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G20 delegates arrive in Srinagar for 3rd tourism working group meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

About 60 foreign delegates arrived here on Monday for the third tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries, officials said.

This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - in August 2019.

Officials said the delegates from several countries of the G20 grouping arrived in a chartered



Flight at the Srinagar international airport in the morning amidst tight security.

They said the delegates were taken to the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre

(SKICC), the venue of the meeting, amid heavy deployment of security personnel along the route. The stretch has received a facelift with G20 logos painted on walls and hoardings to

welcome the delegates. Officials said stringent security arrangements have been made to ensure that the event concludes incident-free.

While the Boulevard Road around the SKICC has been made a no-go zone for the three days, there is massive deployment of security forces on the route taken by the delegates, and the Airport Road to Dalgate stretch, officials said.

They said security has been beefed up across the valley with the elite NSG and Marine Commandos helping police and

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Govt to soon declare national tourism policy: G Kishan Reddy

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The Centre will soon declare a national tourism policy and is also planning a global tourism investment summit, Union minister G Kishan Reddy said on Monday.

He, along with Union minister Jitendra Singh and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, was addressing a press conference at SKICC here after the culmination of a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation' as part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20.

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Press Conference 3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, May 22, 2023.

“We are going to soon declare national tourism policy for India. We are planning global tourism investment summit,” Reddy, the minister for Culture and Tourism, said. He said the Centre is

allowing 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in tourism.

“Our idea is that without private investment, we cannot become a global destination,” he added. Reddy said the Union

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G20 summit in Kashmir signifies change, rekindles hopes of better, secure future

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The G20 summit in Kashmir is yet another path-breaking move of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights.

Srinagar hosting the maiden international summit after the revocation of Article 370, a temporary provision in the Constitution, has rekindled the hopes for a better and

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No takers for hartal calls in Kashmir anymore: Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Kashmir has undergone a change and there are no takers for strike calls anymore, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told a gathering on the sidelines of a G20 meet here on Monday.

“If such an event was held earlier, a strike call would be given from Islamabad and shops on Residency Road (in the city centre) of Srinagar would close. Now there is no hartal even if the call for hartal has come from here or there,” Singh said.

“This change has happened. Common people on the streets of Srinagar want to move on. They have lost two generations (due to militancy),” the



Union Minister Jitendra Singh addressing the delegates from G20 countries at a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation'.

The event is a part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office expressed hope that the delegates would

become Kashmir's ambassadors and highlight the positive situation in the valley.

“I hope that when our friends go back, they will be our ambassadors... About the situation here and how it appears,” he added.

Singh said yesteryear star Shammil Kapoor not only became a star out of Kashmir but also promoted the destination as well.

“Dus Lakh (1996 movie) was entirely shot in the hotel which was known as Oberoi. Many songs were shot here. Movies became a huge source of revenue and vocation (in Kashmir) till 1990 (when militancy erupted in the valley),” he said.

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Govt chalking out comprehensive strategy for tourism growth in Kashmir: G Kishan Reddy

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Film tourism has emerged as a powerful medium to promote the tourism industry and the government is chalking out a comprehensive strategy for its growth in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Monday.

He said tourism helps in creating employment opportunities in hospitality and gastronomy.

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Kashmir coolest place to shoot in India: Ram Charan

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

“RRR” star Ram Charan on Monday said Kashmir is the “coolest” place to shoot films in India and it is a surreal feeling to visit the Valley.

The actor was speaking at the ‘Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation’ event here at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), being hosted as a part of the three-day Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 countries.

Charan said Kashmir was an “untapped” destination.

“It will sound cliché, but the coolest place to shoot in India is Kashmir. I am a second generation actor. My dad has shot extensively in Kashmir,”



Actor Ram Charan speaking at the 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation' event.

Charan said he visited Kashmir for the first time in 1986 and last shot for a movie in the Valley in 2016.

“I have shot in this auditorium (SKICC) in 2016. So, visiting Kashmir in Summer feels like an achievement for me. This is such a surreal feeling. It has been 95 years of existence of the

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Kashmir finest destination for film shooting: India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Kashmir is the finest destination for film shooting, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Monday, as the three-day third tourism working group meeting of the powerful grouping kicked-started here.

He said the Kashmir Valley has been attracting filmmakers due to its unique nature, which has something for everyone.

“Kashmir is not just a destination but a unique experience. Kashmir is an amazing destination because of Alpine forests, streams etc. There is no better destination than Kashmir as it has



India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant speaking at the event.

something to offer to everyone. It has everything,” Kant said.

He was addressing the delegates from the G20 countries on the side event ‘Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation’.

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G20 meeting | Security beefed up at public places in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Security has been strengthened at public places, including bus terminals, here as

the third tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries will begin in Srinagar on Monday.

About 60 foreign delegates arrived in Srinagar earlier in the day. This is the

first international meeting being held in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - in

August 2019. Officials said checkpoints have been set up across the city where vehicles are being stopped and searched while frisking of people has been

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PM Modi underlines importance of free and open Indo-Pacific

JNEWS SERVICE
PORT MORESBY, MAY 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific for the Pacific island nations and said the Quad is working in this direction. In an address at the FIPIC (Forum for Indo-Pacific Islands Cooperation) summit, Modi also emphasised the need for multilateralism and respecting the sovereignty and integrity of all countries.

“We are ready to share our abilities and experiences with you without any hesitation - be it digital technology or space technology, be it health security or food security, be it climate change or environmental protection. We are with you all the way,” he said.

Modi also asserted that the voice of the global south should be a priority for the UN Security Council.

“For this, reform of international institutions should be our shared priority,” he said.

The summit was co-chaired by Prime Minister Modi along with his counterpart from Papua New



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the summit.

Guinea. India's engagement with the 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) is part of New Delhi's Act East Policy.

A major part of India's engagement with PICs is through development assistance under South-South Cooperation which is mainly in the form of capacity building and community development projects.

A major initiative launched under the rubric of the Act East Policy for the PICs is the Forum for Indo-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). Prime Minister Modi hosted the first FIPIC summit in

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First phase of Ram Mandir to be completed by this december: Nripendra Mishra

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

The first phase of the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be completed by December 30 this year, Nripendra Mishra, who heads the construction committee of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said on Monday.

Mishra, who was also the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that the temple is being constructed in three phases and the devotees will be able to enter the temple after the completion of the first phase.

Speaking to ANI, the construction committee head said that the five ‘mandaps’ on the ground floor, besides other works, will be completed in the first phase.

“The Trust has taken the decision that the first phase of the Ram Temple should be completed by December 30, 2023. In the first phase, the five ‘mandaps’ on the ground floor, out of which the most prominent



The Ram Mandir under construction in Ayodhya.

is the sanctum sanctorum where God's idol will be installed, should be completed,” he said.

Mishra informed that there are nearly 160 pillars in the construction of the five mandaps.

“The work of iconography (visual images and symbols) in them should be completed. A brief description of Lord Ram on the lower plinth of the Temple will be started (in the first phase), and the electricity facility and other facilities should be completed. All these works will be completed by December 30, 2023,” he said.

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third by December 2025 when the complex will also be completed. As the chairman, it is my effort that by December 30, 2023, the devotees can see their lord,” he said.

Notably, Union Minister Home Minister Amit Shah had announced that the Ram Temple will be opened for devotees by January 1, next year.

Talking about the estimates of the construction of the Temple, the committee head said that it falls between Rs 1400 crore and Rs 1800 crore.

“It is estimated that a minimum of Rs 1400 crore to Rs 1500 crore and a maximum of Rs 1800 crore will be the expenditure in the construction of the Ram Temple. There will be a minimum expenditure of Rs 300 crore in the construction of the ground floor,” he said.

Earlier on May 18, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Champat Rai shared pictures of the

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J&K and Ladakh High Court exempts Jammu wing advocates from wearing 'gown' till september ending

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court J&K and Ladakh High Court Exempts Jammu Wing Advocates from Wearing 'Gown' Till September Ending. The court has exempted advocates from wearing of gown (a long loose piece of clothing that is worn over clothes) for practicing advocates at Jammu Wing with immediate effect upto September ending.

“It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that wearing of 'Gown' by the Advocates practicing in the Jammu Wing of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh is exempted with immediate effect till end of September, 2023”, reads a notification.

The move has supposedly come amid a surge in day-time temperatures in the winter capital of Union Territory of J&K.

J&K heartily welcomes the representatives of G20 Nations: Ravinder Raina



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Jammu & Kashmir heartily welcomes the representatives of G20 Nations, stated Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP accompanied by former Dy. CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta and former Minister Surjit Singh Salathia were addressing a press conference at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"We the people of Jammu & Kashmir are highly grateful to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji for giving an opportunity to the people of Jammu & Kashmir to welcome the representatives of the mighty G-20 group here. It is for the first time that such an important global event is being organized in J&K.

We are also grateful to all the Nations who form a part of G-20 for visiting Jammu & Kashmir. Everybody is aware that it is an important global event and G-20 is a premier group, which develops the economic cooperation among the various countries, especially among the members of this G20", said Ravinder Raina.

"Jammu & Kashmir has suffered much in the last 40 years. Pakistan sponsored terrorism created a blood bath in Jammu & Kashmir and carried out a malicious campaign at the global level about Jammu & Kashmir. It is an opportunity for the representatives of mighty G20 to see every fact about Jammu & Kashmir while visiting Jammu & Kashmir. We are highly grateful to the government of India and especially to Prime Minister Modi ji for giving

us such a significant opportunity to welcome the representative of G-20 Nations", said Raina.

"We are lucky that an important G20 meeting is being organized in Jammu & Kashmir and we thank the Prime Minister for providing us with this opportunity to welcome the foreign delegates in our land. Through this meeting, the world powers that are a part of this mighty group, will see the ground situation here and will directly witness the strengthening of democracy and developing peace and prosperity here", said Raina.

"We were a victim of malicious propaganda in the whole world for the last 40 years to create false narratives and to show Jammu & Kashmir and its residents in bad light. Today, the malicious campaign against J&K by our enemies has failed. Economic growth,

Tourism and cultural heritage will be boosted along with the sustained development. This is the first great event of such type after independence in which international representatives are visiting for an important summit", said Raina.

"We believe that this G-20 meet will be promoting peace, prosperity and development in Jammu & Kashmir. The false narratives will be blown up in this meeting and the original picture of peace, love, brotherhood and development will be evident before the whole world", said Ravinder Raina.

Ravinder Raina further said that J&K is about to rewrite history with the organization of G20 meet. He said that Jammu & Kashmir also welcomes the special invitees along with the representatives of G-20 Nations. We also welcome the United Nations, International Monetary Fund's organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, WTO, ILO, FSB, OECD and Asian Development Bank and other big economic forums in Jammu & Kashmir. We welcome every Nation, every representative, and every organization in this meet for visiting Jammu & Kashmir, added Raina.

Sikh organizations hail JKHC's stay order on election of J&K Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Board



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: A Joint Press conference organized by Jammu and Kashmir Shiromani Akali Dal under an amalgam of various Sikh Organisations J&K and S.Darbandik Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal Jammu and Kashmir State. And also to hail the decision of Honour able High court of Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu stay on 19/5/2023 for the election for Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak board.

A day before the Shiromani Akali Dal Jammu and Kashmir and various Sikh organizations J&K met Divisional commissioner Jammu and submitted the memorandum to not hold the said election separately for Jammu province only, because

these election are for Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara prabandhak board not only Jammu

The Sikh Organisations of Jammu and Kashmir come to know through a reliable source that some vested interest amount the Sikh community approaching the administration to hold elections of Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara board. But only in Jammu province which is the total violation of Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara and religious Endowment act,1975.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara board in pursuance of Rule 36 (1) and Rule 47(1) of Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara and religious Endowment Act,1975 clearly mentioned that the Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak board have fifteen

members eight from Jammu and seven from Kashmir compile a Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak board Hence it's requested to not hold elections of Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwara Parbandak board separately for Jammu only.

As already the election stayed and case is subjudice in the honourable High court of Jammu and Kashmir and next date of hearing fixed on 12th of July, at Kashmir High Court.

Those who participated the meeting were S. Mohinder Singh Chief Organiser Bhai Kanahiya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K and Ex Member DGPC Jammu, S.Rajinder Singh General Secretary, Shiromani Akalidai J&K, S. Kulwant Khajuraj General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal (J&K), S. Charan Singh Bali, Convener, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akalidai (J&K), S. Surjeet Singh Kakoo, President Sikh Nauwanan Sabha, S. S. Jagmohan Singh President Gurdwara Sec-14 Nanak Nagar, S. Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwara Mata Guja KC Colony Trikuta Nagar Jammu, Dr. Surjeet Singh General Secretary Sec 14, Nanak Nagar, S. C.P.Singh, President of the Forum, S. Paramejit Singh, S. Rasbir Singh, S.Kuldeep Singh Malik, S. Malleet Singh Raman, S. Charanjeet Singh Ladd.S. Tej Pal Singh, S. Kuldar Singh.

9 Years of Modi Govt is undoubtedly the golden period of nation's history: Purnima

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Terming the nine years of successful rule of BJP Government at the Centre led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Golden Period in the history of the nation, Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor said that the progress report of the Modi Rule is totally unblemished and leaves no scope for anyone across the nation to be irked by it.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, Purnima said that common people of this nation feel quite satisfied with the BJP rule despite the fact that there is still a lot of scope for further improvement in the coming years. She said that transparency and accountability have been the hall mark of this government besides priority focus on serving the common peo-



ple especially the poor and needy.

The senior BJP leader highlighted various schemes launched by the Govt tailored specially for different sections of the society. Some of the highlighted schemes and achievements included Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Ann Yojana, Har Char Nai Se Jal Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. The senior BJP leader said that the country is celebrating nine years of

Modi government during which unprecedented focus was maintained on service, good governance and welfare of the poor asserting that this is the way of working of the Modi government rather it is the soul of the PM Modi government. She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the culture of politics, and also, the culture of government in India and the results are visible on ground, especially the satisfaction and confidence of the common

people in the Prime Minister Modi and his good governance.

Reiterating that nine years of Modi led BJP governance has been the golden period of the nation, Purnima asserted that the performance of the incumbent government speaks for itself and the Bharatiya Janata Party is all set to get a clear mandate for governing the world's largest democracy for the third consecutive term when the next Parliamentary elections take place.

Model Academy, JMC organises an awareness session on Polythene ban

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Model Academy school, in collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation, organized an awareness cum interactive session on polythene ban to promote the movement towards banning polythene and single use plastic. The occasion was graced by Dr. Akshay Sharma, Corporator, Ward No.8, D.C. North, Mr. Sanjay Badyal and Mr. Ashwani Soodan, Pvt. Secretary to the Mayor, JMC.

The programme started with lighting of the traditional lamp by the invited dignitaries followed by recitation of Saraswati Vandana by music department of the school. The choir group of the school sang a melodious song dedicated to the guests as well as for the cause. Principal, Mr. Pramod Kumar Srivastava addressed the gathering giving a preliminary narrative for the initiatives taken for the movement.

A documentary on "hazards of plastic and use of biodegradable carry bags" by DRDO was also shown to the students. The documentary highlighted the technology used by DRDO like cellulose and starch to make



decomposable carry bags. Another documentary by the JMC officials was also displayed to generate awareness among school students and staff regarding the adverse effects of polythene bags and the initiatives taken by the JMC to deal with them. An impressive debate was put forth by the students on the topic "Ban of Polythene bags" for which Ms. Parushi bagged the first prize, Mr. Aditya Raina, got the second prize and Ms. Aahana & Mr. Ishit Sharma shared the third prize. Judges for the competition were Mrs. Pooja Mishra and Mrs. Maneka Khanna academic managers, primary and senior wing. All the winners were awarded with the certificate of merit.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Akshay said that shopkeepers and other

traders shall only use the carry bags recommended by the JMC. He highlighted the major challenges faced to the nation as well as Jammu due to massive urbanization. He also mentioned that plastic waste is a major challenge and initiatives to ban plastic and polythene have been taken by JMC as per G20 objectives. He also said that the participating students in today's programme shall become brand ambassadors of JMC for ban on poly bags.

