 52, President Joe Biden's close aide, was officially sworn in as the US Ambassador to India in March. In Mumbai, the US ambassador also met Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and visited the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC), which was inaugurated in March.

Fahmaan Khan recalls when a casting director grabbed him from behind; opens up on living in a room with 17 people, rejecting Ishq Subhan Allah

Actor Fahmaan Khan moved to Mumbai from Bangalore in 2014 and started auditioning for acting projects. Today, he is one of the leading men of TV with a loyal fanbase. However, he admits fame has not shook his head from his shoulders. "I have paid my dues for such a long time," he says. "He was never lured by the fame but 'the art of acting was what drew' him to the profession. Khan's first show was Kya Qasoor Hai Amla Kaa? However, landing the debut in his kitty, is quite a story for Khan to tell. "There was an eight month waiting period for that show to start. That time I was living with 17 people in Santa Cruz and it was 2.5BHK in Santa Cruz and it was 17 people. Cheeni bhi cupboard mein lock karli padli thi," he recalls. After shooting the pilot and waiting for four months, Khan was dropped the project like a hot potato. "That was a morally depressing time. You think that you are so bad that



people have to change you. I couldn't speak to anyone. I started giving auditions again, but my mental health was not right," he reminisces. Luck came through for Khan in the clutch. He was offered the show again, with a hiked fee. The show gave him much fame and a bit of air. "I thought I should get lead now. I even hiked my budget. (But) I didn't understand the norms of TV. I didn't work for eight months after that. People kept calling me and I kept saying no. Then the name died down. Suddenly, I realised, nobody is calling me anymore, I'm not getting any work," he shares. One of the shows that he remembers refusing, which he admits was foolish of him, was Isha Subhan Allah. "(That) was one show I rejected, it was stupid of me to do that." Did he refuse it due to monetary reasons and he admits, "Yeah, imagine. To look back at it, I think that just helped me understand how to go high my head. Maybe if I had accepted that, I got a hit, the success would have gone to my head and I would have screwed up a lot of more things." In his almost a decade long journey, Khan has met several kinds of people, a few who even tried putting their hands on him. "I've done modelling in my life... I've been through with designers, people who are like this. I know people who are very open about it (their sexuality) and very cool about it. I also have come across people who are cheery and they make you uncomfortable," he shares.



Kim Kardashian's social media empire fuels a \$1.34 billion buyout blitz. Can her fame save cash-strapped investors?

In a dazzling display of entrepreneurial prowess, Kim Kardashian, the queen of reality TV turned cultural icon, is leveraging her social media empire to launch a debut private equity fund. SKKY Partners, the brainchild of Kardashian and former Carlyle Group executive Jay Sammons, aims to raise a staggering \$1.34 billion in a challenging fundraising landscape. What sets SKKY Partners apart from the competition? It's none other than the millions of devoted fans who

hang on to Kardashian's every post, tweet, and TikTok dance routine. With a jaw-dropping 432 million followers across Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok, the pitch boldly declares that Kardashian's social reach is the secret ingredient that will ensure SKKY's triumph. But this isn't just a numbers game. The pitch highlights Kardashian's "demonstrated ability to identify and define culture." She's not just a reality star; she's a trendsetter, a tastemaker, and a force to be reckoned with in the world of

consumer and media. With SKKY Partners targeting 10 to 12 investments in these industries, ranging from \$100 million to \$500 million each, the fund is poised to make some serious waves. However, in a fundraising environment plagued by rising interest rates and recession predictions, even industry giants like Apollo Global Management and Carlyle are feeling the pressure. Yet, Kardashian's star power seems undiminished. Her shapewear company, Skims, already valued at a whopping

\$3.2 billion in 2022, showcases her ability to turn fame into fortune. SKKY Partners plans to ride this wave of cultural relevance by tapping into a network of actors, musicians, artists, and athletes. With their fingers on the pulse of popular culture, they aim to stay ahead of the game and make strategic investments that resonate with the masses. And it doesn't stop there. The firm intends to mine social media for valuable insights into consumer attitudes, giving them an edge in understanding the ever-shifting

dynamics of brand loyalty. As the launch of the fund approaches, SKKY Partners remains flexible, without setting a close date and open to adjusting their targets. They understand the challenges of the current economic climate and are determined to navigate them successfully. To bolster their ranks, the firm has been bolstering their team, adding professionals from across Wall Street. By the end of 2023, they expect to have a team of over 15 individuals, ready to conquer the investment landscape.

8 Incredible Side Effects of Giving Up Cheese, According to Experts

If you can't get enough cheese, you are not alone. In fact, it's safe to say that the U.S. is a nation of cheese lovers. According to statistics, Americans consumed a whopping 5.3 billion pounds of cheese in 2021—that's 1.8 billion more pounds than we collectively ate in 2010. It makes sense when you think about it: Melted on burgers, sprinkled on pizzas, stacked high on charcuterie boards—cheese is an integral ingredient in so many of our favorite foods. Its allure is undeniable. And although cheese can be a healthy part of a balanced diet, like everything, moderation is key, and eating too much of it can have adverse effects too.

For one thing, many varieties of cheese are riddled with calories and can be high in fat and sodium content, which research indicates can potentially lead to type 2 diabetes, heart failure, coronary heart disease, hypertension, and stroke, among other conditions. Because of its sodium and fat content, Dr. Alan Woolbright Ph.D., the national nutrition program director of Whole Foods' nonprofit Whole Cities Foundation, recommends limiting your cheese intake to 1-ounce servings of hard cheese or half-ounce servings of soft cheeses at a time.

Lellunamide and Side Effects
"One way to do this is to purchase varieties with stronger flavors like Parmesan, feta, and Swiss), so you can add more taste to your food with lesser



amounts," says Woolbright. But, while the research connecting cheese consumption to chronic diseases may be somewhat inconsistent, if you're predisposed to high blood pressure or have been officially diagnosed with hypertension, you may want to steer clear of these sharp, hard cheeses. "If you are interested in reducing your sodium intake, avoid feta and hard cheeses," Woolbright advises, adding, "you can go a step further by replacing whole milk cheeses with low-fat and reduced-fat options."

Read on to discover some of the health benefits and side effects of giving up cheese—and for more dietitian-approved healthy eating advice, be sure to check out the Surprising Side Effects of Giving Up Milk, *Snack Dilemma*.

Lowering your overall dairy intake—cheese included—may have a positive effect on the tone

and texture of your skin. Research shows that dairy products are linked to excess oil production, which may increase the appearance of unsightly blemishes on your skin.

"Studies show that dairy can raise insulin levels, which increases the production of the hormones that produce sebum (an oily secretion), which may influence acne," says Isabel Smith, MS, RD, CDN, founder of Isabel Smith Nutrition, in a previous interview with Eat This. "I don't see this in all of my clients, but many find that more dairy consumption increases break-outs."

You may experience less bloating.

If you're someone who struggles with digestive issues and experiences frequent bloating, then cutting out or limiting cheese and dairy may help reverse this. "For many, dairy can cause stomach upset and bloating due to either a lack of

adequate enzymes to break down milk sugar or an actual allergy," says Trista Best, MPH, RD, LD, at Balance One Supplements.

Another positive side effect of giving up cheese is that eating less of this dairy product can help you manage your cholesterol while decreasing your risk

CHEESE IS DELICIOUS, BUT REDUCING OR ELIMINATING IT FROM YOUR DIET CAN ALSO HAVE SOME MAJOR HEALTH BENEFITS.

"Those [cheeses] lacking adequate amounts of lactase, the enzyme that digests milk sugar, are known to be lactose intolerant and experience excessive GI upset and bloating when consuming dairy," Best adds.

If lactose-heavy cheeses tend to upset your stomach, consider opting for dairy-free cheese—and if dairy-free isn't to your liking, consider trying these five kinds of cheese you can still eat if you're lactose intolerant.

If you are someone who frequently gets migraines, a diet high in cheese and dairy may be the culprit. Some cheeses are high in tyramine, an amino acid that naturally occurs in plants and animal products and has historically been linked to the triggering of migraines and headaches.

Cheeses that are high in tyramine include aged cheddar, Swiss, Parmesan, blue cheeses (like Gorgonzola), and Camembert, according to the Mayo Clinic.

You may lower your cholesterol & heart disease risk

for other cardiovascular complications.

"Cheese is a food high in saturated fat, which is a contributor to heart disease primarily by increasing cholesterol levels," explains Best.