Mr. Badyalin his address, acquainted the audience with various steps taken by JMC in controlling plastic pollution. He highlighted various effective and practical measures that can be implemented to curb the menace of plastic and polythene bags.

The dignitaries praised

the institution for its enthusiastic participation for the movement of banning polythene and left with a satisfaction of knowing that the school and its students will carry forward the mission with zeal and promise.

Director, MIER, Dr. Adit Gupta insisted that the students as stakeholders should play a positive role by coming forward with innovative ideas to reduce the use of plastic and be the ambassadors of change. He ensured full support from the MIER family in the mission of curbing the menace of polythene bags in the city.

The vote of thanks was put forth by Ms. Santa Dogra, co-convenor CCA, expressing gratitude to all the participants, guest and organizers who made the event a resounding success.

G-20 Summit in J&K: DFSS hold welcome rally at Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: These G20 events, meetings are being held across India, in every region, of India, they are being organized. Holding such meetings in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is very natural as we have always considered them integral and inalienable parts of India.

Organising G-20 Summit in J&K is a significant event and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are highly grateful to the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi Sahib for giving a chance to welcome the representatives

of G-20 Nations. The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta took out a celebration in march in Jammu city which concluded at Rani Park expressing their delight & happiness for G20 being held in Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that some people do not digest peace, prosperity and development and are making hue and cry as they do not want to see J&K marching ahead with people maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood.

Jammu and Kashmir is a single entity and it does not matter whether the meeting is taking place in Srinagar or Jammu. He further stated that the political leaders those ruled J&K for last 70 years are playing "divisive politics" and will not allow people to live in peace and harmony. "They are frustrated as they see their political ground slipping away and are doing propaganda politics to create wedge between the regions for political gains only.

This is a matter of great joy as in past J&K was known for strikes, stone pelting, Hurriyat, Militancy, social unrest

and now Kashmir is being celebrated for its development, tourism, harmony & its beauty.

The G20 will not only promote tourism but also whitewash the eye-wash of Pakistan on Kashmir as it claims it to be as place of unrest and bands.

The G20 which represents 85% of the global GDP will be represented by 60 people as when these people will go back and report the development that will boost the tourism in entire jammu & Kashmir. The delegation will be served with Dogri & Kashmiri cuisine and the Gf tagged products like Paper machee, Kesar, Rice will be on display for the delegation which will act as a marketing tool for these products.

The party people who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek, Bantu, Rabul, Vishu, Kuleep, Rajkumari, Sardarshah, Rani, Bhajo, Prem, Parkash, Fauji, Rano, Naresh, Vikky and various others were present.

Modi's strong credentials G20 meet proves to be a successful event: Rajesh

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Monday said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government through its strong credentials has proved to today that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are today participating to the G20 meeting with great enthusiasm. He said the youth in Kashmir is highly aspirational, well informed, intelligent and fully aware of the enormous avenues the prime minister has made available to the region

NDPI leader added The Kashmiri youth does not want to miss the bus and wants to be a part of the changes taking place in the region. A few years ago, it was almost a taboo to visit Kashmir.

Such events (conferences and meetings) had virtually come to a halt since 1990. But this year, maximum excitement has been generated by the venue of Srinagar as far as all the G20 meetings put together are concerned," he said.

Gupta said that peace and progress is the mission of Modi Government at the Centre and the

way the development is being carried out sooner than later all the dreams of the people of J&K will be realized without discrimination, prejudice or inequality. Gupta asserted that Government at the Centre will not disappoint any of the countrymen who had reposed faith in the leadership of PM Modi not once but twice.

NDPI president "People of J-K should continue to pose undaunted faith in the leadership of Modi as they are doing right now to ensure unprecedented development and lasting peace," Gupta said.

Young entrepreneurs augmenting Govt initiatives will end unemployment: Sat



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: "Lets pledge to become Job Providers instead of Job seekers". This was stated by Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) while taking part as Chief Guest in First Anniversary Celebrations of "Bombshells by Sonia", a complete makeover place for women situated at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Sharma was also accompanied by Employees Cell Convenor IRS (Retd) SK Sharma, Owner Sonia Maini and others.

Sat Sharma said that the current scenario demands that time has come for the Indian youth shift in their mindset, Sharma said that instead of seeking jobs, the youth must prefer to become job providers and the best way to accomplish this aim is to set up their own business establishments as per their capacity and local conditions of the areas in which they are living.

He said that by becoming entrepreneurs they will be augmenting the

Government's initiatives to end unemployment by creating job opportunities for those seeking jobs.

Sharma lauded the efforts of Sonia Maini and stated that she started this venture by taking a loan under PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program) of Rupees 10 lakhs and in one year with her hard work, she has excelled in this stream and caters to the needs of many women who come here to avail services.

He also appealed to the youngsters to take benefits

of various schemes of the Modi Government.

SK Sharma said that youth are full of talent and potential and are second to none in this country, the only need is to exert and explore alternative avenues in the business sector especially in tourism and allied ventures, etc. and become Atma Nirbhar (Self Reliant) in true sense. Sonia thanked the Chief Guest and other dignitaries present in the program.

She said she is inspired by the works of PM Modi and While giving a brief about her venture she said that we provide Beauty, cosmetic and Personal Care, Bridal Makeup and other services and that too at reasonable prices. She also stated that she has provided jobs to 6 people as well which also benefits the same number of families.

Ish Mahajan, Abhimanyu Maini, Ajay Ahuja, CA Ramit Khurana, Anish Abrol, Dr. Virendra Sharma and several others were also present.

Ravinder Raina, Ashish Sood review forthcoming party programmes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir and Ashish Sood Seh-Prabhari Jammu & Kashmir reviewed the preparations for the forthcoming party programmes in a meet of senior party leaders held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, General Secretary Vibodhi Gupta and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manjral also addressed the review meeting.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the review meet, shared that the Working Committee meets have already been completed in maximum Districts in Jammu region while they will be soon held in Kashmir after the G-20 meet would be a boon for tourism and other economic activities in Jammu & Kashmir.



While reviewing the preparations for the forthcoming party programmes, he said that strong dedication on the part of senior party leaders is required to complete the designated organizational works in the approaching month-long party programmes. He asked the party leaders to involve the party workers at the ground level at both the planning and the execution phase for all the party programmes to achieve the success in the future elections in Jammu

& Kashmir. He stressed that a dedicated worker is the backbone of organization while prompting them to take the policies of the party to the masses in these forthcoming party programmes. Ashish Sood, while addressing the senior party leaders said that individual attention by the party seniors is needed to make all the programmes successful. He asked the party leaders to make comprehensive Pravas to meet the party sympathizers and supporters to

make the masses aware of the landmark decisions and the path-breaking development projects initiated by the Modi government. He said that the Modi government has undone the sins of the past governments of Jammu & Kashmir to open the floodgates of development in the region and the party leaders have to responsibly take these achievements to the masses.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manjral conducted the meeting proceedings.

JU organises daylong field trip for students on agricultural marketing to have field-based learning



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: In continuation with the visionary approach of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Professor Umesh Rai, towards organising field-based and experiential learning programmes for the student community, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Senior Assistant Professor and leading teacher of Agriculture Marketing at Department of Lifelong Learning organised a day-long field trip for the students of Semester IV of MA in Rural Development.

The Vice-Chancellor has already directed the University teachers to take initiatives for strengthening the community-based university interventions,

particularly Agriculture which still exists as the mainstay of rural masses. Further, the Vice Chancellor endeavours to introduce job-oriented courses that are in sync with the emerging national and global trends as well as relevant to the market requirements which would increase employability and enhance innovation and entrepreneurship among the students.

The field trip assumes greater significance against the backdrop of the launch of the project named Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) by the government of Jammu & Kashmir in April this year that aims to strengthen the existing market infrastruc-

ture and create a robust market ecosystem that caters to the needs of all the stakeholders.

"In current times, the challenge remains in integrating smallholder's produce with market systems that are both effective and transparent which will ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their goods while consumers get good value for their money," Dr Vivek Sharma said.

"In view of HADP project of the J&K government, these field trips are indispensable as they encourage students to learn and innovate, and enable them to take advantage of career opportunities that come their way," Dr Sharma added.

During the field trip, the students were first taken to the Vegetable and Fruit Mandi, Narwal where they were thoroughly made to understand the market structure of both the agriculture and horticulture produce of Jammu region.

Thereafter, the students visited the godown of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Channi Rama where they were apprised of the critical role played by FCI in storing and transporting food grains.

Later, students and faculty had an interaction with the farmers and understood the processing of agricultural produce during their visit to Sarveshwar Rice Overseas Limited which is a prominent exporter of agricultural produce in the Jammu region.

Dr. Vivek Sharma was Assisted by Sh. Mahesh Verma, Joint Director Agriculture Jammu, Sanjeev Khajuria, Technical Officer Agriculture and Anaytullah Khan, Marketing Inspector, Horticulture during this field trip.

Law Deptt. of JU organises lecture on the Role of Prosecutor in Criminal Justice System



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Department of Law, University of Jammu, organized a lecture, the third in the Law Lecture Series started under the chairmanship of Prof Satinder Kumar, Dean and Head, Department of Law. The lecture was delivered by Ms Sunita Kargotra, Deputy Director, Prosecution, Directorate of Prosecution, Jammu, on the topic, Role of Prosecutor in the Criminal Justice System. She is also

an alumnus of the Department.

Prof Satinder Kumar extended his gratitude to the guest and emphasized the importance of the lecture in shaping the career-oriented student perspective towards the profession.

Ms Sunita Kargotra made a holistic approach to the role played by a prosecutor in the administration of the criminal justice system.

At the outset, she apprised the students of the process of appoint-

ment of a prosecutor and the various roles allotted to the Prosecuting Officers appointed in different government departments vis-a-vis Public Prosecutors, besides explaining the hierarchical positions and working of the Prosecutors. While emphasizing the role of the Prosecutor, who acts as a bridge between various investigating agencies in the State and the Centre and the Court. She displayed her forte and expertise in the field and highlighted the role of

prosecutors in guiding the investigating authorities in submitting the Final Report to the court and their role as facilitators aiding the court with the evidence needed to decide a case was also elaborated. From their duty in assisting the court with the framing of charges to the examination of witnesses, cross-examination, obtaining arrest warrants, remand orders, cancellation of bail, conditions of bail, proclamation and attachment orders, appeal and the limitation period for appeal, review, etc., were discussed. The lecture was followed by an interactive Q-and-A session, wherein various queries of the students were addressed.

The formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof Sanjay Gupta. The lecture was moderated by Dr Navdeep Kour Sasan. Among the other attendees were Dr Mohd Arif, Dr Raj Sandhu and Ms Meenu Sharma.

Govt. PG College celebrates Int'l Day for Biological Diversity

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 22: The Department of Botany of Govt. PG College Rajouri celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity under aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava and G20 here today.

On this occasion a seminar cum quiz on the theme "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity" organized in which Principal of the college, Prof. Shamim Ahmed Azad was Chief Guest. While speaking on occasion Prof. Shamim Azad emphasized upon the students youth to become active players in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by taking adopting eco-



friendly behavior. He appreciated the Department of Botany for undertaking this pertinent initiative and expressed hopes for more such program for raising maximum awareness among youth and students about the conservation of biodiversity at local level.

Prof. Ghulam Abbas, Head of Botany Department introduced the audience about the programme and welcomed the

guests. Dr. Shamim Akhter, Head - Department of Zoology was special guest on the occasion.

Dr. Asha Malik from Department of Botany was resource person on the occasion who delivered a detailed talk on the Biodiversity: losses, threats and conservation approaches required to Build Back Biodiversity as per Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework while integrating it with SDGs, G20 - Vision LIFE and Green Development, tradition, and eco-friendly cultural practices. Later an instant quiz on various aspects of biodiversity conservation was also organized in which winners were given away literary gifts. Prof. Asiya Rashid Bhat conducted the proceedings of program whereas Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar presented formal vote of thanks.

A large number of students undertaking botanical studies and staff of Botany Department including Mohd Basher, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohd Farooq and Abdul Raheem were present on the occasion.

Parkash utsav of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj celebrated

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: In connection with the Celebration of 646th Parkash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj and 132th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar a common grand function was organised by Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Sukka Grant, Jammu in which Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj enthralled the audience with his sermons, whereas Rakesh Wazir President Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra & Sr. Congress Leader who was prominently present overthere threw light on the life and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj and works done by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Sahib for the welfare of people and especially for the up gradation of down trodden and weaker sections of the society.

Hazoor Maharaj Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj while speaking on the occasion threw light on the life and mission of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj. He while speaking on the occasion appealed the people to follow the teachings of these great saints in order to make the nation a strong and better place to live.

Wazir while speaking on the



occasion asked the people to follow the path of these great personalities by removing disparity among different sections of the society on the name of caste, creed, colour, religion etc. and further said that this is the only way by which our country can progress and become good nation irrespective of hatred where humanitarian value may get first preference.

Wazir further said that these types of functions play a major role in the community building particularly when the people are forgetting the human values and our new generation is taking the bad paths and getting addicted with many bad habits which were not prevalent till

some time back.

He thanked Parvez Dewan then Advisor to Governor & Rohit Kansal then Commissioner, Secretary, PWD for making it possible to have a direct link between Katra-Akhnoor via Deva Mai-Sukka Grant Aggre which decreased the distance between Akhnoor to Katra by 35 KM and time by more than one hour.

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion include Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Sukka Grand President Babu Ram, Pardan Rattan Lal, Chairman Sarban Dass, General Secretary Ramesh Lal, Cashier Shallow Ram, Master Ashok Kumar, Babu Khan, Neeraj Jashok etc.

Material recovery facility transforming Jammu into clean, green city

JINNESSERVICE JAMMU, MAY 22

Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas. The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the "Swachhta Kendra" (cleanliness centre), established in 2021. The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the collaboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city. "This MRF in Jammu is the first of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It

has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajeev Arora, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUDA, said. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said. "To date, we have collected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected indirectly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions within a period of a month and a half," he said. The city corporation

employs sanitation workers who collect segregated wet and dry waste from households and public areas. The waste is then either transported directly to the MRF or delivered to mini-sorting stations for further segregation and recycling, he said. Arora said the waste collection system also has led to a positive economic impact. "We engage waste collectors, whose livelihoods depend on trash collection. They sell the waste to the MRF, enabling us to purchase the trash from them. Currently, we have 450 rag pickers and waste pickers, known as 'safaiya mitras,' who are connected to the project." Arora said they are setting up a material recycling centre soon in the city. "The RUDA is in the process of setting up its material recycling centre to convert plastic waste into products and orders for procurement of machines have been placed with the exception to install them within a period of a month and a half," he said.