"Saturated fat has been shown to increase bad or low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol because it triggers the liver to produce more cholesterol."

"High levels of LDL cholesterol leads to a buildup of fatty deposits in the arteries, a risk factor for heart disease and stroke," she adds. "A positive side effect of removing cheese from your diet is the potential of lowering your cholesterol and subsequently your risk of heart disease."

If you're in the process of trying to lose weight, eating cheese to excess may also impede your ability to hit your weight loss goals based on your desired timeline because of the sugar, fat, and calorie content found in many kinds of cheese. That's why cutting down on them can help aid weight loss.

KITCHEN TIPS: HOW TO REMOVE BAD ODOUR FROM REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES



Whether from the point of view of environmental sustainability or simply for a matter of convenience, reusable water bottles are quite common nowadays. It is so easy to fill up a water bottle and take it wherever you go to stay hydrated and replenished on the go. During summers, we often fill up our bottles with different kinds of drinks - maybe an iced tea or even some vitamin-infused water. Sometimes, these drinks may leave a leftover bad odour in the reusable water bottles - for no fault of your own. Here's all you need to know about cleaning up your bottle properly and removing any foul smell from it. Is It Safe To Drink Water From Smelly Water Bottles? It is not recommended to consume water from a smelly water bottle. This is because the foul odour indicates the presence of harmful bacteria inside the bottle. This could be due to improper cleaning and human saliva that may cause bacteria to breed inside it. Recently, a group of researchers from a US-based company found that reusable water bottles may harbour four times more bacteria than a computer mouse and a whopping 40,000 times more bacteria than a toilet seat.

Water bottles can often have a foul odour that may take some time to go away. Photo: iStock/How To Clean Reusable Water Bottles Properly And Remove Bad Odour Ideally, a reusable water bottle should be cleaned at least once every alternate day. If the bad odour comes more often, it can be removed using some simple kitchen ingredients. Luckily, there are so many foods in our humble Indian kitchen that can prove effective as cleaning agents for smelly water bottles. These ingredients can be kept handy for removing the bad odour from your water bottles. Here's How You Can Remove Bad Odour From Reusable Water Bottles: 1. Baking Soda: Baking soda bicarbonate or baking soda is one of the most effective cleaning agents in our kitchens. From tough stains to foul smells, it can smoothly eliminate all this and more. Simply add a teaspoon of baking soda to your water bottle and fill it with water. Give it a good shake and let it soak overnight. Rinse properly and see the difference. 2. Vinegar: Believe it or not, the strong-smelling vinegar can be a great antidote for smells in your reusable bottle. Add it to your water bottle in a small quantity (no more than a cap full) and dilute it with some water. Let the solution rest and rinse it out. Your bottle will shine and smell as good as new.

White vinegar can be an effective way to clean up your reusable water bottles. Photo: iStock/ Lemon Juice: Just like vinegar, even lemon juice is an acidic solution that can prove to be an effective cleaner. This is why several detergents and cleaning solutions in the market make use of lemon as an ingredient. Simply squeeze in some lemon juice and add some water to make a natural cleaning solution to remove bad odour. Alternatively, you could also use a lemon slice or an orange peel. 4. Tea Leaves: Did you know that the humble tea leaves can be used for more than just making our favourite beverage? Use leftover tea leaves to clean up the grease and odour from your reusable water bottle. Tea leaves act as a natural astringent and cleaning agent and give great results every time. Simply add a tea bag to your water bottle and let it soak overnight. You will see that the odour disappears completely!

Did you know tea leaves can be good cleansing agents too? Photo: iStock/ Soap And Water: If nothing else works, there's always the classic combination of soap and water. This frothy solution will remove all the excess bacteria and leave behind a clean and shiny bottle sans any foul smells.

So, keep your bottles clean and reuse them without worrying about catching infections or harming your health.

WHY THE FOOD PYRAMID WAS NEVER MEANT TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY

Who can forget learning about how to have a healthy diet from the food pyramid? The colorful triangular shape gave us dietary guidelines to live by for a long and healthy life.

The first food pyramid was created in Sweden in the 1970s. There were street protests about the high price of foods and the government created a committee to determine if a healthy meal could be put together at an affordable price. Dr. Luise Light was the nutritional expert who created the food guide pyramid we are all familiar with. It was introduced to the public in 1992 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and consisted of six blocks, stacked from largest to smallest.

What is the food pyramid? The food pyramid was a visual representation of the food

groups, showcasing dietary advice on what people should be consuming for optimal health.

The foods at the base of the pyramid were refined grains such as rice, bread, and pasta, and it was suggested that people consume 6-11 servings daily.

Then came servings of fruits and vegetables at 2-4 servings and 3-5 servings, respectively. Next, people were advised to eat 2-3 servings of dairy products, then 2-3 servings of proteins like red meats, eggs, beans, and nuts. Fats and oils topped the pyramid, rounding out a supposed balanced diet.

The food pyramid was based on the premise that people needed to get the most nutritional value they could at the lowest cost. So, the entire diet was made up of a huge amount of carbohydrates. But with more understanding about the effect of carbs

on body weight and health, and the benefits of healthy fats, it seems the food industry may have been following misleading advice.

Is the food pyramid wrong? We now know that fat foods are not necessarily "bad" for you. As a matter of fact, foods labeled "low-fat" have been known to create more problems than they prevent. Consumers thought they were doing the right thing when they replaced junk fat foods with processed junk fat that was touted as low-fat.

Those low-fat, fat-free, and reduced fat items often contained additives like sugar, salt and chemical filler, which was detrimental to our health. Some of the side effects were chronic disease, weight gain, and risks to your heart health. In addition, because of the ill-advised recommendation of carbohydrates,

many people started developing type 2 diabetes. This happened because their bodies were either unable to produce enough insulin or unable to process the excess insulin it creates. Registered dietitian Susan Bowerman pointed out the fact that the "grain" group at the base of the pyramid was influenced by lobbyists in the grain industry.

Many believe that consumers were deceived by the food industry and big corporations. The results from determining exactly what a healthy diet looked like would not maximize profits for food corporations, so it was changed. The recommended 5-9 servings of fruit and veggies was reduced to 2-3.

Cereal companies were behind adjusting the 5 servings of grains to up to 11. As for dairy products, there was no recommendation, but it too, was added to benefit the dairy industry.

Corporations tricked consumers into thinking carbs were a separate food group from fruits and vegetables.

Luise Light, MS, who was part of the inception of the pyramid agreed, stating,

"The type of grains suggested by the pyramid were also a problem. The pyramid didn't emphasize whole grains and so in some ways encouraged the intake of refined grains." Another problem with the food pyramid was the absence of any guidance on portion size for each food group. People likely overestimated what a correct portion of food looked like and over-ate. Apparently, the original food pyramid was accompanied by a booklet that explained how to correctly measure a portion size.

Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte Reviews (Germany Alert) Vitax Keto Gummies Germany DE Exposed Reports!

Weight loss has always been a topic of discussion for obese people for general reasons. However, the most obvious reason is that they want to lose weight as fast as possible. But due to the lack of immediate effects and not so convincing weight loss supplements they often tend to depend on the most obvious choice for weight loss which is staying in the calorie deficit as well as dieting till you starve. In reality these practices are often dependent on the values of the traditional weight loss solution. As a result, Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte would bring the necessary changes that would help you to lose extra body fat naturally. OFFICIAL WEBSITE: CLICK HERE!