NIA Court in Kulgam issues proclamation orders against 5 terrorists

JINNESSERVICE SRINAGAR, MAY 22

A special NIA court in Jammu and Kashmir's MRF public district issued proclamation orders on Monday against five terrorists involved in various terror crimes and targeted killings, asking them to surrender before it or the investigation agency. Special Court, Kulgam designated under NIA Act issued proclamation orders under section 82, CrPC against five active terrorists involved in various terror crime and targeted killing cases, including killing of lady teacher Rajni Bala and bank manager Vijay Kumar in Kulgam district last year," a police spokesperson said in a statement. On the request of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU), Kashmir, the proclamation orders were issued against Arjumand Gulzar alias Hamza Bhurand, a resident of Kharbatapora Ratnipora Pulwama, Bilal Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Chaki Cholehd Shopian, Sameer Ahmed Sheikh alias

Kamran Bhai, a resident of Chaki Cholehd Shopian, Abid Ramzan Sheikh, a resident of Chhotipora Shopian, and Basit Amin Bhat, a resident of Faisal Kulgam, the spokesperson said. Before the issuance of the proclamation orders, the court had issued open-ended non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against all five, he added. The proclamation orders were read out at conspicuous places in the villages of the terrorists and copies of the orders were pasted at their houses as well as villages, the police spokesperson said. Before the initiation of further legal proceedings against the five, the court has given them a chance to surrender before it or the investigation agency, he added. The police spokesperson said SIU teams, along with local police and magistrates, went to the villages of the terrorists in Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama districts for the execution of the proclamation orders. (Agencies)

AC gives nod to construction of new district court complex, Bandipora

JINNESSERVICE SRINAGAR, MAY 22

In a significant decision aimed to effectively address the legal concerns of the general public and increased litigation cases/judicial workload of the district, the Administrative Council (AC) which met here today under Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gave nod to the construction of new District Court Complex at Bandipora. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting. The project has been considered to be funded under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary" and is estimated to come up at a cost of Rs 35.32 Crore. The new Court Complex would include a three storied court building, Construction of Lawyers Chambers and Residential Quarters for Honble Judges of District Court besides other facilities and basic amenities.

PM Modi conferred with Fiji's highest honour



JINNESSERVICE PORT MORESBY, MAY 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with the highest honour of Fiji by its premier Sitiveni Rabuka in recognition of his global leadership, in a rare honour for a non-Fijian. Modi arrived here in Papua New Guinea on Sunday on his maiden visit to the country to host a key summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to boost bilateral ties. "Big Honour for India. Prime Minister Modi has been conferred the highest honour of Fiji by the PM of Fiji: Companion of the Order of Fiji in recognition of his global leadership. Only a handful of Non-Fijians have received this honour to date," the Prime Minister's Office said. Prime Minister Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and to the generations of the Fijian Indian community, who have played a key role in the special and enduring bond between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Twitter. On the sidelines of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit, he also met his Fijian counterpart Rabuka. "Delighted to meet PM @sRabuka of Fiji. We had a great conversation on various topics. The relations between India and Fiji have stood the test of time. We look forward to working together to further cement it in the coming years," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

G20 delegates...

paramilitary forces to secure the venues of the event, they said. Sanitisation and "area domination" exercises have been carried out at the venues, along the route and at vulnerable spots of the city. Scanners and sniffer dogs have been pressed into action to check for any explosives or IEDs, the officials added. Vehicles passing through the city are being randomly checked to ensure that no subversive elements manage to enter the city, officials said. The Jammu and Kashmir Police has roped in the Army to cover the higher reaches of the Zabarwan Range overlooking the meeting venue and accommodation facilities. Thirty companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which had earlier been taken out of Jammu and Kashmir for election duty in the rest of the country, have since been recalled to further strengthen security in the valley. The NSG's counter-drone unit has been pressed into service to ensure that no unwanted aerial intrusion takes place. According to officials, there is no restriction on the movement of people or public transport in the city elsewhere, the officials said. They said shops and business establishments were open across the city and life was "absolutely normal". Srinagar city has been spruced up for the three-day working group meeting on tourism, which begins later in the day. Several groups, which were part of Srinagar Smart City, were taken up on priority and the city has been decked up for the international event. (Agencies)

G20 summit in...

secure future for the Himalayan region. For 30-long years, the people of Kashmir lived under the shadow of guns and bombs that were sent by Pakistan to keep J-K burning. Agents of the neighbouring country present in Kashmir, sponsored street protests, stone-pelting and shutdowns to disrupt the normal lives of the people. They were paid by their masters sitting across the Line of Control (LoC) to create chaos, confusion and uncertainty. Till August 5, 2019, the Centre announced its decision to scrap J-K's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories- no one in Kashmir had even thought that J-K's summer capital would host the representatives from the 20 most powerful countries in the world and Srinagar would figure in the list of global cities. However, during the past more than three years the Union Territory has traversed a long way from instability to stability, disturbances to humming economic activity and alien stone-throwing culture to renaissance of the rich heritage and culture. The determination of the people has bid farewell to a nightmarish phase of disruptions, violence and bloodshed. Now, the scenario has changed with tourists thronging Kashmir to have their best of times. Nearly 1.88 crore tourists visiting J-K in 2022 have broken all previous records. Relentless efforts put in by Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have pulled J-K out of the quagmire of uncertainty and have put it on the path of peace, prosperity and development. The enthusiasm shown by the people of Jammu and Kashmir about the G20 event in Srinagar signifies the change that the Union Territory has witnessed after 2019. People are reaping the dividends of peace in terms of a big boom in economic activity and near normalcy leading to a smooth way of life. Space for the anti-peace elements has shrunk. nefarious designs of the obstructionists to push J-K into an era of despair and hopelessness again have been thwarted. Common man in J-K has welcomed the Centre's move to hold the third meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar. They have understood the need to sustain the prevailing era of peace and harmony for making his life easy and happy. Huge investments that J-K has received after 2019

have opened up new employment avenues and people have started prospering. The G20 event in Srinagar has put J-K on a larger canvas globally. This is set to give a fillip to global investment for industrialization and infrastructural development. The beginning has already been made due to concerted efforts put in by the Centre and the UT administration. Public participation in governance and inclusive development has instilled a sense of confidence among the J-K people, who are looking for the momentum to continue for the betterment of their region. Pertinently, Kashmir-based politicians, who ruled J-K from 1947 to 2018, had created a notion that peace cannot return to the Himalayan region without holding talks with Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it. Rather than looking towards New Delhi to end the violence in the region, they were more inclined towards seeking Islamabad's help to restore peace in J-K. For them "Kashmir was an issue" which needed to be resolved through tripartite or trilateral talks between India, Pakistan and the representatives of J-K people. It's an open secret that J-K for seven long decades remained deprived of the benefits of the centrally sponsored schemes due to the wrong policies followed by the former political regimes in the region. Till Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister of India in 2014, the political regimes in J-K allowed the separatists and the terrorists sponsored by Pakistan to call the shots and run a parallel system. Politicians remained busy pursuing the separatists to initiate dialogue with the Centre and stop sponsoring the violence. They couldn't muster the courage to call spade a spade and speak the truth that J-K is an integral part of India and it's no "dispute". PM Modi ended dispensation during the past nine years has made it clear to the world and its adversaries that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and its citizens are no different from the people of other parts of the country. By holding the all-important G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar the Centre has driven home a point that the summer capital of J-K is like any other city in the country. The G20 countries by sending their representatives to Kashmir have endorsed India's stand. No country barring China and Turkey, close allies of Pakistan, has paid any attention towards the objections raised by India's neighbour to hold the G20 summit in Kashmir. Srinagar has welcomed the international delegates with open arms. It's for the first time after 1990 that no strike has been called to oppose the visit of the international delegates to Srinagar. For 30 years, strikes were a part and parcel of the lives of common people in Kashmir as Pakistan stooges used shutdown as a tool to appease their bosses sitting across the LoC. As of date no separatist is relevant in Kashmir, neither are the people paying any attention to them. J-K witnessing unprecedented development post-August 5, 2019 has opened the eyes of the common man. They have understood the difference between good and evil. More than anyone else the common people of J-K are aware of the fact that the G20 being held in their land is an honour and it has provided them with an opportunity to showcase their culture, hospitality and tourism to the world. (AGENCIES)

Govt chalking...

"We are chalking out a comprehensive strategy for tourism growth. Film tourism has emerged as a powerful medium to promote tourism, to promote a destination," Reddy, the Minister for Culture and Tourism, said. He was addressing the delegates from the G20 countries on the occasion of the Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation" at SKICC Chereh. The event is a part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 countries being held here. The minister said Srinagar is India's of one of the most beautiful cities. "I would like to highlight the beauty and cultural heritage of the host destination. Srinagar is India's one

of the oldest cities," he added. Reddy said India offers every kind of location to filmmakers to shoot films. "From sun-kissed beaches to mountains," he added. "As we embark on an exciting journey, let us remember that it is not only about showing the beauty of the destination but to also preserve its culture," Reddy said. Our agenda is exchange best practices and technologies and creation of employment, he said. (Agencies)

Kashmir coolest...

film industry, (but) it will take them another 95 years to explore Kashmir. It is untapped, it is virgin," the Telugu star said, adding that he would be filming his next features predominantly in India. "I want to explore India more. I do not want to travel abroad for my next two movies unless the producer is from Hollywood." Charan's last big screen outing was the global blockbuster "RRR", directed by SS Rajamouli. The period action film won the best original song award for its Telugu track "Naatu Naatu" in this year's Oscars. The actor will next be seen in S Shankar's feature directorial alongside Kiara Advani. The film is currently in production. (Agencies)

Kashmir finest...

being held in the city. "We believe in peace and prosperity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes tourism has a multiplier effect and it is a job creator. This destination is unique because no Bollywood movie was complete without a shoot in Kashmir. No romance in India was complete without Kashmir," he said. He added that Kashmir is the finest destination to shoot movies, especially of the romance genre. "We will help you to bring more and more romance and glamour to your films," Kant said addressing the event. Referring to famous movies which were shot in Kashmir, Kant said "Bobby" - the 1973 Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia starrer - which was shot in a cottage in Gulmarg, became a household word in India. "Kashmir Ki Kall", "Jab Jab Phool Khilay" were also shot and went on to become hits, he added. "This has led to 370 films taking permission to shoot in Kashmir," the India's G20 Sherpa said. He said while many filmmakers went to Switzerland and elsewhere for shooting, many international movies were shot in India. "It has been a two way process...Natu Natu (the Oscar-winning song from the movie "RRR") was shot in presidential palace of Ukraine. So, it is a two way process," Kant said. "Foreign delegates arrived here on Monday for the tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries, officials said. This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - in August 2019. (AGENCIES)

PM Modi underlines...

Suva on November 19, 2014, during his visit to Fiji. The second FIPIC summit was held in Jaipur on August 21 again with all 14 PICs taking part. At that summit, India announced initiatives across a wide array of areas to assist the PICs in facing challenges and achieving aspirations for the well-being and development of its people. (Agencies)

First phase of...

status which are under construction as the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is underway in full swing. Champat Rai said that these statues are carved on a stone which is based on stories from 'Shastras'. On November 9, 2019, a five-judge Supreme Court bench led by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi

ruled in favour of Ram Lalla and said that the entire disputed land spread over 2.7 acres will be handed over to a trust formed by the government, which will monitor the construction of a Ram Temple at the site. (Agencies)

G20 meeting | Security...

intensified and their identification is being checked at bus terminals, they said. Security has been beefed up in Poonch, Kathua, Rajouri and Samba districts with a special focus on border districts following threats of infiltration, officials said. Officials said stringent security arrangements have been made to ensure that the event concludes incident-free. (Agencies)

Govt to soon declare...

government and the Ministry of Tourism are closely working with all the ministries and the state governments to encourage tourism. "The government of India is also working with all the G20 countries and invited countries for developing sustainable tourism," he added. Reddy said there is a tremendous scope for promoting spiritual tourism in J-K. Speaking at the presser, G20 Sherpa Kant said India is hosting G20 presidency at a time of "global turbulence". "Seventy per cent countries are facing debt crisis. People have lost jobs. But, India sees G20 as an opportunity," he said. "We are growing at a high rate of around seven per cent. We have built 40 million houses, provided toilet connection to 110 million people, drinking water connection to 240 million people. We have made 55,000 kilometres of road. Inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth is our priority. If there is growth, we will be able to lift people out of poverty," he said. There is a need to transform multilateral financial institutions to ensure that resources flow to emerging countries, Kant said. He said India thought of making G20 as people's presidency and the country is hosting the G20 events in 60 cities. "It is unparalleled. The meeting in Kashmir is very very important for us as we believe in peace and prosperity," he said. Minister of state in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said holding the G20 event in Srinagar was an achievement in itself. "I am sure the delegates coming here will be able to falsify the perception that is sought to be created by vested interests. The common man wants to move on. "We wants development and progress. He no longer wants to be part of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He has seen the development across the country and avenues for progress under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. He does not want to miss the bus," Singh said. He said the G20 meeting in the valley is being carried out in the same format as is being done in other 60 venues. "This speaks of the mainstream activity happening here," he added. (Agencies)

No takers for hartal...

The minister said popular filmmaker Raj Kapoor experimented with shooting in Europe for his movie "Sangam", but when he returned, "the chase to shoot in Kashmir". He said the valley is attracting filmmakers once again. Singh said that while Kashmir has benefited from Bollywood, it has also contributed to the film industry. The first star of Bombay was from Jammu and Kashmir - K.L. Saigal, singer and actor. He said the valley offers everything for shooting of films. "We hope that it will be a two-way traffic with our boys and girls getting opportunities in the film industry as well," he added. (Agencies)

Modi Govt not only believed in women empowerment but also women-led development: Kavinder

Lauds Mahila Morcha for phenomenal work done at grass-root level



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: BJP Government-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only believed in women empowerment but also women-led development as under this regime the women are increasingly playing a bigger role in the development of the nation, right from villages up to Parliament.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta while chairing a meeting of BJP Mahila Morcha here at BJP headquarters.

He said it is a matter of pride that the Modi led BJP Government is leading the way, not only in making women-centric

policies a focal point of governance but also in ensuring better representation in positions of power.

Kavinder divulged that a Mahila Morcha Team from Centre is visiting Jammu on May 25 on a two-day visit. He said that the visiting Mahila Morcha team in collaboration with Jammu Chapter of Morcha will organize a district level programme highlighting the initiatives taken by the Modi Government to ensure women empowerment and women led development. The BJP stalwart lauded the role played by the Mahila Morcha's Jammu Chapter in bringing vibrancy in party affairs. He specially

recalled the outstanding performance of Mahila Morcha during the national level 'One Crore Selfie' campaign in which Jammu Unit was ranked first. He said that the contribution of Mahila Morcha in bringing welfare schemes at grass-root level is extraordinary.

Kavinder said that Centre has introduced a Kamal Mitra scheme which is a unique training program through which there is a plan to train their female workers on the schemes implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The target of this training program is to prepare 10000 Kamal Mitra sisters by training 200 office bearers and female workers of Mahila Morcha

in each Lok Sabha constituency," He added.

In Kamal Mitra a team of professionals have been formed for this programme which has been taken from different states from all over the country and are well versed in local languages.

"A team of enlightened women including doctors, professors, engineers, lawyers, IT professionals and research scholars, will train these female workers and prepare a group of enlightened women for the country. They have been taken from different states from all over the country and are well versed in the local language. Sanjita Dogra, President BJP Mahila Morcha said that the Mahila Morcha team will not leave any stone unturned in taking the policies of BJP at grass roots level. She also welcomed the conduct of G20 Meet in J&K, which according to her has become possible only due to pro people policies of Modi Government.

Among those who were present include Prena Nanda, Reema Padma, Poonam Gupta, Reena Slathi, Poonam Gupta, Vidhushi Chouhan, Pooja Grover and Saroj Manhas.

DPAP leaders join Congress, PCC President welcomes in Party fold

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: The Jammu Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Vikar Rasool Wani welcomed considerable Sarpanchs, Ward Members, Executive Members and Prominent Workers of different political parties from Doda Constituency under the leadership of Congress leader Sheikh Riyaz Ahmed into the folds of the Indian National Congress at Jammu.

Terming it an outcome of the Congress Party's struggle to protect the rights of the people irrespective of their colour, region or religion.

They show full faith in the Congress party's pro-people policies and appreciate the strenuous efforts of the Party (Congress) to ensure safety, equal treatment and justice for people. On this occasion Wani slammed BJP Govt, for robbing people of J&K of their democratic rights and the subsequent betrayals on various fronts especially when it comes to



restoration of statehood and holding of elections in J&K leading to a discontent and disenchantment amongst the people.