Weight loss is difficult for everyone. Weight loss is often considered one of the most important physical transformation aspects that requires external as well as internal efforts to maintain calories as well as influence metabolic state of the body. These aspects can be easily determined with the



help of BMI (Body Mass Index) and essential body weight properties which reflect the fat accumulation as well as slow metabolic pace. In reality finding a solution to overeating or sustaining a low calorie intake is really difficult and closely related to appetite separation which is really hard for many individuals. So Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte truly recognise the importance of keto diet as well as implement healthy

body tactics for weight loss. What are Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte? Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte heigten several aspects of the keto diet by adjusting the basic necessity to function on the grounds of metabolism that purely helps to regulate several aspects of weight management. Fortunately one of the biggest features of the keto diet is to burn fat for energy which is the

core aspect related to ketosis as well. This dietary management solution would help you to address natural obesity and overweight problems. On the other hand keto edibles are designed in such a way that it would satisfy your hunger cravings as well as lower the calories in take without even dieting. The natural ingredients play a crucial role when it comes to appetite separation and sustaining the ketosis region which is pretty important. Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte featuring ingredients Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte are designed to deliver keto benefits in the safest manner possible. One of the most important aspects of the keto diet is to sustain the ketosis region by influencing the Ketone bodies. As we all know that keto diet is itself a challenging dietary system which requires low carbs intake. Listed below some of the great defining ingredients that stimulate ketosis behavior in the body for weight loss: ACV (Apple Cider Vinegar) helps

to establish a natural connection between your body and fat utilization by addressing the stubborn body fat for proper utilization. Garcinia Cambogia resolves an important issue that is concerned with appetite separation because calories management is an important issue in the ketosis regime. Pectin is an amazing natural flavonoid that can help you with interesting tasty Gummies for better keto assistance in the body. Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte defining Ketosis The keto diet firstly defines the basis of ketosis through which your body can rely on fat utilization. Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte initiate the proper process of keto diet through which your body can lower the hunger cravings and implement appetite separation at its very best for ketosis management. On the other hand, the ketosis state introduces fat utilization at its core by defining energy utilization in the body. Finally BHB (Beta-Hydroxybutyrate) certainly acts as a barrier that can surpasses

the body's limit of energy production and influence the fat utilization process naturally resulting in weight loss. These are some of the basic steps that keto diet follows in order to lose extra body fat and implement a safe and steady solution. How does it work? Keto Vitax Gummies Erfahrungsberichte introduce a necessary step to start your keto journey which is appetite control because one of the toughest aspects of any dietary region to start with is to control your calories count. Staying in the calorie deficit resume is one of the most crucial aspects that needs to be followed for starting the keto journey. Therefore after starting your ketosis state your body requires a keto adaptivity period in which the metabolic rate needs to be redefined to prevent metabolic syndrome. As a result your body will turn fat into a possible energy resource namely Ketone bodies. BHB (Beta-Hydroxybutyrate) certainly acts as a primary energy resource for the body itself.



Mohsin Khan: 'I had given up hope of playing cricket at one point'

NEW DELHI: Lucknow Super Giants fast bowler Mohsin Khan dedicated his match-winning performance against Mumbai Indians to his father, who was in hospital until a day before the game on Tuesday.

"Sadly, my father was in the hospital, in the ICU, he just got discharged yesterday so I was playing the match for him," Mohsin said after successfully defending 11 in the final over of the chase. "He was probably watching the game on TV. So I was playing for him. He was in the ICU for the last ten days. He must be very happy."

While speaking to the broadcaster at the end of the game, Mohsin also reflected on his tough 12 months. After taking 14 wickets in nine matches with an economy of 5.97 in his debut IPL season in 2022, Mohsin suffered a serious shoulder injury and did not play any competitive cricket for a whole year.

He wasn't fit for the first half of IPL 2023, and the game against Mumbai was only the second time he was bowling this season, after returning figures of 1 for 42 in three over against Titans. "It was a very tough time and I had given up hope of playing cricket at one point because I was not able to even lift my hand,



forget bowling," Mohsin said at the press conference after the match. "I was not able to straighten [my hand], my physio worked alongside me. It was medical related, it was quite scary, as the doctor had said if I was late by another month they would have had to amputate my hand."

"Regarding my injury, I would first like to say that no cricketer should suffer this kind of condition. It was quite strange, my artery was blocked, my nerve was blocked."

Mohsin conceded 21 in his first two overs for the wicket of Nehal Wadhwa and he was entrusted with bowling the final over, to Tim David and Cameron Rogers. Using a mix of slower balls and yorkers, Mohsin gave away only five runs to earn LSG two crucial points that took them to No. 3 in the points table.

"I was just trying to do

what I do in practice. That's my strength. I just followed that," Mohsin said. "Krunal [Pandya] bhai also came and asked me what I was going to do. I told him, 'bhaiya, I will do what I have been doing so far.'"

"I was just trying to keep myself calm and not look at the scorecard. I just thought that I have to simply bowl six balls. I wasn't looking at the runs, whether they need 10 runs or 11 runs. I was just thinking that I have to bowl six good balls."

"Because the wicket was gripping I thought I will bowl slower balls. I beat the batter with the first two balls. I was just trying to change that up with yorkers. It was also reversing a little." Mohsin said he was thankful to the LSG team management for picking him against Mumbai, despite his poor outing in Ahmedabad

"I am also very grateful for the faith shown by me by the team. My last game wasn't good but they played me in this one," he said. "Especially Gautam [Gambhir] sir, Vijay [Dahiya] sir and the rest of the support staff, they showed trust in me and played me."

Krunal Pandya, who has taken over as LSG's stand-in captain after the injury to KL Rahul, said Mohsin was mentally strong.

"Mohsin is someone who has a really, really big heart. And if you have a big heart in this sport, you go a long way. And that is what Mohsin is all about," Krunal said. "Really happy for him. He has not played any cricket in the last one year. He went through a very serious surgery. And then to come here and straightaway play IPL in such a high-pressure situation, that shows how strong mentally he is. He has a big heart and when someone has a big heart, the sky is the limit."

CSG are now level with Chennai Super Kings on 15 points, behind on net run rate, and a victory in their final league game - against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on May 20 - will confirm their place in the playoffs.

CPL 2023: Bravo to reunite with captain Pollard at Trinbago Knight Riders

OSHANE THOMAS MOVES FROM ROYALS TO PATRIOTS AND ALSO REACHES OUT TO CWI FOR HIS ROAD BACK TO INTERNATIONAL CRICKET



NEW DELHI: Dwayne Bravo will reunite with captain Kieron Pollard and head coach Phil Simmons at his home franchise Trinbago Knight Riders, having moved from St Kitts & Nevis Patriots, ahead of CPL 2023. Bravo will join an all-star TKR side that could include Pollard, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell and Nicholas Pooran. The quartet had played for TKR last season but couldn't prevent them from finishing last on the points table. It was the first time that TKR had failed to make the playoffs.

Bravo is currently with Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, as their bowling coach, and Pollard is with Mumbai Indians as their batting coach.

"Very exciting times," Pollard said in a media statement. "The champion DJ Bravo is coming back to his home franchise TKR. Our relationship and our friendship is second to none and this is a very good opportunity for us

both to represent TKR together once again, in the upcoming season. We are very happy to have him back in red and black."

Bravo had been central to Patriots winning the title in 2021. During that season, Bravo often stationed himself at mid-off or mid-on and mentored

left-arm seam-bowling allrounder Dominic Drakes. However, in 2022, Patriots failed to qualify for the playoffs and finished second from bottom, just above TKR.

Malolan Rangarajan replaces Simon Helmot as Patriots coach.

With both Bravo and coach Simon Helmot no longer with Patriots, they will have a new coach and captain in CPL 2023. Helmot had pulled out because of his other commitments. He is currently with Sunrisers Hyderabad as an assistant coach at the IPL in India.

Former Tamil Nadu spin-bowling allrounder Malolan Rangarajan, who was Helmot's assistant last season, has now been promoted to the head coach's role. This will be Malolan's first assignment as a head coach in any T20 league. He brings with him IPL experience: he is currently the field coach and head of scouting at Royal Challengers Bangalore. In the inaugural Women's Premier League, Malolan was RCB Women's assistant coach to head coach Ben Sawyer.

In another change, fast bowler Oshane Thomas has moved from Barbados Royals to Patriots. Patriots will be Thomas' third CPL team - he has also represented his home franchise Jamaica Tallawahs. Of late, Thomas has been troubled by fitness issues. In the 2022 CPL, he played just three games for Royals, picking up three wickets in seven overs at an economy rate of 11.00.

Since then, Thomas has played just three T20s, in the Lanka Premier League for Kandy Falcons, and has recently reached out to CWI about his road back to international cricket.

James Anderson likely to miss Ireland Test as Ashes precaution

England fast bowler tweaked groin while playing for Lancashire but plays down severity



LONDON: James Anderson is set to miss England's first Test of the summer against Ireland at Lord's as he looks to preserve himself for the Ashes series that follows.

Anderson is currently recovering from a mild strain of his left groin picked up during Lancashire's recent County Championship match against Somerset. The 40-year-old picked up the injury on day one, and took no further part in the match. A scan last Friday (on day two of the match) revealed the extent of the damage was not too serious, with Anderson calling it "the best result of a bad situation."

He will undergo a 10-day recovery period which will see him running next week. Though he was announced in the squad for the one-off Ireland Test and will be fit by the time it comes around on June 1, his priority is the first Test against Australia which begins at Edgbaston on June 16. Other fast bowlers, such as Mark Wood, are also expected to be preserved for the Ashes, with England due to select their attack for Ireland from Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson, Matthew Potts and Chris Woakes.

"I think I will be fit for the game," Anderson said of the Ireland fixture.

"Whether I play or not is probably another matter really. I definitely don't want to risk it."

"I feel good, fine. I had a scan on the second day of that game. It was a little groin strain. It's a 10-day recovery period, and I'm rehabbing already, running next week. It was the best result of a bad situation. I'm disappointed to have to pull out of a game but with what's come in the summer it was actually a pretty good result."

Anderson's caution comes from the 2019 Ashes, when he bowled just four overs in the opening Test before suffering a recurrence of a calf injury that ruled him out of the rest of the summer. He admitted to feeling "a little bit" more cautious because of that experience four years ago. Provided rehabilitation goes as expected, the 179-cap seamer expects to be fit and firing to play as full a part as possible in the five-match series against Australia.

"That was a different, more serious injury," Anderson said of his 2019 experience. "I ripped my calf earlier that summer, and it was a real push to try to get fit for that first Test. I don't feel like this is anywhere near that severity."

Bangladesh to host Afghanistan for a full tour in June-July 2023

THE VISIT WILL BE BROKEN INTO TWO PARTS THOUGH TO ALLOW AFGHANISTAN TO PLAY A WHITE-BALL SERIES IN INDIA



MUMBAI: Afghanistan will play all three formats in a bilateral tour of Bangladesh for the first time, when they arrive in Dhaka on June 10. They will play a one-off Test, three ODIs

and two T20s. Their previous visits usually involved playing either white-ball cricket, like last year, or red-ball cricket, like in 2019.

The tour, however, will be split into

two parts. Afghanistan will play the one-off Test in Dhaka from June 14 to 18, after which they will leave for India for a white-ball series. They will return to Bangladesh on July 1 to play three ODIs in Chattogram from July 5 to 11. They will also play two T20s in Sylhet on July 14 and 16, which will conclude the series.

Afghanistan last toured Bangladesh in 2022 when they lost the ODIs 2-1, but drew the T20s one-all. They played their only Test against Bangladesh in 2019 when they beat the hosts by 224 runs in Chattogram.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, have returned home to Dhaka after their successful ODI series against Ireland in Chelmsford. The players will have a short break before starting preparations for the Afghanistan Test next month.

Scenarios: What CSK, LSG, Mumbai, RCB, Kings, Royals and KKR need for IPL playoff qualification

MUMBAI: LSG's thrilling five-run win against Mumbai Indians keeps alive their hopes of finishing in the top two, let alone qualifying. That will definitely happen if they beat Kolkata Knight Riders in their last game away, and if Chennai Super Kings lose in Delhi. If LSG and CSK finish on 17, it will come down to the result margins, as there is currently little to choose between the net run rates (NRR): 0.304 for Super Giants, and 0.381 for Super Kings.

However, if LSG lose their last game, then they could be in a sticky position as five other teams - Gujarat Titans, CSK, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Punjab Kings - can all finish on 16 or more points. To qualify with 15, they will have to hope that at least a couple of these teams don't get up to 16.

Their loss in Lucknow means Mumbai now need to depend on other results, even if they win their game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday.

That is because three teams can finish on more than 16 points - and this is the maximum for Mumbai - which is others, RCB and Kings, can also reach 16. Royal Challengers have an NRR of 0.166, which will likely improve further if they win two, compared to Mumbai Indians' -0.128.

However, if any of the four sides

could potentially be knocked out since five sides can finish on more than 15 points. However, if other results go their way, then CSK could still finish second without adding to their tally.

RCB have the advantage of a superior NRR compared to the other teams fighting to get to 16, but for that to be relevant, they will need to win a couple of games, or at least one. Two wins will give them an excellent chance of qualification due to their excellent NRR which got a significant boost from their stunning 112-run win against the Royals.

RCB have the advantage of playing the last game of the league stage - a home game against Gujarat Titans - which means they will know exactly what they'll need to do. However, that last game will be inconsequential if they don't win their away game in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Royals can at best get to 14, which means several other results have to fall in place for them to qualify. Among the five teams who could finish on 14, Royals' NRR of 0.140 is second only to that of Royal Challengers' 0.166, despite the hammering it took from the drubbing against them.

That means if the stars align perfectly, they could still have a shot at qualification. They need to help their own cause, though, by beating Punjab Kings on Friday.

Scotland recall Alasdair Evans and Adrian Neill for ODI World Cup Qualifier

LONDON: Scotland have recalled pace bowlers Alasdair Evans and Adrian Neill for the World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe.

Last week, Evans signed a professional contract with Cricket Scotland for the 2023-2024 season. Now he is in line to play his first ODI since October 2021.

Those were the only two changes from the side that lifted the Cricket World Cup League 2 trophy in February. They replaced Liam Naylor and Kyle Coetzer, who retired from international cricket in March. The 15-member squad will be led by Richie Berrington.

According to a Cricket Scotland release, "a number of players with county contracts were considered for selection but were unavailable due to their commitments in domestic cricket during the early part of the summer."

"I think there's a good mixture in this squad of youth and senior players who've been around a while - the likes of Richie [Berrington] and George [Munsey], as well as some exciting young talent in Jack Jarvis and Chris McBride," Scotland's interim head



coach Doug Watson said.

"It's moving into winter over there [in Zimbabwe] just now, and the conditions are changing, and will be quite spin-friendly, but the key thing will be for us to adapt to the conditions and approach the games the way we want to play them."

Watson has a new backroom staff for the tournament.

Graeme Beghin (batting & fielding lead) and Glenn Pocknall (bowling lead) will act as assistant coaches, with Gavin Cross joining the tour as phys-

iotherapist.

The squad will fly to Pretoria in South Africa on Saturday, June 3, for a pre-tournament training camp. They will also play two warm-up games against Nepal and Netherlands, before travelling on to Zimbabwe.

Scotland will be among ten teams in the Qualifiers fighting for two spots in the ODI World Cup in India later this year. The eight others - apart from hosts Zimbabwe - are West Indies, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Oman, Nepal, USA and UAE.

Scotland squad: Richie Berrington (capt), Matthew Cross, Alasdair Evans, Chris Greaves, Jack Jarvis, Michael Leask, Tom Mackintosh, Chris McBride, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Adrian Neill, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Hamza Tahir, Mark Watt.

On May 10, Cricket Scotland announced men's and women's contracts for the 2023-24 season. It was the first time that such contracts were offered to women players.

This builds on the introduction in 2021 to pay equal match fees to men's and women's players.

Australia cancels Quad meeting in Sydney after Biden postponement



SYDNEY, MAY 17: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Wednesday a Quad summit would not go ahead in Sydney next week without U.S. President Joe Biden, who postponed his trip to Australia due to debt ceiling negotiations in Washington.

Albanese said the leaders of Australia, the United States, India and Japan would instead meet at the G7 in Japan this weekend, after Biden canceled a trip to Sydney on the second leg of his upcoming Asia

trip, which was also to have included a visit to Papua New Guinea.

"The Quad leaders meeting will not be going ahead in Sydney next week. We, though, will be having that discussion between Quad leaders in Japan," Albanese told a news conference.

A bilateral programme in Sydney with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could still go ahead next week, Albanese said.

Albanese did not comment on whether Japanese Prime Minister

Fumio Kishida would still visit Sydney next week.

The Quad is an informal group that promotes an open Indo-Pacific. Beijing sees it as an attempt to push back against its growing influence in the region.

Asia Society Policy Institute senior fellow Richard Maude said the cancellation of Biden's visit to Papua New Guinea, which would have been the first visit by an American president to an independent Pacific islands nation, could set back Washington's battle for influence with Beijing in the region.

"The mantra in the region is all about turning up. Turning up is half the battle.

China turns up all the time, and so the optics aren't great," Maude, a former Australian intelligence chief, told a panel discussion on the Quad on Wednesday.

India and Australia are not part of the G7 group of seven rich nations - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States - but have been invited to attend the summit in Japan.