Congress Party will continue to fight for restoration of statehood with constitutional guarantees and will make the BJP Govt. accountable and answerable to people for failing and betraying them. Wani added and said despite promising to restore Statehood J&K on the floor of the house a tactical delay is being managed on this count aiming

to rule J&K directly from the Centre.

Distinguished who joined Mohd Shafi Magray (Sarpanch), Mohd Shafi Batt (Executive Member), Mohd Hanif Batt (V President), Fared Ahmed Khan (Secretary), Rehmatulla Seeh (Executive Member DAP), Nisar Ahmad Shaikh (Executive Member DAP), Gh Rasool Paray (Gen Secretary), Zulfiqar Abanger (Joint Secretary), Tanveer Ahmed (Ward Member DAP), Ghul Mohd (Ward Member

DAP), Manir Magray (Ward Member DAP), Asgar Hussain (Ward Member DAP), Gulshan Ahmed (Ward Member DAP), Asgar Hussain (Ward Member DAP), Sajad Ahmed (Naib Sarpanch), Mujeeb Ahmed (Ward Member DAP), Gh Rasool (Ward Member DAP), Bashir Hanga (Ward Member DAP), Sajad Butt (Member DAP), Mohd Amin (Ward Member DAP) Shoket Ali, Nazir Khanday, Sajid Banjori (Member PDP) and many more others.

Police distributes stationary items among students of GMS, Hassote



JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, MAY 22: Under Civic Action Programme of J&K Police and under the supervision of SSP Reasi Amit Gupta - JKPS - SHO P/S Chassana Insp. Arun Kaul distributed School Uniform, Bag,

Shoes etc to 100 students of Govt Middle School Hassote in remotest area of Chassana in Reasi district. The function was held at Govt. Middle School Hassote and attended by Headmaster Govt. Middle School Hassote Lal Singh, staff of school, prominent

persons, sarpanchs, panchs and other public representatives of the area.

While speaking on the occasion, SHO P/S Chassana exhorted upon the students to set goals in their life and work hard to achieve those goals. He further informed that J&K

Police will provide all possible assistance and guidance to students of remote areas with regard to career counseling so as to achieve the desired result.

SSP Reasi Amit Gupta-JKPS assured that every possible assistance will be provided to needy students of far flung areas of district Reasi and public in general appreciated the efforts of police in providing such assistance to poor students of remotest areas of district Reasi and further requested SSP Reasi that more such events should be organized in the district in future also for better police public relations and for channelising the energy of students and youth for future career prospects.

BJP Minority Morcha holds interactive meet



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: An interactive meeting session was held by the BJP "Minority Morcha" at the party headquarters Trikuta Nagar Jammu on Monday.

Former MOS Shakti Raj Parihaar was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Munish Sharma Ex Vice Chairman interacted with all the

office bearers and activists of BJP "Minority Morcha".

Earlier, Bhartiya Janata Party "Minority Morcha" President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa welcomed the guests and during the meeting many important issues were discussed. Nalwa expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the Morcha and emphasised on the workers and whole leadership to strengthen the

party on the ground zero by dedicating themselves for the cause and interests of the general public. Parihaar in his address appreciated the role being played by Morcha particularly in reaching out to the nooks and the corners of J&K.

He also appreciated the leadership right from Prabharies to the office bearers and ground level workers in bridging the gap between the common man and the party while equally addressing the grievances of masses by raising voice of concern and making the concerned authorities to yield to the demands on behalf of the public.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Rajinder Singh Chib (Prabhar Jammu border), Santokh Singh (General Secretary), Mubashir Azad (Vice President), Yashpal Singh (Vice President), Syed Asad Mallick, Spokesperson, Harpal Singh (Executive Member), Sajad Bhat (Executive Member) and others.

Chairperson NGO Subhadra Foundation solemnizes marriage of poor couple



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Chairperson NGO Subhadra Foundation & BJP Chief Spokesperson MM J & K UT Ritika Trehan today solemnized marriage of poor couple at Baba Lal Ji Temple Last Morh, Gandhi Nagar Jammu. Parents and relatives of couple lauded Chairperson NGO Subhadra Foundation for sparing time for the social cause and for the needy by helping the needy and deprived section by reaching out to them. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Dr Shikha

Chowdhary, Mrs Deepali Handa, Dr Sumedha Mengi, Mrs Sumi Sahi Seth, Miss Muskan Trehan, Miss Mehak Trehan. NGO Subhadra Foundation has been organizing various social activities from time to time and poor girls are given free training to earn their livelihood with dignity. NGO Subhadra Foundation & Vivek Gupta bore expenses for all wedding arrangements, including necessary gifts such as utensils, beddings, furniture and clothes. Newly wedded couple was blessed after the marriage ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Ritika Trehan said that though it is generally said that marriages are made in heaven and solemnized on earth but this is really not true for girls from the underprivileged strata of Indian Society. Still there are lac of such families who are unable to meet expenses incurred on poor girls' marriages. This leads to an undue economical stress on any girl's parents but the worst hit are those from the lowest strata of the society with a hand to mouth existence. They lack the means to provide their daughters' with basic amenities to

start off a new life with. Also, the problem of marrying off a girl child is increased if the child is handicapped or orphaned due to some reason, added Ritika.

Ritika further said that marriage as an institution in India has a very special significance. It is the dream of all parents to marry their daughters to a well to do groom and help them start their new life. But not every parent in India is fortunate enough to do so easily so, NGO Subhadra Foundation has taken up the noble cause of helping poor girl's parents with basic monthly income less than Rs.10,000, orphaned girls or girls with a disability to be married to a suitable groom. She however said that the Lt-Governor administration has restructured the marriage assistance scheme in Jammu and Kashmir to provide Rs 50,000 financial assistance to the girls of poor families for their wedding. To further promote girl-child education, additional eligibility of completing elementary education by the beneficiary before her marriage has been included.

Rabta & Aryans Group organise "Anjuman: Poetic Evening"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: To promote diverse Indian art and culture & young poets, Rabta in association with Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh & Aryans Overseas, Chandigarh organized an evening of poetic expression "Anjuman Nayi Awazon Ki" today Govt. Museum & Art Gallery, Sec-10, Chandigarh. The event commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony & mementos were presented to poets during felicitation ceremony.

The event was graced by Renowned Artist Jaswant Singh Rathore as Chief Guest while Dr

Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group was Guest of Honour. On the occasion budding young poets as well as senior poets from Chandigarh and nearby areas will enthralled the audience with their poetry. More than 200 poetry and art lovers from Chandigarh and various cities of Punjab and Haryana attended the program. Audience was represented by senior personalities of the region.

Dr. Kataria appreciated all poets & mentioned that Tricity & Punjab always have been hub of literature and literature lovers, in the generation of short content youth still loves to vibrate on words and literature. She later congratulated team Rabta for

this effort. Founder members of RABTA Mrs. Sonia Rai, Dr Naveen Gupta, Mr Sahil Azrul Haque said their team will be periodically holding such poetry programs and other literally events. 'Rabta' has been formed to promote literature & diverse Indian culture in Chandigarh and surrounding areas, mentioned, Team Rabta.

On the occasion various poets including Varun Anand, Mahendra Saini (Gadar), Gautam Sharma, Anjali Banga, Ayush Aavart, Nand Kishore (Anhad), Rishabh Sharma, Shamsheer Sahil, Mayank Nari won the hearts of the audience by reciting their poetry.

KP volunteers felicitates best daredevil for the month of April 23

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Kashmiri Pandit Volunteers (KPV) a socio religious group is working day and night for the welfare of the community. KPV families provides unpaid help to people, communities, non profit organizations, and businesses to assist them in performing activities, events, or services.

From March 2023 KP Volunteers Founder

President Vikram Koul took an initiative to felicitate daredevils every month for their performances as all are aware KPV Daredevils team are working 24x7 for the needy whether it is physical, financial or blood requirements.

KPV Team is glad and happy that many KP volunteers family members attended today's function at the KPV office. KPV organised singing by renowned singer Mr Ravi

Bhan ji, Anmol Raj and other groups. We are thankful to our lovely kids for performing on a beautiful song Asi Chi Kuniy Awaz.

Ms Sheetal koul (Kak) was felicitated as the best daredevil for the month of April 2023 for her outstanding performance as a volunteer.

Among other Dignitaries the Programme was attended by Dr T K Moza, Anil Bhat (PTI Chief), Professor Virendra Rawal, Ramesh Marzaha, Bihar Lal Dhar, Satish Bhat, Anil Razdan, Sunil Trakroo, Hira Lal Bhat, Amit Bhat, I K Raina, Dr T K Bhat, H L Koul, Ravinder Kak, B L Jalali, M K Bhat (President Helpline Humanity). Jam Packed audience witnessed today's memorable Event.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Minimize fatal mishaps

The Union Territory government of Jammu and Kashmir constituted a high-level panel of experts to find out the reasons for recurring fatal mishaps in three districts (Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar) of Chenab region, especially on 110-km-long treacherous Batote-Doda-Kishtwar national highway. Over the years, several measures had been taken to deal with the fatal road accidents in the region but all efforts, so far, have failed to yield the desired results. If one goes by the official statistics, over 2,850 road accidents have been reported in three districts of Chenab region during the last five years, in which at-least 752 people lost their lives, while over 3,600 were injured – many of them rendered handicapped. In 2022 alone, as many as 129 people were killed and 385 received injuries in 621 road mishaps in these three districts. This number is continuously ticking up because no serious efforts are being made to stop fatal mishaps. The decision of the government to form a panel of experts to suggest measures and make recommendations to the government as to how the rising number of road accidents can be brought down in the region, has been taken after the High Court directed the government for the same. In December last year, a Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh had directed the Government to constitute Committee of Experts (CoE) to ascertain reasons and file Action Taken Report (ATR) on the frequent road accidents in the hilly areas of Chenab Valley comprising three districts of Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar. On December 17 last year, a social activist of Doda district had written a letter to the Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court requesting for taking suo-moto cognizance of increasing road accidents in the hilly terrain of Chenab Valley. The letter was treated as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and clubbed with a PIL titled Intakhab Ahmed Qazi Versus State of J&K and Others, which raised the issue with regard to road accidents on the Mughal Road. The letter was written close on the heels of the death of three engineers in a fatal road mishap near Assar area on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway on November 14 last year. The much-hyped 'J&K Road Safety Policy' (RSP) that had committed "to provide safe and secure roads by taking appropriate steps to reduce the fatalities" has apparently remained on papers only. Approved in 2016, the basic objective of policy was "to reduce fatalities and injuries in road mishaps by 2020 considering 2016 as the base year". The RSP had envisaged that all existing and new roads would be equipped with standard traffic control features like signs, marking, crash barriers, delineators etc, besides initiatives would be taken to upgrade major roads in the state and classify important roads as state highways. There is a need to formulate some concrete measures to save the lives of the people who died while driving on killer roads in the Chenab region.

UKRAINE'S COUNTER OFFENSIVE IS TURNING THE TIDE

UKRAINE IS NO LONGER AS MUCH OF AN UNDERDOG AGAINST RUSSIA THAT IT WAS WHEN THE WAR BEGAN IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

K. P. NAVAR

THE fatigue over the war in Ukraine, which will complete 15 months on May 24, is suddenly over for many people who had become tired of the same headlines and images, as often happens in conflicts which seem to have no end in sight.

The fatigue is over not only because of spectacular claims by Ukraine to have shot down 29 out of 30 Russian missiles fired at Kyiv in one night, including the 'unstoppable' Kinzhal hypersonic ballistic weapon and similar others fired from land, sea and air. Ukraine's claims have been upheld, at least partially, by some photos and videos of missiles being shot down over sea and against the backdrop of Kyiv's skyline of historic, domed Orthodox churches. The shots have been riveting.

The war fatigue got a pause when Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine, got out of round-necked, collarless T-shirts, which had become his trademark dress since the start of the war. Last Friday, he landed in Jeddah in a polo shirt with army shades, a very welcome sartorial change. As a concession to conservative Arab sensitivities in dress code, Zelensky's polo shirt had long sleeves and covered every bit of skin, except his palms, head and face. It was appropriate etiquette at the Arab League Summit, a welcome change from his speech to the 77th UN General Assembly last September in a creasy Henley shirt with round neckline and placket sleeves – an affront to protocol and diplomatic decorum.

Defying Russian air attacks and appearing with immaculately dressed world leaders on the streets of his capital in those almost shabby T-shirts may have been Zelensky's way of making a statement, but after more than a year of it, such antics by a sitting President had become tiresome. The President showing his biceps may or may not boost the confidence of Ukrainians who have been living dangerously, but for many people across the world, it is not in good taste.

The recent changes did not come by accident. Slowly, but



surely, Ukraine is beginning to give as good as it gets from Russia. Ukraine is no longer as much of an underdog that it was when the war started. Rescuing itself from overnight weapons, which were hitherto considered invincible, is only part of the new confidence manifesting in Kyiv.

Zelensky's machinery appears to have succeeded in activating its thousands of sleeper cells, which have always existed inside Russia. Nearly six million ethnic Ukrainians live in Russia, according to reliable statistics, a leftover of history from centuries of mutual integration through proximity and politics. In any such circumstance, there would be thousands of people who are willing to act as a fifth column for their original fatherland. Reports have emerged that the unmanned drones which were shot down over the Kremlin sky at the beginning of this month were actually fired by this fifth column from inside Russia. That is how they avoided detection, which would have occurred had they been on flight from Ukrainian territory. Increasing acts of sabotage and destruction to property in Russia also point to successes in activating Ukrainian sleeper cells within Russia. The situation is similar to cross-border terrorism that is exported by Pakistan to India.

It is very likely that the tide may be turning for Ukraine in the war because of the sophisticated,

state-of-the-art weaponry that Zelensky has finally received from his allies in the West. It is likely that secretly, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) personnel are operating these high-tech defensive equipment such as anti-missile batteries which have reached Kyiv. Greater precision in hitting Russian military targets also points to NATO involvement.

It is to match a turn in the tide of war that Zelensky is getting an image makeover. He arrived for the Group of Seven Summit in Hiroshima (May 19-21) in a deep brown windcheater with a hood. Not yet in a jacket with a tie. Two days before he landed in Jeddah in his polo shirt, his wife, First Lady Olena Zelenska, spoke at one of Seoul's highest-profile media events dressed in a thick, partially military-style green dress that extended from her lower neck to well below her knees. Gone was her casual appearance familiar to all in Kyiv. When she appeared later that day to sign a cultural exchange agreement with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, she was the height of elegance in a stunning white shirt and contrasting black pants with an appropriate waist belt and only one piece of jewellery. Juxtaposed with former UK PM Boris Johnson, with his tousled hair and ill-fitting suit, at the 14th annual Asian Leadership Conference organised by South

Korean newspaper The Chosun Ilbo, Zelenska appeared more elegant than ever. She made an impression on South Koreans by pointedly asking their President Yoon Suk Yeol only for non-lethal military assistance as for her country. Zelensky went on a diplomatic blitz all over Europe this month, marking a change in Ukrainian leaders' earlier policy of mostly hunkering down at home and getting counterparts to meet him in Kyiv. He has visited Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK since May 1. The most emotionally powerful visit was to the Vatican in mid-May.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not have given the time of day to Zelensky before February last year because Ukraine was an unstable country that was of no use to India. Nothing could be done there without greasing the right palms in any case. Besides, successive governments in Kyiv have been trying to sell arms to Pakistan for use against India. When Modi agreed to meet Zelensky in Hiroshima during his ongoing trip to East Asia, it was a recognition that after 15 months of war, Ukraine's diplomacy was making advances. It is wishful thinking in some quarters that it was part of any peace plan from New Delhi, even as India recognises that it has to be nimble and make frequent adjustments to its approach to the Ukraine war.