Adani-Hindenburg row: SC extends deadline for SEBI probe till Aug 14

NEW DELHI, MAY 17: The Supreme Court will on Wednesday extend the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to conclude its probe into the Hindenburg Research report on Adani Group till 14 August 2023. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice PS Narasimha and Justice JB Pardiwala passed the order after hearing the SEBI's plea for an extension of time to submit the report.

The apex court on Monday adjourned the hearing on the SEBI plea seeking a six-month extension to conclude the investigation in the Hindenburg Research's report.

The bench led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud and also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala adjourned the matter. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the SC that SEBI is seeking an extension of time for conducting the probe and needs six months to reach any conclusion.

SEBI told the SC that the investigation done earlier by SEBI pertains to the issuance of Global Depository Receipts ("GDRs") by 51 Indian listed companies, in respect of which investigation was conducted. SEBI submitted before the Supreme Court that no listed company or Adani Group was part of those 51 companies it was investigating.

"Pursuant to the completion of the investigation, appropriate enforcement actions were taken in this matter. Hence, the allegation that the Securities and Exchange Board of India is investigating

Adani since 2016 is factually baseless. I, therefore, say and submit that reliance sought to be placed on the investigation pertaining to GDRs is wholly misplaced," the rejoinder affidavit read.

SEBI submitted before Supreme Court that in the context of an investigation into Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms, SEBI has already approached eleven overseas Regulators under the Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). Various requests for information were made to these Regulators. The first request to overseas Regulators was made as early as on October 6, 2020, the SEBI apprised the court.

SEBI submitted before the Supreme Court that the application for extension of time filed by it is meant to ensure carriage of justice keeping in mind the interest of investors and the securities market since any incorrect or premature conclusion of the case arrived at without full facts material on record would not serve the ends of justice and hence would be legally untenable.

SEBI has informed Supreme Court that in respect of the investigation and explanation relating to 12 transactions referred to in the Hindenburg Report, prima facie it is noted that these transactions are highly complex and have many sub-transactions across numerous jurisdictions and a rigorous investigation of these transactions would require collation of data/information from

various sources including bank statements from multiple domestic as well as international banks, financial statements of onshore and offshore entities involved in the transactions and contracts and agreements, if any, entered between the entities along with other supporting documents.

On March 2, the apex court directed the capital market regulator SEBI to investigate any securities law violations by the Adani Group in the wake of the Hindenburg report, which led to a massive wipe-out of more than USD 140 billion of the Adani Group's market value.

Supreme Court, on March 2, set up an expert committee on the issue arising from the Hindenburg Research report on Adani Group companies. The committee consist of six members, headed by former apex court judge Justice AM Sapre. The top court had then asked SEBI to file a status report within two months. The apex court was then hearing petitions pertaining to the Hindenburg report, including on the constitution of a committee relating to regulatory mechanisms to protect investors' interests.

The January 24 Hindenburg report alleged stock manipulation and fraud by the conglomerate.

The Adani Group had attacked Hindenburg as "an unethical short seller", stating that the report by the New York-based entity was "nothing but a lie".

A short-seller in the securities market books gains from the subsequent reduction in the prices of shares.

Pak's top security body endorses Army's decision to try May 9 arsonist under Army Act rights : Group oppose

ISLAMABAD, MAY 17: Pakistan's top security body has endorsed the decision taken by the top Army commanders to invoke the stringent Army Act and Official Secrets Act against people found to be involved in attacking key military installations following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan on May 9.

The National Security Committee (NSC) chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday decided to lay hands within 72 hours on all those involved in the violent attacks, their facilitators, and leaders on whose instigation these people had committed vandalism.

However, the proposed move to try arsonists under the tough Army Act has come under severe criticism, with rig-hits groups such as the Amnesty International and the National Human Rights Commission of Pakistan expressing concerns.

Dinushika Dissanayake, Deputy Regional Director for South Asia at Amnesty International, said, "It is alarming to note that the Pakistani Army has stated its intention to try civilians under military laws, possibly in military courts. Trying civilians in military courts is contrary to international law."

Dissanayake said that any indication that the trial of civilians could be held in military courts was incompatible with Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law. "This is purely an intimidatory tactic, designed to crack down on dissent by exercising fear of an institution that has never been held to account for its overreach," Dissanayake asserted in a statement.

Violence erupted across Pakistan on May 9 when former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a corruption case from the premises of the Islamabad High Court.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) tweeted that it "strongly opposes the use of the Pakistani Army Act 1952 and Official



Secrets Act 1923 to try civilians".

"While those responsible for arson and damaging public and private property during the recent protests should be held to account, they remain entitled to due process," Pakistan's apex independent human rights body tweeted.

"All the civilians tried under these acts in the past should also have their cases transferred to civil courts," it said in a separate tweet.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party supporters torched buildings and vehicles and attacked police and military personnel as well as installations in the clashes that left 10 persons dead.

Thousands of supporters of Khan, 70, were arrested in the violence on May 9 that Pakistan's Army described as a "dark day" in the history of the Islamic country.

The NSC meeting attended by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Law Minister Azam Niaz Tarar, Information Minister Mar-r-i-yum Aurangzeb, Prin-ci-pal Secretary to PM Dr Tauqir Shah and others expressed solidarity with the armed forces and decided to observe May 9 as "black day". An official announcement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said the NSC endorsed the decision reached at the corps commanders' meeting to try the "attackers" under the Army Act and

Official Secrets Act.

The committee pledged that no leniency would be shown towards those who attacked defence installations under any agenda and vowed to bring them to justice.

"They (demonstrators) will be nabbed in 72 hours," said Sharif while speaking at the NSC meeting. "The planners and leaders of the May 9 riots who attacked military installations and disrespected our martyrs will be punished and brought to justice. Our nation of 220 million has demanded that those who are sinful, in any regard, should be punished so that such an incident does not take place ever again," he added.

About the attack on the Corps Commander House, the premier said, "Jinnah House is not just a building... it housed the sons that protected Pakistan. But they destroyed it - in fact, reduced it to ashes." Supporters of Khan also stormed the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army in the garrison town of Rawalpindi.

"I have told the authorities concerned not to show any leniency towards those involved in destruction even if I ask for any favour and not to punish any innocent even on my orders," the premier said.

Separately, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah claimed on a TV show that the government has proof that the demonstrators were trained at Zaman Park residence of cricketer-turned-politician Khan.

South Korean Canadian leaders vow cooperation on clean energy : North Korea threat

Seoul, May 17

The leaders of South Korea and Canada on Wednesday vowed to strengthen their security and economic cooperation to address challenges posed by North Korea and expand Canadian supplies of minerals crucial to South Korea's technology industry as they held a summit in Seoul.

The meeting between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came before they traveled to Japan for the weekend's Group of Seven meetings, where geopolitical uncertainties worsened by Russia's war on Ukraine, China's regional assertiveness and North Korea's nuclear ambitions are expected to drive discussions.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the leaders condemned North Korea's growing nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program and urged Pyongyang to return to US-led denuclearisation talks, which have stalled since 2019 over disagreements related to international sanctions imposed on the North.

Trudeau, the first Canadian leader to visit South Korea in nine years, said his government remains committed to working closely with Seoul and other international partners to address the North Korean threat. He said his government will work to enhance Canada's naval presence and participation in multinational operations to monitor the enforcement of UN Security

Council sanctions against Pyongyang. Yoon and Trudeau also said they will work to strengthen supply chain cooperation in clean energy and critical minerals, which they said will promote environment-friendly technologies and make the countries more competitive in global markets for batteries and zero-emission cars. Yoon's government has described the country's trade relations with Canada as essential for coping with instabilities in global supply chains and energy markets.

Canada is one of the world's largest producers of fuel and gas and key minerals like nickel, lithium and cobalt, which are used by South Korean companies to manufacture electric car batteries.

Govt hospitals to run OPDs in evening too

VIJAYAWADA, MAY 17: Jagan Mohan Reddy regime has taken a people-friendly decision of running out-patient services at all government teaching hospitals daily in the afternoon from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., in addition to the morning timings of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. throughout the state with no listed expansion to the country.

Giving effect to what are being called "evening clinics", Director of Medical Education (DME) Dr D.V.S.L. Narasimhan on Monday issued a communique, instructing all principals and superintendents of teaching hospitals to start running their out-patient wards in the afternoon also.

These clinics will check the health of patients related to broad specialties like general surgery, general medicine, orthopaedics and gynaecology. The evening clinics are

being started to improve health care services in Andhra Pradesh through all teaching hospitals of the government.

The DME has instructed that resident medical officers in charge of evening OPDs maintain separate registers. He wanted the principals and medical superintendents to conduct regular review meetings on a fortnightly basis and discuss issues related to service delivery in the evenings.

YSR Congress NTR, Krishna and Guntur medical wing in-charge Dr Mehboob Sheikh said the concept of evening clinics proves the determination of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to make speciality medical services more accessible to poor and middle-class people. He said all infrastructure facilities have been provided in hospitals and medical colleges.

About 50,000 doctors and medical staff have been appointed in all departments. Steps have been taken to establish 17 new medical colleges. Further, speciality doctors are going to poor patients' homes under the family doctor system and providing free treatment, a concept not seen anywhere in the history of the country.

In addition, Dr Mehboob Sheikh said through Aarogyasri, free treatment is being provided to the poor in leading hospitals of Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states.

"Evening clinics have been introduced to serve patients, particularly the poor, in the evening too. This is proof of Jagan Mohan Reddy's sincerity towards ensuring good health. It will provide relief to those who cannot go to hospitals in the morning," the YSRC doctors' wing in charge underlined.

Five Congress 'guarantees' in Karnataka may cost state exchequer Rs 50 000 crore

BENGALURU, MAY 17: The implementation of the five 'guarantees' announced by the Congress may cost the state exchequer an estimated Rs 50,000 crore annually.

Key party leaders who spoke about the cost of the welfare measures insisted that one could not call them "freebies" as they were tools of empowerment.

The 'guarantees' found resonance with voters of the May 10 Assembly elections, particularly with women, and played a key role in the party's resounding victory, political analysts noted.

The Congress bagged 135 seats in the 224-member Assembly, and ousted the BJP from power, with the erstwhile ruling party winning just 66 constituencies, while the Janata Dal (Secular) managed to get only 19 seats.

Some BJP leaders have alleged that implementation of the 'guarantees' would push the State into financial bankruptcy, and have also claimed that the Congress would not honour its pre-poll promises fully.

During campaigning, Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders had repeatedly said that if voted to power, the party's government in its maiden Cabinet meeting on the first day of assuming power would pass orders approving the 'guarantees' to facilitate their swift implementation.

The five schemes that the Congress guaranteed it would implement are 'Gruha Jyothi' - to provide 200 units electricity free to every household; Gruha Lakshmi -

to grant Rs 2,000 to every woman head of a family; 'Anna Bhagya' - to distribute 10 kg rice to every member of BPL families every month; 'Yuva Nidhi' - to sanction Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders for two years (in the 18-25 age-group); and Shakti - to enable free travel for women across Karnataka in state buses.

In an interview with PTI on Wednesday, vice chairman of the Congress manifesto drafting committee Professor K E Radhakrishna said the implementation of the five guarantee schemes will not cost more than Rs 50,000 crore annually.

"I can authoritatively say that all these guarantee schemes put together will not be more than Rs 50,000 crore," he said.

Radhakrishna, who has the distinction of drafting five manifestos for the Congress, said even some of the Congress leaders have the perception that these schemes cannot be implemented.

"Some of our leaders have that perception but we are very sure because I have worked out the financial implications. It is not more than Rs 50,000 crore. Even Rs 50,000 crore is not a charity. It's empowerment," he said. Explaining the way these schemes will be implemented, the educationist noted that the total budget of Karnataka government is about Rs three lakh crore.

At least 60 per cent of revenue of any good economy is spent on sustained development. Radhakrishna said, adding that it goes to paying

salary of government employees and to implement empowerment programmes.

"Revenue moves capital, capital moves revenue. So, Rs 1.50 lakh crore of the Rs three lakh crore budget has to be spent. If that does not happen, then we will not have funds to spend another Rs 1.5 lakh crore. They are related to each other," he explained.

Out of five guarantees, 'Anna Bhagya' is an existing scheme, and the new promise is an extension, he added.

"We were giving seven kg of rice. BJP reduced it to five kg. Now again we want to make it 10 kg. We are giving rice and millets. This will encourage its cultivation and production," the Congress leader pointed out.

Regarding 'Gruha Jyothi', Radhakrishna said Karnataka is a power surplus state and is selling electricity to other states.

According to him, the Congress in its manifesto has promised to set up huge solar parks of 5,000 megawatt capacity. It has also promised to set up a small solar cluster in each village.

"These clusters will generate employment to people in the village and make the villages self-sufficient in terms of electricity. We are going to increase power generation, which will eventually generate employment opportunities," Radhakrishna explained. The 200-unit guarantee under 'Gruha Lakshmi' is not for all women heads of families, he clarified.

CS launches week long Kashmir Solar Expo-2023

65% percent subsidy on Rooftop Solar, 80% on solar powered pumps among main attractions

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today inaugurated a week long mega Solar Expo at Kashmir Haat, Exhibition Ground here.

The expo being held from May 17 to May 23 is being organized by J&K Energy Development Agency (J&KEDA) in collaboration with multiple vendors of renewable energy industry and other line departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mehta appreciated J&KEDA for organizing the expo saying that the initiative will immensely help in raising awareness among the people about the benefits of rooftop solar plants and other beneficiary oriented schemes.

He asked J&KEDA to organize more such awareness camps and expos across other parts of the UT so that people there



would know about rooftop solar plant, KUSUM scheme and its financing pattern and benefits.

The Chief Secretary said that renewable sources of energy holds the future and government envisions a future with reduced dependence on fossil fuel by promoting renewable energy sources. He also noted that besides reducing carbon emissions, the generation of solar energy through rooftop

solar programme would also offset power requirements of domestic consumers in J&K there by aiding our Power Discoms to provide quality power to rest of the consumers. He maintained that these are the major initiatives aimed at reducing the dependence of people over fossil fuels for energy. He observed that ultimately the future belongs to renewable energy. He further gave out that the energy besides clean and

less hazardous is cost-effective for the people. He encouraged them to readily adopt this futuristic technology for both their domestic and agricultural purposes in order to save their resources and environment as well. The Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat on the occasion remarked that the department is making concerted efforts for the promotion of both these schemes. He made out that Under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, GoI's Schemes, domestic electricity consumers across the UT can install Rooftop Solar PV Plants for electricity purpose and can also avail the benefit of installation of solar powered pumps under PM-KUSUM in order to fulfil their irrigation needs.

Moreover it was made out that under this Rooftop Solar scheme, subsidy upto 65 percent is being provided to consumers for installing Solar

Photovoltaic rooftops. The solar rooftops are available from 1 KW to 10 KW capacity and five years free maintenance is also provided to the consumers.

About the PM-KUSUM, it was said that the same was launched by the Government of India to increase the income of farmers and provide sources for irrigation for the upliftment of agricultural sector. It was also added that the government entails to provide maximum benefit to farmers from this beneficiary oriented scheme.

The scheme allows the farmers to install subsidized Solar Powered Pumps upto 10 H.P capacity for irrigation purposes with a choice of AC/DC surface and submersible pumps. Under the KUSUM scheme, the Central and the UT government provides a subsidy of upto 80% while as the beneficiary/farmer has to bear only 20% cost of the machinery to avail the benefit of the scheme.

Night sports activities return in Kashmir as Sports Council organises multiple events

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: The sports activities under different verticals were held in various playgrounds and indoor sports complexes in J&K.

A Badminton event was held in Sheri Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar under My Youth My Pride in which more than 40 players including both boys and girls participated.

The girls single's title was bagged by Sadia Khaki while Faiza ended up as the runner up and in boys category Shah Nawaz won the title while Hadi resumed for runner up title.

Meanwhile, Night Football activities settled in Bakshi Stadium. The special activities in this segment are aimed at providing extend time to the players to hone their skills, said Dr Zaffar Iqbal CAO Sports Council. Adding that Sports Council under the special activities segments besides mass awareness about the ill effects of drugs is also acquainting the public with the G-20 summit being hosted in J&K.

Late in the evening today, various sports activities and competitions were underway in Gindun Sports Complex in the disciplines of Basketball in which Khelo India Girls and Boys team was pitted against Hoopstar Girls Club and Warriors Boys Club respectively while in Kabaddi Academy was playing against Police Kabaddi Teams. In other events of Football and Handball. Syed Tajeen was playing against J&K Bank and Al-Murad Handball club was competing with J&K Police hand ball teams. All the matches were in progress under flood lights when the report was being filed.