Amid Doklam row, India needs to focus on Siliguri corridor

LT GEN PRADEEP BALI (RETD)

THE Doklam plateau, which was the scene of a 72-day tense standoff between the Indian Army and the Chinese PLA in 2017, has been in the news this year. Bhutanese PM Lotay Tshering said in an interview to a Belgian publication in March that China was an equal party to the boundary dispute in this region, regarding the location of the tri-junction between India-China-Bhutan. This would have seemed innocuous enough, were it not for the fact that by tacitly accepting the need to trilaterally discuss the Chinese claim lines in its south-west region neighbouring India, Bhutan is treading on India's core security concerns. The Chinese have laid claim to areas up till Mount Gyemochen in south-east Sikkim. This lies around 8 km further south of Batang La, the present tri-junction, and the claim covers the entire area of the Doklam plateau, comprising 60-odd square km of undulating terrain, which lies in the Haa district of Bhutan. Any shifting of the tri-junction south will not only make Doklam Chinese territory, but their boundary would then rest on the Jampheri ridge, the highest feature in this area after which the mountain ranges roll southwards for 40 km through Batang, before reaching the border with India, on the northern edge of the Siliguri corridor. Incidentally, the only settled border along the entire stretch of 3,488 km of the LAC was in Sikkim. The joint statement issued during Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in 2005 clearly stated that China recognised "Sikkim state of the Republic of India". Wen even handed



over an official map of the People's Republic of China to the Indian PM, accepting the legitimacy of the India-China border in Sikkim. The 220-km-long boundary in this sector starts at the tri-junction between India, Bhutan and China, at Batang La in south-east Sikkim and then runs north along the Dongkyva range. It is this point at Batang La which China now wants to push further south, thereby claiming the entire Doklam and getting closer to India's Siliguri corridor, which connects the country to its North-East.

In June 2017, when the Indian Army crossed the watershed at Doka La into Bhutanese territory to physically stop the PLA from constructing a road towards the

Jampheri ridge, the Bhutanese government had been somewhat subdued in their denouncement of the Chinese intrusion. China has also occupied areas in western Bhutan across the Amo Chu river and settled three border villages, thereby broadening the tip of the Chumbi Valley, which lies between India and Bhutan. Surprisingly, the Bhutanese government has denied that there are Chinese installations within its territories.

Apparently to soothe frayed tempers in Delhi, the King of Bhutan, on a three-day visit to India in the first week of April, made all the politically correct gestures and the joint statement reiterated that "India and Bhutan share an exemplary relationship,

which is characterised by trust, goodwill and mutual understanding".

Looking beyond this, it is apparent that Bhutan sees building bridges with China as imperative. Its Foreign Minister mentioned an early resolution of border disputes with China, on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference at Dhaka, on May 13. It may be more than willing to trade off the Doklam territory, including some pockets east of Amo Chu where Chinese villages have come up, in exchange for the much larger disputed areas of Pasamlung and Jakarlung, totalling about 500 sq km, along its northern border with China. It may also be looking at greater economic benefits by further opening relations with China. The Bhutanese monarchy has mostly been pro-India in its public stance. However, given the internal complexities of the 'Hermit Kingdom', where the influence of the monarchy and the monastic order may be waning somewhat, the aspirations of an increasingly democratic Bhutan cannot be wished away.

Still, India has a lot going for it in this part of its geography. The threat to the Siliguri corridor due to the sudden decrease in width as the Indian territory extends eastwards, with Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan hedging in this area from the west, and north, is overhyphed. The shortest expanse is 20 km between the border checkpoints of Kakarbhitta on the India-Nepal border and Chhangrabandha on the India-Bangladesh border. The width of the Indian territory between Bhutan and Bangladesh is 43 km at its narrowest. From Jampheri, in south Bhutan, it is over 40 km of undeveloped mountainous terrain till the Indian border.

The Indian territory may well be visible from Jampheri through high-powered optical devices, but the PLA can observe it just as easily from much further north through satellites and high-altitude drones and engage it with various long-range systems, if required.

The real Indian strength lies in the umbilical economic linkages and it would be difficult if not impossible for China to replicate India-Bhutan ties in this aspect. Power from Chukha, Tala, Mangdechhu and other hydel projects built with Indian assistance is generated mostly to India, yielding a steady source of income to Bhutan. Further, the Bhutanese Ngultrum and Indian Rupee are tied at an (artificial) exchange rate of 1:1, administered by the Indian RBI. This by itself is a huge economic boost to Bhutan. Easy access to large Indian urban habitations in the Siliguri region, business centres, trade routes and most importantly, the land link between eastern and western Bhutan through the Indian territory, are vital for it. Any diminution in this economic linkage will severely impact Bhutan. China cannot match any of the above win-win factors but is following a predatory economic diplomacy. Then again, the Bhutanese are nobody's fools and quite shrewd in making out what is good for them.

The Chinese ingress into western Bhutan, whether by tacit understanding or otherwise, may not immediately threaten the Siliguri corridor. However, this possibility necessitates re-calibration of the Indian Army deployment on the Bhutan border, with the area south of Jampheri requiring increased attention.



When Suhana Khan said she wanted Shah Rukh Khan to be addressed as her dad at school: 'I hated attention'

Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan is celebrating her 23rd birthday on Monday. She is the only daughter of the actor's three kids who is following on his footsteps and is set to make her debut as an actor in Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*. However, during her growing up years, Suhana was in a dilemma when Shah Rukh would drop her to school and "hated attention". Suhana is Shah Rukh Khan and wife Gauri Khan's second child. She has an elder brother Aryan Khan, 25, who is all set to make his debut as a writer-director. She also has a younger brother, Abram Khan.

In her first ever interview to *Vogue* in 2018, Suhana had talked about

growing up as the daughter of a superstar. She had said, "I realised quite early on that it was different for us. But I never really thought about my dad being famous. When I was about five, he would come and drop me to school, and people would point and stare.

He wasn't being addressed as Suhana's dad, which is what I wanted. It confused me. He would want to hug me, and I would push him back in the car. I hated the attention, it made me very self-conscious."

"But over the time, she came to terms with the reality. I realised if I wanted to hug my dad, he's my dad-I'm just going to hug him," she said.



JENNIFER LAWRENCE MADE 'BREAD AND ROSES' AFTER FEELING 'HELPLESS' FOR AFGHAN WOMEN



Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence and her producing partner Justine Ciarrocchi touched down at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday to promote their label's first ever documentary feature *'Bread and Roses'*, a harrowing and emotional look at the lives of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. After two decades of American occupation, the nation fell once again to the insurgent group, which moved quickly to strip women of basic rights - simple freedoms like the ability to work, appear in public without a male chaperone and receive an education, reports *Variety*. "I was watching this from America, where Roe v. Wade was about to be overturned. We felt helpless and frustrated with how to get these stories off of the news cycle and into people's psyches. To help people be galvanised and care about the plight of these women." In the infancy of building their production company Excellent Cadaver, Lawrence and Ciarrocchi pursued Afghan filmmaker Sahra Mani (*A Thousand Girls Like Me*) to help capture the stories of the suppressed women on the ground.

WHEN SHEFALI SHAH'S JOB APPLICATION WITH THIS PIC WAS REJECTED AND HER FANS WERE GLAD SHE WAS

Shefali Shah is celebrating her 50th birthday on Monday. The versatile actor is known for her several memorable performances from *Pyaari Mhatre* in *Satya* to DCP Vartika Chaturvedi in *Delhi Crime* and *Shamshurinna* in *Darlings*. However, long ago, the actor had once sent a job application to the international airline, *Cathay Pacific* but was rejected. Her fans had called it the gain of the film industry which would have been at a loss had Shefali gone to become a flight attendant. Shefali once shared a picture of herself in a colourful knee-length shift dress and matching bellies and revealed that it was the same picture she had sent for the job application at the airlines. She had captioned it, "The pic-



ture I'd submitted for the *Cathay Pacific* application (laughing emoji) I got rejected (facepalm emoji)." While many of

her fans had shared their happiness that she was rejected and went on to become a noted actor, some of her industry colleagues had also shared similar experiences then. Isha Talwar, who played a pivotal role in *Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo*, had written, "I applied too and got rejected then they called me a year later and I rejected then, why were we all sold the air hostess dream! Anyway..." Sandhya Mridul had also written, "Whaaaat did not know! I got accepted but didn't and didn't take it and well here we are." Divya Dutta had commented, "Alley mere baby!! Our gain!!" Four days before her birthday, Shefali had shared a long list of all that she was planning for her birthday celebration. It included inviting friends, asking family

to record videos, finalising two dresses for the occasion in case one went wrong, indoor garden-themed decor with artificial flowers because of the heat and then planning a three-day trip with her girl gang a day later. She shared it with the caption: "It's my birthday on the 22nd and I don't let anyone forget. I've started reminding and planning a month in advance... so much so that my family and soul sisters are packaged with me coz I give a list even before they have time to think. Like one said "let us do our own na, or you will be choreographing everything and we will be puppets." Yes she was screaming. Arey but I love planning parties and I know what I want so I'm just making their life easier or so I think.

Anupam Kher injured on Vijay 69 set, Neena Gupta asks 'Oh what have you done?'

Actor Anupam Kher has suffered injuries on the sets of his upcoming film *Vijay 69*. Taking to Instagram on Monday morning, Anupam shared a picture of himself as he wore a sling, dressed in a black and white shirt and pants, smiled as he posed for the camera holding a ball. Anupam shared that when the person putting the sling on him said that he had done it for actors Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan, his pain subsided a little. The actor also revealed that his mother Dulaara said that he fell prey to the evil eye. Anupam captioned the post, "Aap sports film karo aur aap ghaayal na hoti! Aisa kaise ho sakata hai? Kal #vijay69 ki shooting ke dauran kandhe mein achi khaasi choth lagi (You do a sports film and you don't get injured!! How can this be possible! Yesterday during the shooting of #Vijay69, injured the shoulder badly)."

He also added, "Dard to hai par jab kandhe par sling lagaane vaale bhaiya ne bataaya ki unhone hi @iamsrk aur @hritihiroshan ke kandhon ko is sling se saajaya tha to pata nahin kyon dard ka ahasaas thoda kam ho gaya (It is painful but when the person who put the sling on the shoulder told that he had decorated the shoulders of @iamsrk and @hritihiroshan with this sling, then don't know why the pain subsided a little)". Anupam continued, "Par waase agar thoda zor se khaamsar ho muh se halki si cheekh zaroor nikalti hai! Photo mein muskuraane ke koshish zaroor hai! Ek do dinon baad shooting jaari rahegi (But by the way, if I cough a little hard, then a little scream definitely comes out of my mouth! The effort to smile in the photo is genuine! The shooting will continue after a couple of days)."

The actor added, "Waase maan na suna to boli, 'Aur dikha apni body duniya ko! Tujhe nazar lag gayi!' Maine jawaab diya, 'Maal Garte hai shahasvaar hi maidaan-e-jang mein. Vo tiphal kya girega jo ghutno ke bal chale!' Maa jhaapad maarte maarte rukh gayi (By the way, when my mother heard it, she said, 'Show your body to the world!! You fell prey to the evil eye!' I replied, 'Mom! Only the warriors fall in the field of war. How will those fall who walk on knees!' Mom stopped short of slapping me)."

Anupam also added the hashtags-hairline fracture, I am fine and Dulari rocks. Reacting to the picture, Neena Gupta asked, "Oh what have you done?" Anupam replied, "That's what happens to great artists like you and me! Mild injuries."

'I called you' Vikram on Anurag Kashyap's remark that he 'never responded' to 'Kennedy' casting

South star Vikram on Monday said he called Anurag Kashyap "immediately" after he came to know the filmmaker had tried to contact him for "Kennedy".

In a recent interview with news outlet Film Companion, Kashyap said that Vikram, whose real name is Kennedy John Victor, was his first choice to play the titular assassin in his latest film, but the actor "never responded".

In a lengthy Twitter note to the filmmaker, Vikram said he called Kashyap immediately after he got to know that the director was trying to get in touch with him for a project.

"Dear @anuragkashyap72... Just revisiting our conversation from over a year ago for the sake of our friends and well wishers on social media.

"When I heard from another actor that you had tried to reach me for this film & that you felt I hadn't responded to you, I called you myself immediately and explained that I hadn't gotten any mail or msg from you as the mail id that you had contacted me on was no longer active and my number had changed almost 2 years before that," the "Ponniyin Selvan" star wrote.

Vikram then wished the filmmaker "great times ahead" and said he is excited about the movie as it has his name.

"As I said during that phone call, I'm very excited

Badtameez Dil's Asmita Sood finds love in Rajkot based businessman (Exclusive)

Badtameez Dil actor Asmita Sood has found love, we have exclusively learnt. Sood is dating businessman Siddh Mehta, who hails from Gujarat. "He lives in Rajkot and keeps visiting Mumbai. He was here for one of his trips to Mumbai when we met," Sood confirms.

The two have known each other since last July, however, it was only recently that they found solace in each other. "We met for work and that's how the whole story started. We got to know each other in the process. Things are going good so far. It's quite nice (to fall in love). Both of us are very happy, it's good. We like spending time with each other," the actor shares.

Cupid struck the two three months ago and for now the lovebirds are taking "it slow" and going "step by step". "It's too soon to think about marriage. You should at least know each other for a bit, then decide. Obviously intent is there, that is why I am in a relationship with somebody. So let's see how things go. Fingers crossed! I'm very posi-



itive. I hope things go in the right direction for us. I have no plans as of now," she says, adding that she is "enjoying every moment of being in love."

What made Sood fall in love with Mehta was his groundedness. "He is a very grounded person, very honest. He's also from a

small town like me, so we have a similar thought process. Both of us love music. There are a lot of similarities, in the way we think.

Even when we are thrown into a situation, we react the same way. There is no struggle with him. I have not found anyone like him," Sood elaborates.



Molkki actor Harshita Kashyap recalls the time her show was called off air i- a mo- th: 'We all cried'

Actor Harshita Kashyap, who was most recently seen in the second part of Colors' popular TV show *Molkki*, has said she was shocked to know that the show would be pulled down within a month of its premiere. In an exclusive interview with *Hindustan Times*, she recounts her journey in showbiz, the difficulties of being an outsider, and more.

Asked about her first reaction when she got to know that *Molkki* - *Rishton Ki Agnipariksha* would be

pulled off air, Harshita said, "Getting a chance to work with Balaji (production house behind *Molkki*) was like my childhood dream. For the very first time, I was playing a non-glam role and had to work on my diction as well as my body language.

My excitement was on its peak and the crew was also amazing and supportive. When we came to know about the show going off air, we were all shocked. My reaction was that 'I can't take it'. In fact, we all cried, we were all so emotionally attached."

Asked if she was informed about the decision soon enough, Harshita insisted the producers were professional and the team was informed within time. She added, "They were transparent, though I kept hoping Ekla ma'am (Ekta Kapoor, producer of the show) would do some magic and bring the show back. I actually have no idea about the reason, but it must be something very strong."

Harshita had recently mentioned that she had to let go of a few Bollywood projects as she wanted to be a part of the

daily soap. Asked if she'd be able to cope up with the fact that a project she put all her bets on abruptly ended, she said, "We can't do much about it actually. I believe I will get more good projects. I am not worrying about it."

Also, Balaji has a great reputation for repeating the same actors and maintaining good relations with them. So, I hope for the best." *Molkki* - *Rishton Ki Agnipariksha* premiered in mid-February and was pulled off air in the third week of March 2023. The first season of the show premiered in 2020

and ran for more than that. The first season featured Priyal Mahajan, Amar Upadhyay, Anushka Sharma, and Rithvik Gupta while the second season also starred Shahab Khan, Neha Chandra, Ashish Singh, Moin Khan, and Priyal Munshi. Recalling her initial days in the industry, Harshita said it was difficult as an outsider. "It was very difficult, coming here and knowing nothing at all. I was not even aware of the production houses where I should start looking for work... where to apply etc.

How does food get contaminated? Unsafe habits that kill over 400K people a year

Unsafe foods, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), contribute to poor health, including impaired growth and development, micro-nutrient deficiencies, non-communicable and infectious diseases, and mental illness. Globally, one in ten people are affected by food-borne diseases each year. Antonina Mutoro, a nutrition researcher at the African Population and Health Research Center, explains what causes food contamination and how we can lower the risk of disease.

Access to safe and nutritious food is a basic human right which many do not enjoy, partly because of food contamination. This is defined as the presence of harmful chemicals and microorganisms in food that can cause illness. According to the WHO, food contamination affects about one in every ten people globally and causes about 420,000 deaths annually. Food contamination can be: physical: foreign objects in food can potentially cause injury or carry disease-causing microorganisms. Pieces of metal, glass and stones can be choking hazards, or cause cuts or damage to teeth. Hair is another physical contaminant.

Biological: living organisms in food, including microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and protozoa),



pests (weevils, cockroaches and rats) or parasites (worms), can cause disease.

Chemical: substances like soap residue, pesticide residue and toxins produced by microorganisms such as aflatoxins can lead to poisoning.

What are the most common causes of food contamination? The most common cause of food contamination is poor food handling. This includes not washing your hands at the appropriate time - before eating and preparing food, after using the toilet, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

Using dirty utensils, not washing fruits and vegetables with clean water, and storing raw and cooked food in the same place can also be harmful. Sick people should not handle food. And you should avoid consuming under-cooked foods, particularly meat. Poor farming practices

can also contaminate food. This includes the heavy use of pesticides and antibiotics, or growing fruits and vegetables using contaminated soil and water. The use of inadequately composted or raw animal manure or sewage is also harmful.

Fresh foods can lead to a number of illnesses. In Kenya, for instance, the contamination of meat, fruits and vegetables with human waste is relatively common. This is attributed to the use of contaminated water to wash food. Flies carrying contaminants can also directly transfer faecal matter and bacteria onto plant leaves or fruits.

Street foods are another common source of food contamination. These foods are widely consumed in low- and middle-income countries because they're cheap and easily accessible. Here are the signs that you've eaten contaminated

food? Biological and chemical substances are the most common food contaminants. They account for more than 200 food-borne illnesses, including

to poor hygiene and sanitation, including a lack of access to safe water and toilets. Additionally, when children are ill, they tend to have poor appetites. This translates to reduced

ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT WHICH MANY DO NOT ENJOY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF FOOD CONTAMINATION.

typhoid, cholera and listeriosis. Food-borne illnesses usually present as diarrhoea, vomiting and stomach pain.

In severe cases, food-borne illnesses can lead to neurological disorders, organ failure and even death. It's therefore advisable to seek immediate medical attention if you begin to experience symptoms like persistent diarrhoea and vomiting after eating or drinking.

Children aged under five are the most vulnerable to food-borne illnesses. They bear 40 per cent of the food-borne disease burden. A child's immune system is still developing and can't fight off infections as effectively as an adult's.

In low- and middle-income countries, reduced immunity in children can also occur as a result of malnutrition and frequent exposure to infections due

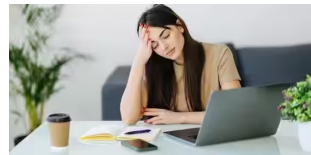
to increased nutrient losses through diarrhoea and vomiting, this can lead to a cycle of infection and malnutrition and, in extreme cases, death.

Pregnant women and people with reduced immunity due to illness or age are equally vulnerable and extra care should, therefore, be taken to prevent food-borne illnesses among these groups.

Food-borne illnesses also have negative economic impacts, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The World Bank estimates it costs more than USD 15 billion annually to treat these illnesses in these countries. So it's important to have preventive strategies in place.

Food contamination can be prevented through simple measures:

5 FOODS THAT TRIGGER STRESS AND ANXIETY



What we eat not only affects our fitness levels but also our moods. It's not without a reason our gut is called our 'second brain' and research suggests the trillions of microorganisms living in our gut, also known as gut microbiome, communicates with our nervous and immune system, affecting our overall mood. Gut and brain are thus connected, and this means while eating gut-friendly foods can keep your moods more stable, consuming foods that the gut bacteria hate can actually spoil your mood and trigger stress and anxiety. (Also read: 5 homemade drinks that work wonders for your gut health)

Studies show that microorganisms in our gut produce neurotransmitters in the brain which take active part in processes like memory, learning, attention, and emotional regulation. Nutritional imbalance can greatly affect your mood and make you feel distressed. For instance, not getting enough protein can affect your brain functions. Probiotics and prebiotics on the other hand can help to keep the bacteria in your digestive system healthy and balanced. Then there are foods that may boost your moods temporarily but can play havoc with your stress levels later. Felt that sugar rush after eating your favourite dessert but experienced low energies later? Here are foods that can trigger your stress levels and those you should avoid eating frequently, especially when you have a hectic day ahead, explained by Nutritionist Lovneet Batra in her recent Instagram post. Sugary treats

They are a contributor to overall anxiety. Foods such as cakes, pastries cause your blood sugar to go on a rollercoaster ride of spikes and crashes, and with it, your energy also goes up and down. When blood sugar crashes, your mood sours, and anxiety levels can spike.

Exercise is even more effective than counselling or medication for depression. But how much do you need?

The world is currently grappling with a mental health crisis, with millions of people reporting depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. According to recent estimates, nearly half of all Australians will experience a mental health disorder at some point in their lifetime.

Mental health disorders come at great cost to both the individual and society, with depression and anxiety being among the leading causes of health-related disease burden. The COVID pandemic is exacerbating the situation, with a significant rise in rates of psychological distress affecting one third of people. While traditional treatments such as therapy and medication can be effective, our new research highlights the importance of exercise in managing these conditions.

Our recent study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine reviewed more than 1,000 research trials examining the effects of physical activity on depression, anxiety, and psychological distress.

It showed exercise is an effective way to treat mental health issues - and can be even more effective than medication or counselling.

We reviewed 97 review papers, which involved 1,039 trials and 128,119 participants. We found doing 150 minutes each week of various types of physical activity (such as brisk walking, lifting weights and yoga) significantly reduces depression, anxiety, and psychological distress, compared to usual care (such as medications).

The largest improvements (as self-reported by the participants) were seen in people with depression, HIV, kidney disease, in pregnant and postpartum women, and in healthy individuals, though clear benefits were seen for all populations.

The WHO says we shouldn't bother with artificial sweeteners for weight loss or health. Is sugar better?

This week, the World Health Organization (WHO) advised that "non-sugar sweeteners should not be used as a means of achieving weight control or reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases" such as diabetes and heart disease.

Artificial sweeteners are either natural compounds or synthesised compounds that taste sweet like sugar - and are up to 400 times sweeter by weight - but provide no or negligible energy. As a comparison, sugar has 17k (or four calories) per gram, so one teaspoon of sugar would have 85 kilojoules.

Several types of artificial sweeteners are used in Australia. Some are synthetic, others are extracted from foods such as monk fruit and the stevia plant.

So, what do the new WHO guidelines mean for people who have switched to artificial sweeteners for health reasons? Should they just go back to sugar?

As a practising clinical dietitian in the 1990s, I remember when artificial sweeteners began to appear in processed foods.

They were promoted as a way of substituting sugar into food products that may lead to weight loss.

A can of sugar-sweetened soft drink contains on average about 500kJ. Theoretically, the substitution of one sugar-sweetened can of soft drink with an artificially sweetened can of soft drink every day would reduce your weight by about 1kg per month.

But research over the past few decades shows this doesn't hold up.

What's the new advice based on? The WHO has based its recommendation on a systematic review it has conducted. Its objective was to provide evidence-based guidance on the use of artificial sweeteners in weight management and for disease prevention.

Weight management is important, given obesity increases the risk of diseases such as diabetes and certain types of cancer, which are the leading cause of death globally.

The WHO's systematic review included data from different types of studies, which give us



different information: 50 were randomised controlled trials (when scientists intervene and make changes - in this case to the diet - while keeping everything else constant, to see the impact of that change)

97 were prospective cohort studies (when scientists observe a risk factor in a large group of people over a period of time to see how it impacts an outcome - without intervening or make any changes)

47 were case-control studies (another type of observational study that follows and compares

two groups of otherwise matched people, aside from the risk factor of interest).

Randomised controlled trials provide us with causal data, allowing us to say the intervention led to the change we saw.

Prospective cohort and case-control only give us associations or links. We can't prove the risk factors led to a change in the outcomes - in this case, weight - because other risk factors that scientists haven't considered could be responsible. But they give great clues about what might be happening, particular-

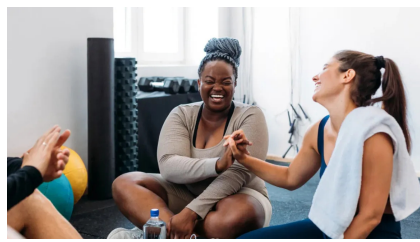
Study Finds Exercise More Effective Than Medication to Manage Mental Health

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

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

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

The largest benefits were seen in



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPERTS EXPLAIN HOW EXERCISE MAY BE INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL WELL-BEING.

Medicine at Michigan State University.

Any attempt to exercise usually helps with our mental well-being," says Dr. Sachdev. "For those who aren't engaged at all, doing some-

thing [active] often refocuses some of their energy. For those seeking pain relief and, by extension, depression relief, they will need to work hard to very hard to get natural endorphins released."

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

key molecule involved in changes related to learning and memory), both of which are good for brain health."

Then there are the psychological benefits of taking action and having a sense of accomplishment, Dr. Marci adds. "For some, there may be a social aspect to going to a gym or just getting out of the house. All of these things are likely to contribute [to your mental health]."

Can exercise replace medications for mental health disorders?

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

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

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

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



DLSA Ganderbal observes 'International Bio-Diversity Day'

J I NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MAY 22: The District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Ganderbal today observed "International Biodiversity Day" at Legal Literacy Club, Faculty of Forestry SKAUST-K Benhama Ganderbal. The programme was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Tubey and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The 'International Biodiversity Day' was observed with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of preserving and protecting our planet's biological diversity. Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal & Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, highlighted that small

gestures, such as planting trees, avoiding plastic, and conserving water, could have a significant impact on conserving biodiversity. They also added that the observation of biodiversity day, plantation drive, made a significant impact in promoting awareness about the importance of biodiversity and ecology and underscored the need for all stakeholders to take necessary measures for its conservation. Earlier, the event started with opening remarks by Dr. Sabena. The programme was spearheaded by Advocate Abid Jeelani, who emphasized the importance of preserving biodiversity for future generations and urged participants to take steps towards conserving the environment and throw light on the pressing need to conserve biodi-

versity as a means to preserve the planet's ecological balance. He highlighted the challenges faced in biodiversity conservation and the role of communities in ensuring its protection. The participants were also enlightened on the legal framework for biodiversity conservation and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to safeguard biodiversity and move towards sustainable development. The seminar featured a series of insightful presentations and speeches by students discussing the current status, challenges, and solutions in preserving the biodiversity of the local environment/ country/ world. The speakers provided enlightening perspectives and knowledge on the importance of biodiversity in mitigating climate change and

maintaining ecological balance. On the occasion, Farhana Manzoor, Shah Saud and Arzoo, students of Faculty of Forestry, SKAUST-K, Benhama, Abrar Ahmad Lone, Madiha and Mehvish Rasool, students of Sheikh Ul Alam School, Kangan, and Sheikh Dua Fayaz, Miftahul Jannat and Muhib Ullah, Students of Public Higher Secondary School Wutlar, delivered lectures on the relevant topic. After the seminar, appreciation certificates were also given to the students who excelled in speech competition. Later, a plantation drive was carried out by Chairman DLSA (Principal & Sessions Judge) Ganderbal and Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak by planting saplings of forest plants to pro-

mote ecological balance and maintain biodiversity.

The drive was a significant initiative on the part of DLSA Ganderbal and Faculty of Forestry SKAUST-K Benhama Ganderbal, towards inspiring green habits in the community.

The event was also attended by Professor P.A Khan, Prof. Akhlaq Amin Wani, Prof. GM Bhat, Dr. S. N Zaffar, and other Faculty Members of Faculty of Forestry, SKAUST-K, Benhama, Gulafroz Khan, Legal Assistant DLSA Ganderbal, Advocate Abid Jeelani, Staff Of DLSA Ganderbal, P.LVs of District Ganderbal, students of Faculty of Forestry, SKAUST-K, Benhama, students of Sheikh Ul Alam School, Kangan, Students of Public Higher Secondary School Wutlar.

DLTF approves 68 Cases under KVIB, REGP for Employment generation at Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, MAY 22: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTF) was held today at District Administrative Complex Arhama, here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lal Haseeb.

The DC gave approval to clear 68 cases under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation programme (JKREGP) thereby providing loan amounting to several crores for eligible beneficiaries of the district to set up income generation units.

Earlier, the District Officer, KVIB Shopian, Ahmadullah Malik submitted 97 proposals for consideration of financial assistance from different banks to unemployed youth of the district for setting up of income generating units including manufacturing & establishment of small units of Dairy, Sheep, Poultry, Kiryana, Pesticides, grocery stores, Ready-made garments and transport, etc.

The committee screened and scrutinized all the cases and approved 68 cases for credit linkage through financial institutions after thorough analysis of physical and financial viability of proposed projects and the entrepreneurial skills of the applicants. The units are expected to generate employment opportunities for over 300 youth in the district.

Among others, Lead District Manager, Shopian; Director RESTI, Shopian; Cluster Head J&K Bank, besides representatives of concerned departments attended the meeting.

GDC Surankote celebrates Int'l Biodiversity Day-2023

Students participate in series of environment conservation activities

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 22: Department of Biosciences, Government Degree College Surankote, in collaboration with Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) today celebrated 'International Biodiversity Day 2023. The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity."

The College Principal Prof (Dr) Rani Mughal kick-started the event by flagging off the students of the college on a field trip to the Botanical Garden of the Higher Education Department at Shidehara, Poonch.

An open painting competition, under the banner of IIC (self-driven activity of calendar for the 3rd quarter of 2022-23), was also held at the venue with a theme of "Innovative solutions for conserving Biodiversity". The main aim is to raise awareness among students about the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Dr. Rani Mughal, in her short speech, highlighted the importance of conservation of biodiversity and the role of the students in conserving the biodiversity. Dr. Mughal in her speech emphasized that students must proactively participate in such programmes. She motivated the students to act as ambassadors to spread the message of biodiversity conservation to all. She appreciated the Department of Biosciences and Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of the college for organizing this programme. On this occasion, Head of the

DC Rajouri reviews performance of Agriculture, allied departments

District Plans to introduce Millets on 600 hectare land with free seed distribution

J I NEWS SERVICE



RAJOURI, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, convened a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Agriculture, Animal, and Sheep Husbandry departments. The meeting shed light on various key aspects and showcased the district's commitment towards agricultural development. During the meeting, it was highlighted that a substantial stock of 4900 quintals against the required 5600 quintals of seeds for the Kharif season has been stored across different Panchayat and blocks. The Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the availability of an adequate quantity of seeds and fer-

tilisers, thus ensuring uninterrupted farming operations. Taking stock of the total cultivable land area under kharif, the Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) informed the meeting that 51,500 hectares is dedicated to agricultural cultivation. "Maize dominates the farming landscape, with cultivation spread across 40,500 hectares, followed by paddy on 5000 hectares, pulses on 2000 hectares, fodder on 4000 hectares and oilseeds on 100 hectares," he added.