Two Matches played under Inter-College Cricket Tournament at SP College Ground

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: Two matches were played today in connection with the ongoing inter college cricket tournament organised by the Department of Physical Education at S.P college main ground.

The first match was played between the Department of Zoology and Chemistry and was comprehensively won by Zoology Department by 7 wickets.

The second match of the tournament was played between the Department of Botany and Evs and was won by Botany Department by 4 wickets.

Principal, S.P college, Prof (Dr.) Gh Jeelani Qureshi, along with sports board members. Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Faray, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Wani, Dr. Javid Ahmad, Dr. Syed Rashid, Owais Wani, Arshad Salam, Mohammad Hafiz Khan, Arshid Iqbal and Imran Hamdani interacted with all the teams and assured them the best possible infrastructure with a view to organise high end competition in the college.

In the run up to G-20 meeting, Director Tourism flags off all women

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: In the run up to the coming G-20 meeting here, Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob today flagged off an all women tour of the Shikhar Khas(Srinagar city.)

During the tour the participants would explore the art and culture of old Srinagar, besides visiting traditional locations including, Shikhar-e-Khas Bazaar, Khanqah-e-Maula, Tomb of Zainul Abideen's mother, Patbar Masjid, Jamia Masjid, Raghunath Temple, Hari Parbat Fort (Koh-e-maran) and Gurudwara Chattipadshahi.

The participants of the tour comprised working women, professionals, students etc drawn from different walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Tourism said the idea of conducting the all women city tour was to make the women of all walks aware about India's G-20 presidency and how the meeting in Kashmir would be beneficial to overall development of Kashmir and also to showcase the rich and varied heritage, culture and leisure tourism potential of Srinagar city. He hoped the coming G-20 event would position Kashmir tourism on the global canvas like never before.

Div Com reviews arrangements for annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting of District administration Kishitwar and other stakeholder departments to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner and concerned officers joined the meeting online, while Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; Chief Engineers of JPDC, PWD, Superintending Engineers of PMGSY, Jal Shakti besides senior functionaries of Reliance, Airtel and other concerned officers attended the meeting in person.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner inquired about the overall infrastructure development requirements. The Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar apprised him of progress achieved so far and future work plan.

While reviewing annual Yatra arrangements which generally start from July 25, it was informed that varied works have been identified for development of basic facilities, roads, power supply, buildings, improvement of communication services etc in the Shrine area and the en-route. The DC informed that the estimates of various works have been done and tenders would be floated within days for early start of required works.

Two day workshop on Disaster preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir culminates at CoE, Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: The day 2 of the workshop started with Technical Session III in which Bilqees Dar, Consultant DMRRR deliberated upon Emergency Response Support System, India Disaster Resource Network, Decision Support System, Common Alerting Protocol and State Emergency Operation Centre.

The Consultant DMRRR highlighted implementation of various disaster management initiatives in the UT of J&K in which she thoroughly discussed about Emergency Operation Centers. She made audience aware about One India One Emergency Number-112. She impressed upon the volunteers to download Mobile Application namely SACHET <https://sachet.ndma.gov.in>



wherein each individual can get early warnings, alerts and do's & don'ts of disaster. She highlighted IDRN (Indian Disaster Resource Network) which is a web based

platform for managing inventory of equipment's, skilled human resources and critical supplies for emergency response.

The Technical Session IV was conducted in the College lawn wherein the SDRF Battalion 1st Kashmir Division provided handholding to the participants regarding different disasters like building collapse, firefighting etc.

4th Phase of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan concludes in district Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MAY 17: The 4th Phase of ongoing Farmers' Orientation Programme 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) concluded today witnessing overwhelming response has been received from the farming community in all 11 blocks of the district Ramban.

Farmers of different sectors including Agriculture, horticulture, farming, dairy sector and poultry besides officers from Agriculture and allied department and PRIs attended the programme. Over these days, the orientation training cum awareness camps witnessed the presence of a large number of stakeholders, who showed keen interest in learning about the projects of HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes. District Nodal Officer, Dr. Suhail Kawoosa informed that a total 1451 farmers were registered during the three day programme across 11 blocks of the district. He said that the programme is aimed at reaching out to farmers and educating them about the latest agricultural practices and technology.

Audiovisuals (AVs) aids were used to disseminate the information about different government sponsored schemes meant for the welfare of the farmers associated with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Apiculture, Pisciculture, Sericulture etc.

People were made aware about the schemes in vogue in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and Horticulture. The resource persons from Agriculture and allied departments briefed the farmers regarding the schemes. Thread bare discussions and Questions Answer sessions were held in every panchayat.

Informative booklets in English Urdu and Hindi regarding the schemes of HADP were distributed among the participants. Moreover, farmers were also made aware about Dalsh Kisan (online learning portal for skill development) and Kisan Sathi (IT Dashboard) portals regarding the digitisation of various services/ schemes.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, JAMMU

Email: dfoseed123@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDERING

TENDER NOTICE: E-NIT NO.- 02 OF 2023-24 DATED: 15.05.2023
SCHEME = CAMPA

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (t. in laos)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
Upgradation of existing water supply system and water channel at Sidhra nursery III along with motor pump stabilizer for the year 2023-2024 under campus scheme	2.77	5540	A, B, C, D	600	90 days	Tender opening committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <http://jitenders.gov.in>

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA : Accorded

Position of TS : Accorded

Publishing Date	15.05.2023
Download Start Date	15.05.2023 at 4 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	15.05.2023 at 6PM
Bid submission End Date (online)	30.05.2023 at 2PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	31.05.2023 at 11 AM (In the Office of DFO SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, Forest complex, JKPRI, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	31.05.2023 at 12:30 PM (In the Office of DFO SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, Forest complex, JKPRI, Jammu)

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: <https://jitenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Terms & Conditions:

- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to DFO SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION JAMMU. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) has to be uploaded at the time of bidding.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bids by the Tender Opening Committee of the Department. The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of DFO SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION JAMMU.

NO.: JKPRI/SDD/J/F-181/176-82

Dt: 15.05.2023

DIP/1-1578/23

SD/-

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

SEED DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

J&K FRI, JAMMU.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Grand Opening

Of

Smart Readymade Garments

(Wholesale and Retail)

Thursday, May 18th

Lane no: 5 near Om Medicos

Newplot Jammu



DC Jammu conducts extensive tour of Kharaballi, listens to public

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17: To get first-hand account of the public grievances, Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa today conducted an extensive tour of Panchayat Mallah in block Kharaballi, which is the last panchayat of District Jammu.

DDC members, delegations besides scores of individuals apprised her about the problems faced by the people in day to day life.

The PRI members, one by one, highlighted the issues regarding their respective Panchayats which were mainly related to irregular supply of water and electricity, Revenue, compensation, ration card, IAY, Road connectivity, drinking water availability, health centres etc. The local residents apprised the Deputy Commissioner



about non availability of teachers and doctors and demanded adequate staff for the convenience of people.

Appraising about the poor road connectivity, the locals demanded for road connectivity from Neeli Nallah to Saralaa and Neeli Nallah to Jogna.

They also demanded a veterinary doctor, ambulance facility, SRTC bus

service and Bank service for the far flung area of Block Kharaballi.

Pointing out the unemployment among educated youth, the villagers sought help for establishment of small units to create job/ self employment opportunities for the youth. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the PRI members, delegations and individuals

and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for early redressal of their genuine grievances.

Regarding road connectivity, the Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officials to tender the works and complete the same in the stipulated time frame. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the officials to organise a camp under Kisan Sampark Abhiyan to educate the people regarding government sponsored schools for the establishment of self employment units.

She assured that the other highlighted issues of public importance will be taken up with higher authorities.

Regarding road connectivity, the Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officials to tender the works and complete the same in the stipulated time frame. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the officials to organise a camp under Kisan Sampark Abhiyan to educate the people regarding government sponsored schools for the establishment of self employment units.

Various delegations call on Lt Governor

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: A joint delegation of Kashmir Road Safety Foundation and White Globe Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today at Raj Bhawan.

The members of the delegation led by Sh Nasir Ali Khan briefed the Lt Governor on the endeavours of their organizations for spreading awareness on road safety and engaging youth in various constructive activities.

Sh Muhammad Aaqib Renuzshah, Youth leader and Corporator, Srinagar Municipal Corporation apprised the Lt Governor about various youth-related issues of his constituency.