Additionally, in line with the year being dedicated to millets, the department plans to introduce millets on 600 hectares of land with free seed distribution. The CAO further elaborated that four types of millets, including bajra, kodo, finger millet, and foxtail, would be introduced. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) in the district. He stressed to ensure that farmers were adequately covered and informed about the scheme's benefits. Emphasis was also laid on ensuring provision of high-quality seeds and fertilisers. The DC directed the Agriculture Department to take all necessary measures to guarantee the availability of superior seeds that meet the prescribed standards. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the department must ensure that the seeds and fertilisers are sold at the rates fixed by the government, preventing any unfair practices that could burden the farmers.

The meeting also shed light on the infrastructure for seed distribution in the district. It was revealed that there is an impressive network of 150 agriculture seed stores, with each store catering to the needs of two panchayats.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Health department intensifies tuberculosis screening in District Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MAY 22: With India setting the target of elimination of Tuberculosis by 2025 and as a part of AKAM, the Health Department Doda has intensified TB screening by holding special camps and the door to door screening campaign in the District.

The camps are being conducted in each Medical Block of the District to detect hidden pulmonary TB cases in the community and to provide them with nutritional support.

The camps are being personally supervised by CMO, Dr AH Zargar and DTO, Dr Versha Sharma and held under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Doda.

During these camps, the people are sensitized about the mode of transmission, symptoms and treatment of tuberculosis.

'AASAIH' Mobile App Training programme on Grievances Redressal & Service delivery held at Anantnag

J I NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG MAY 22: In order to provide general public fast Track Redressal of issues and to minimize the rush to government offices regarding complaints, demands and other issues, the District Administration Anantnag is going to launch a web based Grievance Redressal and service delivery portal supported by a mobile App namely 'AASAIH' developed by NIC Anantnag. In this regard under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr S.M. Ashraf a training session was held for all the stakeholders, sectoral heads and District officers by the Director (IT) and DIO NIC Anantnag. The officers were imparted training for efficient use of the app and quick disposal of the applications.

The officers present raised some queries and questions related to the usage of the app, which were satisfactorily answered by the DIO NIC.

The ADC on the occasion said that as the country is leading fast towards digitization and to save the time of both the officers and public, e-Services are appreciated and used widely. The District Anantnag has also taken various initiatives and nearly more than 250 services are provided online. He said that by launching this web portal, it will definitely enhance the disposal rate and people and officers will have the status of their application available on phone.

The training session was attended by all the district officers and the officials of other departments.

Awareness session on J&K's Birds, Butterfly, Plant diversity organised in Forest Information Centre

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: In consonance with the Mission LIFE and to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity, the J&K Biodiversity Council organized a technical cum awareness session on the Birds, Butterfly and Plant diversity of UT of Jammu & Kashmir here in the Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk. The theme of the current year was "From Agreement to Action- Build Back Biodiversity". Suresh K. Gupta, Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K was the chief guest on this occasion. During his address to the audience which included Forest officers of different ranks, biodiversity enthusiasts, experts and members of different Biodiversity Management Committees, Suresh K. Gupta, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K laid emphasis on conservation of biodiversity in all life forms and exhorted to attune to a lifestyle which was environment friendly.

He advised to reduce human footprints on the environment by adopting all those practices which cause the least harm to the environment. The chief guest congratulated all the presenters for their presentations on different aspects of Biodiversity. He advised everybody to modify their lifestyles by going back to natural ways of living as our ancestors and which was in harmony with nature. He also administered a pledge under Mission LIFE to all the participants and Forest Officers to lead a lifestyle in tune with nature.

The programme was also attended by various experts on biodiversity which included Dr. C.M Seth, (Retd. PCCF), O.P Sharma, (Retd. PCCF), Prof. Susheel Verma, (Jammu University), all Members J&K Biodiversity Council, Dr. Parmil Kumar, IJOD Statistics Deptt (Jammu University) who also happens to be an expert on Birds of J&K, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Assistant Prof. Institute of Mountain Environment who is also an expert on Butterflies. All these experts addressed the audi-

ence by way of powerpoint presentation in their respective fields and shared their field experience too. Asaf Mehmood Sagar, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests and Director J&K Forest Research Institute who is also the Member Secretary of J&K Biodiversity Council presented the keynote address explaining the importance of biological diversity in all forms of life. He said that this year IDB is also celebrated in consonance with the Mission LIFE launched by Prime Minister on 20th October.

8 PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER NBHM FOR KUPWARA DISTRICT

Kupwara produces over 1050 Qtls of pure/ organic honey annually with Rs. 1200 lacs turnover from Apiculture sector

J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MAY 22: With the timely efforts of District Administration Kupwara, a total of eight projects under NBHM (National Beekeeping and Honey Mission) have got approval for development of the Apiculture sector in the district, bringing good news for farmers and beekeepers of the district.

Union Territory Level Screening Committee of National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) has given approval to 4 projects of frontier district Kupwara in the private sector with project cost of Rs.121.00 lacs for development of Apiculture sector in Kupwara district during the FY 2023-24.

The approved projects include one project in Lolab, two at Langate, and one at Bramri Kupwara.

Two more private sector projects including a Honey packaging unit at Machul with project cost of 38 lacs and Custom Hiring

Apiculture Centre at Gulgam with project cost of 75 lacs have already been approved.

Besides, establishment of centre for excellence (Apiculture) in Ganapora Langate Handwara and District level Seminars cum Awareness programs on Beekeeping in Kupwara have been approved for development of Apiculture Sector under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM).

With the approval of these 8 projects in Kupwara district, Honey processing units on modern lines will be established with bottling, packaging and value addition facilities like "Walnut-Honey Blend".

Approved projects will help farmers to give a boost to the Apiculture Sector and produce pure and organic honey and other related products on modern lines in the district and its export to other states and countries which will generate employment and profit.

More than 1050 Quintals of



pure organic honey is annually produced in Kupwara district with turn- turnover of Rs. 12 crores. More than 550 farmers are today engaged in honey production and processing in Kupwara district. There are at present 8500 Bee colonies (Apis Mellifera) and 3500 wall-colonies (Apis cerana

indica) in the private sector in Kupwara district.

Intending budding beekeepers are helped by the department through different interventions and provided bee colonies at subsidized rates to generate employment and boost the economic sector in the district.

Besides, the Agriculture department has established a DCTC (Demonstration Cum training centre) at Gulgam village of Kupwara with 200 bee colonies for demonstration and training purposes for beekeepers where a full fledged honey processing and bottling plant is functional with a bottling capacity of 2 quintals per day.

Raw honey of beekeepers of Kupwara district is processed and packaged with the meager nominal charge.

GI Tagging of products labeled as "Kupwara Organic Honey" is also in pipeline that shall substantially boost market price besides providing access to international and national markets for the local beekeepers.

Farmers with the active handhold of the Agriculture department are now promoting honey bees as agents of pollination which will not only result in increasing crop productivity, but will also increase honey production.

08 HGOS (PRIVATE TOUR OPERATORS) ALLOTTED SEATS FOR HAJ-2023 IN KASHMIR

EACH ALLOTTED 50 SEATS UNDER CATEGORY II

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India has allotted seats to 08 HGOS (Private Tour Operators) in Kashmir for registration Haj-2023 after they were found eligible.

This was stated as per communication No. haj-23/28/2022-HAJ-MoMA dated: 05-05-2023 of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India.

For the information of the public in general and aspiring Haj Pilgrims of Haj-2023 in particular, the names of these HGOS (Private Tour Operators) are hereunder.

M/s Al Safer Tour and Travels, 19 Toker Market, Ganjwara, Anantnag, file No. JK02346123 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Raj Baba Tour and Travels, Meerak Abad SKUA/ST Road, Shalimar, Sgr. file No. JK02352823 has been allotted a seat quota of 50 under category II.

M/s Al Ghazali Tour & Travels, Madina Chowk, Gawkadal, Sgr. file No. JK02354423 has been allotted 50 seats under category II. M/s Nissar Jan Wani, Qazi Complex, Magaram Bagh Chowk, Exhibition Road, Sgr. file No. JK02362323 allotted seat quota of 50, under category II.

M/s Al Hayat Hajj and Umrah Travel Services, Crescent City Centre, 1st Floor, Main Road, Budgam, file No. JK02418423 allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

M/s Mohammad Abbas Pandit, Magam Narbal Gulmarg Road, Budgam, file No. JK02427623 has been allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

ADP: Honey Processing cum Bottling Plant, Hi- Tech Polygreen House inaugurated at B'la

DISTT ADMIN COMMITTED TO RAISING THE LIVING STANDARD OF PEOPLE. DR SEHRISH

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MAY 22: In order to boost the growth of agriculture in Baramulla district, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today inaugurated Honey Processing Cum Bottling Plant and Hi Tech Polygreen House under Aspirational District Programme at Agriculture Extension Office Baramulla, here.

The processing and bottling plant, setup with award money at a cost of Rs 11.19 lakhs is the first of its kind in the district and has the capacity to process and filter honey on a daily basis.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish said that the plant will provide service to farmers on a no profit basis. She informed that



the district has a large number of beekeepers with an annual production of 800 qtls of raw honey. The plant will now enable the farmers to sell their honey as a marketable product and augment

their incomes, she added. Elaborating further, the DDC remarked that the much needed plant will help in processing, filtering and bottling of honey thereby making its sale to a large

extent. After launching Varmul Honey Brand, the DDC said that the District Administration is committed to introduce the brand at National and International level. She also asserted that similar profit oriented initiatives will be taken up in other areas also so that the plant will open many avenues for the farmers to market their products at large scale.

Later, the DDC inaugurated the 7th Hi- Tech Polygreen House set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. After inaugurating the polyhouse, the DDC highlighted the importance of Hi-tech poly houses and said that to explore the potential in the vegetable sector hi-tech poly green houses will play a remarkable role.

She said that the Agriculture department has established hi-

tech poly green houses in the district to ensure round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable crops to the farming community.

Dr Sehrish also highlighted the importance of integrated farming and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

The DDC further added that the District Administration is committed to raising the living standards of people. She assured that the District Administration will provide all the technical assistance to the farming community to comprehensively perform their agriculture activities.

Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yousuf Rather and Chief Agriculture officer, Yadvinder Singh besides others concerned were present on the occasion.

GDC Ramgarh organises awareness Rally on 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan'

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 22: The NSS Unit 'Prabha', of Government Degree College, Ramgarh, organized an awareness rally under the banner of the 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan' (NMBAB) and under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav and India's Presidency in G20. The rally was organized under the supervision and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

Speaking at the event, she said that 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan' intends to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance abuse through various activities like awareness generation programmes, focusing on higher education institutions, university campuses and schools, reaching out into the community and identifying dependent population, etc. She motivated the NSS volunteers and the students of the College to participate in such activities that shall spread awareness among the local residents of the area. She congratulated the NSS Committee members for such initiatives.

Dr. Shamsheer Lal, NSS Programme Officer, briefed the participants about the proceedings of the event.

NH-244 (PKG-I) work: Traffic diverted to Ganpat Bridge for today

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MAY 22: All the traffic coming from Jammu and Bhandarwah for Doda Township and other way round will be diverted to take Ganpat Bridge route on May 23, 2023 to facilitate smooth construction work of NH-244 (PKG-I). The Construction & Up-gradation work of 2-lane with paved shoulder from deshp Chhaini, Khellani to Prem Nagar (20.251 Kms), on Khellani-Kishtwar-Chatroo section of NH-244 (PKG-I) (alternate NH 244) is going on and the construction agency (NHIDCL) has requested the Deputy Commissioner to order for the diversion of traffic to reduce the volume of traffic movement from Neru Bridge towards Doda Town and the other way round.

NHIDCL authorities have requested traffic diversion from Pull Doda Bridge to Ganpat Bridge for hillside cutting, safety purposes and to expedite the construction activity safely.

GCW Udhampur hosts Lecture on E-Waste Management under Mission Life

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 22: To raise awareness on E-waste and its management, a lecture was organized by Swachhta Action Plan (SAP) Club, ECO Club and NSS unit of Government College for Women Udhampur, under Mission Life for environment and World Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. The event was held under the guidance of the College Principal Prof. Anjali Mahajan and co-venorship of Dr. Kewal Kumar, Prof. Tania Mahajan and Prof. Surana Rao, in collaboration with Gandhii National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. About 110 students attended the awareness lecture.

Prof. Paramjit Singh was the resource person, who introduced the students to this burning issue of E-waste and its management which is posing threat to the environment. In his lecture, he discussed in detail the various types of E-wastes, their effects on humans, plants and animals. Besides, he also suggested different ways of its management.

JKPCC conducts Public Hearing at Panchayat Ghar Dhok Khalsa Akhnor

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: A Public Hearing was organized today on here in Panchayat Ghar, Dhok Khalsa, Akhnor for eliciting opinions, view-points and suggestions of the locals and other stakeholders for environmental clearance of minor mineral mining project for mining Block 5/21 and 5/25 situated at Jad Khud, downstream Jourian bridge, Block Bhalwal Brahmana, District Jammu, in terms of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The panel of Public Hearing was headed by Piyush Dhotra, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Jammu.

The other panelists included Dr. Gulshan Kumar, District Mineral Officer, Jammu, Anil Sharma, Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Jammu North, Anil Sharma, Divisional officer, PCC, Jammu North in his opening address apprised the general public that it is the endeavor of the government to ensure that the mining activity is carried out in a scientific manner. He said that the purpose of conducting the public hearing was to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the mining block for renewal of Environmental Clearance. Badar Hussain, Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Udhampur representing Regional Director, JKPCC, Jammu, also briefed the public about the importance of conducting Public Hearing and role of JKPCC.

Piyush Dhotra, ACR, Jammu, informed the audience that it is the endeavor of the government to ensure that the mining activity is carried out only in scientific manner. He said that the purpose of conducting the public hearing was to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the proposed mining project. He also assured that all the important points raised by the people during the public hearing are recorded and sent to Competent Authority. He said that all the mining project related issues raised in the public hearing will be submitted to JKIEAA for consideration so that those issues are appropriately addressed before the grant of Environmental Clearance.

Dr. Gulshan Kumar, DMO Jammu listened patiently to the issues of general public and also replied to the queries raised by the public during the proceedings. He assured the public that the demarcation of the mining blocks should be completed in a week's time and any violation may be immediately reported to the district administration.

SKIMS MCH conducts 'FACE OFF' event to celebrate 25 years Maxillofacial Surgery

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: On the eve of completion of 25 years of Maxillofacial Surgery in SKIMS MCH, a vivid event 'FACE OFF' was today held at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bema.

The stalwart of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, Dr. KS Rao was the guest speaker on the occasion.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal SKIMS MCH & under the guidance of Prof. M Shaked. Dr. KS Rao with his focus mainly on craniomaxillofacial anomalies lectured about the importance of early detection of craniofacial anomalies especially Craniosynostosis and highlighted how the Dept. has come a long way and assured that the patients with need of Craniofacial surgeries will no further need to visit outside the state.

Director SKIMS Dr. Parvez Ahmed Koul enlightened the audience about his experience in the field of administration & also raised hopes of starting a PG course in the field of Maxillofacial Surgery in SKIMS MCH. He also said that so much work is being done and expressed happiness for the same.

Ex Director SKIMS Dr. Showkat Ali Zargar spoke about the continuous efforts that are being put to strengthen the Department and how slowly but steadily it is taking the shape.

Dr. Showkat also put forward the suggestions of starting a postgraduate course in the Department.

Principal Dr. Irfan Robbani assured all the support needed to further enhance the Dept. Of Maxillofacial Surgery and pressed the authorities to do the same.

The Medical Superintendent enlightened the audience about how the Dept. of Maxillofacial Surgery even with very limited resources does wonders in the hospital.