Later, Sh Manzoor Bhat, BJP leader, also called on the Lt Governor and put forth the issues related to promotion of heritage tourism in Shahr-e-Khasa area of Srinagar.

Sh Mir Junaid, President, Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP) apprised the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance including implementation of languishing projects in Kupwara district.

The Lt Governor assured the delegations of due consideration of all the genuine issues and demands projected by them during the interaction.

Principal Secretary chairs 11th BoDs meeting of J&K Trade Promotion Organisation

BOARD APPROVES ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR 2023-24, ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING OF JKTPO

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Prashant Goyal, today chaired the 11th Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of J&K Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) here at Civil Secretariat.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, presented the agenda for meeting and apprised the board of the action taken regarding previous board decisions. The Board deliberated upon various agenda items and also approved the Financial Statements of JKTPO for the year ending 31st March 2023 (Financial Year 2022-23).

Goyal deliberated on investment promotion and facilitation activities in J&K, wherein JKTPO shall play an important role for executing investor facilitation activities across the UT through various outreach programs and organizing sector specific events to brand J&K as investment friendly destination. He said that an Investor facilitation Cell will be created in the JKTPO

for facilitation of existing, prospective investors and applicants on Single Window Portal.

The Board approved the calendar of events proposed by JKTPO for 2023-24. The intent is to focus more on attracting investment in the region and generate employment for local population.

The Board also accorded approval regarding organizational restructuring of JKTPO from current 9 posts to 29 posts, where it was decided the proposal for the same shall be sent to Finance department for concurrence.

Regarding start of 2nd batch of Hauslain in which JKTPO in collaboration with JKEDI shall provide training, mentoring and market support to women entrepreneurs at district level, Principal Secretary directed the officers to analyse the proposal and submit in next Board meeting for decision.

Additionally, Goyal issued several directions regarding various activities being carried out by the JKTPO to further strengthen the organization's working.

Rajat Agarwal, Executive

Director, India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Handicrafts & Handlooms Department, Kashmir, Tej Krishan Bhat, Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Vikas Gupta, Director, Handicrafts & Handlooms Department, Jammu, Rakesh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Finance Department were among who attended the meeting.

Besides, Samita Sethi, Secretary in Industries & Commerce Department, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Special Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department, Abdul Majid Bhat, Director Finance, Higher Education Department, Suresh Koul, Director Finance, Industries & Commerce Department, Amarjeet Singh, Special Secretary, Tourism Department, RK Varma, Executive Director, representatives from Export Promotion Council of Handicraft and Sheikh Aashiq, member and representative from Carpet Export Promotion Council also attended the meeting as special invitees.

Block Diwas: Public Outreach Programme held in Ghagwal to address local issues

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 17: To empower the public and resolve their grievances, a public outreach camp, under weekly Block Diwas Program was organized in Ghagwal, here today.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhishek Sharma, who listened to the concerns and problems faced by the people in the area.

The public projected their local problems and demanded road connectivity, drinking water supply and adequate power supply.

The DC emphasized that the Block Diwas programme is an innovative move to empower the public and resolve their grievances through inter-departmental coordination.

The programme also focuses on digital governance and doorstep governance to ensure transparency and effectiveness in resolving the issues faced by the public. The DC assured the public that their problems would be resolved in a time bound manner.

After the programme, the Deputy Commissioner inspected Degree College Samba, rural roads and other Rural Development Department (RDD) works in Jatwal and nearby villages.

The visit was aimed at getting a first-hand understanding of the issues faced by the people and the progress of the ongoing development works in the area.

The Block Diwas programme and the subsequent visit by the DC have been hailed by the public, who hope that their problems will be resolved soon.

Dr Samoon reviews pending court cases pertaining SDD



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 17:- Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting to review present status of pending court cases/contempt cases pertaining to Skill Development Department.

The meeting was attended by Director, SDD, Sudershan Kumar, SLOs, Principals, Superintendents Polytechnics and ITIs besides officers of concerned departments in person and virtually.

Dr Samoon had threadbare discussion on status of various pending court cases of Polytechnics and ITI institutions of Skill Development Department.

The head of institutions from different districts of both the divisions briefed the meeting about present status and factual position of court cases concerning their jurisdictions.

Principal Secretary stressed upon all the concerned officers of SDD to submit the same to appropriate authorities for speedy settlement of these pending court cases.

Additional Advocate General, Rajesh Thappa, also attended the meeting online and briefed the meeting about present status of court cases.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of Social Welfare, ICDS & Social forestry

4347 CASES UNDER SMA SANCTIONED IN 3 YEARS WITH DISBURSEMENT OF 17.28 CRORE

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, MAY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers to review the functioning of Social Welfare, ICDS, ICPS, OSC and other departments and sectors.

During the meeting, the DSWO through a powerpoint presentation informed the chair

that a total of 23,461 new pension cases were sanctioned under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) during the past three years.

She also added that the department has achieved 100 percent saturation under ISSS and NSAP. While briefing about the status of State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMA), she informed that in three years 4347 cases were sanctioned

with disbursement of 17.28 crore among the beneficiaries. During the meeting, concerned from ICPS informed the chair that 11 Block Level Child Protection Committees have been constituted and 222 Village level Child Protection Committee were also constituted in the district. District programme officer Kulgam while briefing about the functioning of ICDS in the district apprised

the chair that there are 1207 in position Anganwadi centers in the district and briefed about achievements under PMMVV, Poshan Abhiyan and other programmes and schemes of the department. The DC also reviewed the functioning of Social Forestry department and One Stop Center. He stressed on all the officers to work with dedication and ensure proper implementation of all the

schemes and programmes of the government. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Showkat Ahmad Rather; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmed Giri; District Programme Officer, Sundeeep Singh Bali; District Social Welfare Officer, Snober Altaf; Divisional Forest Officer (SF) Shamma Rohi; CDOs and other officers.

J&K Bank commissions CRM at Jhangar Chowk in Rajouri, Inaugurates new branch premises at Parihaspora in Baramulla

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: Going forward on ease-of-banking for common people through digital and alternate channels, J&K Bank today commissioned a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) at Jhangar Chowk Nowshera in district Rajouri taking the number of such machines in the zone to six.

The bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar inaugurated the CRM amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens, local businessmen besides bank officials. While urging the people to avail the banking services at their own convenience and comfort, the Zonal head said, "The machine will serve people of the area especially helping local traders and businessmen in cash-management while saving their valuable time and efforts."

"Commissioning of such terminal will help in reducing the customer foot-



fall at the adjacent branches drastically", he added. The participants appreciated the bank for the customer-friendly efforts and commitment to facilitate better customer experience through such interventions. Pertinently, the self-service terminal accepts and dispenses cash beyond working hours of the Bank and even on holidays. Meanwhile, as

part of infra-structure upgrade, J&K Bank has relocated its SSM College Parihaspora Branch to Diver in Tehsil Pattan of Baramulla district.

The Bank threw open the hi-tech and adequately equipped new premises for public amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local residents. The Bank's Zonal Head

(Baramulla) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat inaugurated the alternate permanent premises in presence of Cluster Head Sheikh Muzaffar besides senior police and bank officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head said, "In order to serve its growing customer base well and with added convenience, the Bank is upgrading its branch infrastructure wherever necessary besides expanding its network of digital and alternate channels across its area of operations." He urged the youth to come forward and start their own projects by availing a wide range of banking products of the Bank besides other government sponsored schemes that have been devised to meet their financial requirements.

Those present on the occasion hailed the Bank's efforts and extended their support for the measures aimed at social and economic well-being of the people.

Forest Division Ramban organises awareness programme under Mission Life Campaign



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MAY 17: The Forest Division Ramban today organized a series of awareness programmes under Mission Life Campaign in different educational institutions across Ramban district. The awareness events were held under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer, Dr. Rajan Singh.

The Programme was also held in Government Higher Secondary School, Chamalwas, Government Girls Middle School, Chamal, Government GHS Parinder, GHS Khari and GHS Sumbar.

Students, teachers, PRIs, officers and officials of forest department and other prominent individuals, participated and pledged to make significant changes in their daily lifestyles to safeguard our planet.

Debates, Plastic free cum awareness programmes organized by the Forest department in various educational institutions across the district.

The program aimed to raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility among the participants.

The program emphasized the urgent need to protect the environment and encouraged individuals to make conscious choices in their daily lives, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.