Dr. Md Shaked spoke about his 25 years of experience in the field and how he built the Dept. of OMFS from scratch. All professors, HODS, Head of the departments of various Medical Colleges attended the CME.

J&K Biodiversity Council observes 'International Biodiversity Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: J&K Forest Department & Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council (JKUBC) today celebrated International Biodiversity Day at the Conference Hall of Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahi Bagh Srinagar. World Biodiversity Day is celebrated annually on May 22 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and highlight the need for its conservation.

Roshan Jaggi, PCCF & HoFF and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council in his message impressed upon to create a massive awareness at the grassroots level with respect to biodiversity conservation. Conveying the message of Asaf Mehmoood Sagar (PCCF), Member Secretary JKUBC and Director JKFRJ, JKUBC Official Dr. Syed Tariq said that today on 22nd May, the global community comes together to commemorate World Biodiversity Day, a momentous occasion to recognize the importance of biodiversity and raise awareness about the urgent need to protect and conserve our planet's rich natural resources.

With the theme 'Agreement to Action to Build back Biodiversity', this year's World Biodiversity Day emphasizes the active role that ecosystems play in sustaining life on Earth and calls for collective action to safeguard our natural



heral heritage, he added. He said, Biodiversity, the incredible variety of life forms on our planet, is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

It encompasses all species of plants, animals, and microorganisms and the intricate web of interactions they share within ecosystems.

Our planet's biodiversity provides us with vital resources, such as food, medicine, clean water, and clean air, while also offering aesthetic, cultural, and recreational values.

However, he remarked that biodiversity loss has reached alarming levels in recent decades, primarily due to human activities. Habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, overexploitation of natural resources, and

invasive species pose significant threats to ecosystems worldwide. This alarming trend not only compromises the well-being of countless species but also undermines our own survival and prosperity, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Nazir Benazir, Chairman, National Society for Protection of Water Resources, Wetlands and Forests apprised the participants about the importance of Biodiversity and Mission Life.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Green Valley Public School said that we must prioritize the conservation of biodiversity, promoting sustainable land and wetland management practices, and engaging in initiatives that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

NQAS: DC, MD NHM J&K review Healthcare Standards Implementation in Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, MAY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad along with Mission Director (MD) National Health Mission, J&K, Ayushi Sudan Monday conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Kayakalp and National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) programs in health institutions within the dis-

trict. The review assessed the progress made in enhancing the quality of healthcare services and promoting cleanliness in healthcare facilities. Dr. Jitender Mehta, Programme Manager Quality NHM J&K was also present on the occasion.

The DC in presence of MD NHM, undertook a thorough evaluation of the implementation of Kayakalp and NQAS in health

institutions across the district.

He commended the efforts made by healthcare institutions in complying with the Kayakalp and NQAS guidelines. He emphasized the importance of sustaining these efforts and further strengthening the implementation of these programs to ensure that the health care facilities in Bandipora continue to provide high-quality services to the residents. On the Occasion, Ayushi Sudan urged

healthcare professionals and the public to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness and adhering to infection control measures. She highlighted the role of community engagement in promoting a culture of cleanliness and hygiene in healthcare settings. The active involvement of all stakeholders is crucial to the success of Kayakalp and NQAS in achieving their objectives, she added. It was given out that the

Kayakalp initiative, launched by the Government of India, focuses on improving the cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control practices in public health facilities.

It aims to create a patient-friendly environment that ensures the well-being and satisfaction of patients. The NQAS program, on the other hand, establishes quality standards for health institutions and provides a framework for their assessment and certification.

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY

DLSA Srinagar organizes series of events to raise awareness on Biodiversity conservation

CHAIRMAN DLSA SRINAGAR INAUGURATES PLANTATION DRIVE AT DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX SRINAGAR

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: On the eve of 'International Day for Biological Diversity', the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the aegis of NALSA and J&K State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Urban Forest Division Srinagar and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) today organized a series of events and activities aimed at raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation. International Biodiversity Day is celebrated annually on May 22nd to promote understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

This year's theme, 'One Earth, One Life, One Future' emphasizes the crucial role that individuals and communities play in safeguarding biodiversity for future generations.

Under the leadership of Justice N. Kotsiwar Singh Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Patron in Chief and the Executive Chairman, Justice Tashi Rabstan JKLSA, the Legal Services Authority has been at the forefront of various environmental initiatives in the U. T



of Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the observance of International Biodiversity Day, DLSA Srinagar organized a range of activities.

The campaign for preservation of Biodiversity began with plantation drive at District Court Complex Srinagar near ADR Centre. Plantation Drive was inaugurated by the Chairman DLSA Srinagar, Jawad Ahmed and other participants by planting different species of trees.

S. C Kattal, Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases) Srinagar; Surinder

Singh, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, Kashmir; Gowher Majeed Dalal, 4th Addl. Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Raja Tasleem CJM Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar; Syed Ahsid, DPO Srinagar, participated in the plantation drive by planting a sapling within the premises of ADR Centre.

Staff members of DLSA and LADC, Penal Lawyers and PLVs of DLSA Srinagar, Staff members of Forest Department and SMC Srinagar also participated in the plantation drive.

As part of the campaign, Chairman DLSA Jawad Ahmed along with the participants took pledge for protection of biodiversity.

He emphasized the importance of biodiversity conservation as an integral part of our sustainable development goals. He highlighted the intrinsic value of preserving biodiversity and underscored the need for collective action to address environmental challenges.

He further emphasized the role of legal institutions in promoting sustainable practices and ensuring the effective implementation of environmental laws.

The Chairman DLSA emphasized that the Legal Services Authority will continue to work closely with stakeholders, governmental bodies, and civil society organizations to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and conservation.

Syed Ahsid Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forest Division, Srinagar stated 'International Biodiversity Day' serves as a reminder that we are all responsible for safeguarding the rich tapestry of life on Earth. Biodiversity loss has severe consequences for our ecosystems, economies, and overall well-being.

Kishtwar Admin starts unique Offline, Online NEET Coaching for local aspirants

DIW COM E-INAUGURATES AAKASH, BYJU'S AIDED PROGRAMME

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 22: In a groundbreaking move, the District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with Aakash and BYJU'S, on Monday launched a unique offline cum online coaching program for NEET aspirants of the District.

The inaugural ceremony took place at the newly constructed Auditorium of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar and attended by around 200 enrolled NEET aspirants and guests.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar e-inaugurated the Coaching programme in presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, ADDC, Sham Lal; ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak, GM CVPP Saleem



Wani, Principal GDC Dr Jyoti Parihar and other guests, including BDC Chairman Nagseni, Mohamand Ashraf and GDC Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Batt, staff of CEO office, GDC and Hr Secondary Schools of the district.

Chief Education Officer Prehlad Bhagat, Faculty members of Aakash and BYJU'S attended the ceremony through virtual mode. The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, in his address, extended his best wishes to the NEET aspirants

and encouraged them to make the most of this initiative. He commended the District Administration Kishtwar, led by Dr. Devansh Yadav, for its proactive efforts in providing educational welfare and introducing productive initiatives for the betterment of the community.

Addressing the audience, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, highlighted the initiative taken by the District Administration to provide coaching to the students, particularly girls, who face financial constraints in accessing coaching outside the district. The program offers both online and offline classes, utilizing the state-of-the-art Auditorium with its recently installed projector facility at GDC Kishtwar.

Scheduled to commence on May 25, 2023, the 10-month course will include interactive and doubt-clearance sessions facilitated by experienced faculty members from Aakash and BYJU'S.

The coaching program aims to ensure an efficient learning experience, supported by logistic arrangements, advanced audio-visual aids, comfortable seating arrangements, besides other incentives for NEET aspirants will be provided including All India Test Services, premium content e-subscription and live doubt solving sessions.

The inaugural ceremony also included introductory sessions conducted by faculty members from Aakash and BYJU'S, providing students with an insight into the course content and its salient features.

CAO Rajouri donates Rs 30,000 towards Red Cross fund

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 22: In a heartwarming gesture, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Rajouri, Sohan Singh today presented a generous amount of Rs. 30,000 towards the Red Cross Fund.

The Cheque of donated amount was presented to Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal. The DC hailed the Chief Agriculture Officer for his contribution towards the noble cause of the Red Cross. He commended the officials of the Department of Agriculture for his exemplary act of kindness, emphasising the importance of such initiatives in providing aid and support to those in need.

The Red Cross plays a vital role in providing humanitarian assistance and relief during emergencies, natural disasters, and other critical situations. The funds received from the donation will contribute to their ongoing efforts to deliver essential services and support to the affected individuals and communities.

The Chief Agriculture Officer expressed his deep admiration for the relentless efforts and selfless service of the Red Cross. He reaffirmed his commitment to supporting charitable causes that aim to alleviate suffering and promote social welfare. He further informed that all his employees contributed voluntarily.

5th round of "Kisan Sampark Abhiyan" held across district Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, MAY 22: The 5th round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation programme) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the theme Atmanirbhar Bharat was held today in 10 blocks of district Ramban.

The Orientation programme was organised at Panchayat level with the objective to sensitize the farmers about new interventions approved under the Holistic Agriculture Development programme and benefits under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The participating farmers were sensitized about the schemes aimed at holistic development and promotion of Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector.

The use of audio-visual aids to explain the schemes engaged the farmers well. Informative booklets in 03 (three) languages regarding the scheme of HADP were distributed among the participants.

In addition to this, thread bare discussions and Question Answer sessions were held following each video screening session to respond to farmers' queries.

The Farmers were also made aware about the Daksh Kisan and Kisan Sathi portal. A Baseline survey/Skill gap study of the farmers was also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan. Around 432 farmers were registered during the first day of the 5th round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

Har Dil Dhayan, Har Din Dhayan Students of GCW Parade participate in Pan India campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Government College for Women Parade Ground, joined "Har Dil Dhayan, Har Din Dhayan" from May 15 to May 22, 2023- the Pan India campaign launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Shri Ram Chandra Mission and Heartfulness Institute under the aegis of the Amrit Aal- Kaazi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The students were benefitted by learning to meditate on heart which helps in regulating mind and bring discipline very much needed in daily life. It also helped the students in overall development and increase awareness, focus and memory.

The skills to manage stress and discover inner peace and happiness also helped to improve their potential. It will also help the students to spread the message of discovering peace, happiness and inner potential by meditation on heart- the Heartfulness way.

The activity was conducted under the guidance of Principal Dr. S.P.Sarsawat and Dr. Anju Bala coordinated the activity.

CAHO inspects departmental activities in Thakrie, Drabsahalla blocks of Kishtwar District

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 22: As part of an ongoing general awareness campaign, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Kumar Sen visited Block Thakrie and Sarthala in Kishtwar District.

The purpose of the visit was to oversee the progress of the Department of Animal Husbandry's initiatives and panchayat-level training programs for farmers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

During his visit, the CAHO conducted inspections of all Veterinary Centers in the blocks and emphasized the importance of punctuality, biometric attendance, and



delivery of quality veterinary services to livestock breeders. He issued strict directives to the department's employees to ensure adherence to these guidelines.

Furthermore, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sen instructed the staff of the Animal Husbandry Department to proactively engage with farmers and raise awareness about the various schemes offered by the department. The goal is to ensure maximum participation and benefit for

farmers in the government schemes.

The CAHO also interacted with numerous individuals during the visit, providing them with information about flagship schemes such as Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP), Integrated Fodder Development Scheme (IFFDS), among others.

The local public was also educated about the advantages of Artificial

Insemination (AI) using frozen semen technology for genetic improvement of local cattle breeds. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sen highlighted the availability of frozen semen technology for AI, free of cost, at nearby Veterinary Centers under the Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP). Additionally, the public was informed about the subsidized rates for Sex Sorted Semen, which is available at all Veterinary Centers in the area.

The visit of CAHO Kishtwar to Block Thakrie and Sarthala was conducted to reaffirm the commitment of the Animal Husbandry Department to reach out to farmers and ensure their access to vital resources and knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL BIO-DIVERSITY DAY DLSA Udhampur organises Awareness Program for Girl Students

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 22: District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur, today hosted an Awareness Programme on "International Bio-Diversity Day" here in the Government Girls Hr. Secondary School, Udhampur.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur, Shri Huk Nawaz Zargar and overall supervision of Secretary District Legal Services Authority Udhampur, Ajay Kumar. The Resource person was Advocate Akhil Dubey (Panel Lawyer) assisted by staff member Vivek Sharma (Junior Assistant) and by PLVs Sham Lal and Anuj Gupta. The resource person spoke at length on the topic of International Bio-Diversity Day.

The Secretary DLSA, while thanking the students and the resource person also brought light on this year's theme of International Bio Diversity Day i.e. "From agreement to action: build back biodiversity".

Later, a Painting Competition was organised by DLSA Udhampur at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Udhampur. The students who participated in the Competition were felicitated by ranking them 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Trophies and Certificates of Merit were given to the students who stood first, second and third and rest of the students were awarded with Certificate of Appreciation by Ajay Kumar, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Udhampur and resource person Adv. Akhil Dubey (Panel Lawyer).

Placement Drive for ITI pass-outs of Jammu Division held at Hiranagar

ITC LTD EVALUATES OVER 150 CANDIDATES FOR ITS NEW JAMMU UNIT

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 22: A mega placement drive was today held in Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Hiranagar where ITC Ltd evaluated the over 150 trainees drawn from different Institutes of Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri and Samba Districts.

Trainees of different trades like Turner, Fitter, Electrician, MCE,

MMV participated in the placement drive held in collaboration with Government ITI Hiranagar under the aegis of Directorate of Skill Development J&K Jammu. The pass out Trainees were drawn from ITI Basohli/Bhadu, ITI Kathua, ITI Hiranagar, ITI Samba, ITI Jammu, ITI Sunderbani participated.

Resource persons from ITC, Ajay Sharma, Assistant Manager

(HR), ITC, Rajesh Kumar Technical Associate Mechanical ITC, Avinash Technical Associate Electrical ITC conducted the Evaluation process of the participants in the shape of written test/Viva.

Principal ITI Hiranagar, while appreciating the initiative taken by the management of the ITC to conduct placement drives at Government ITI Hiranagar,

urged it to conduct such drives on a regular basis for ITI pass-out trainees of different trades.

Ajay Sharma, Assistant Manager (HR), ITC, in his address to the trainees, briefed them about the ITC company profile, about its new unit being established at Bari, Brahmanam, Jammu, the perks and facilities being given to the selected candidates as per the norms of the company and the procedure being adopted for short listing of

the candidates. Superintendent, Amanpreet Singh from ITI Samba and Superintendent, Ajay Kumar from ITI Kathua along with Placement Officer, Karan Singh, Joint Directorate of Skill Development, Jammu, Sumit Chandail Associate NCC Officer representing ITI Jammu, representatives from Government ITI Sunderbani/Kathua were also present on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch visits Panchayat Degwar Maldaylian to inaugurate fifth phase of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasir M. Choudhary today inaugurated the three day training program under fifth phase of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at Panchayat Degwar Maldaylian.

The scheme has been launched to further push the development of agriculture and allied sectors through awareness, training and extension under various central and UT sector schemes and interventions and to achieve the doubling of the farmers' income.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer, Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Rakesh Kumar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Sheikh Mohd Unis, LDM JK Bank, Ashutosh Raj Koul, Branch Manager J&K Bank Ajeet, Afzal Ahmed, ABA J&K Bank Ajeet, Manzoor Ahmed beside Sarpanch Degwar Parvinder Singh, villagers and other concerned officers were present. In his inaugural address, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the

importance of the scheme, urging farmers, especially youth, to take advantage of the opportunity to register them on the DAKSH PORTAL. This will enable them to benefit from the scheme and improve their economic conditions, he said.

The Chief Horticulture Officer/DNO KISSAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN Sanjeev Kumar, enlightened the farmers about the purpose of the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan. He emphasized the need to make farmers aware of various projects approved under HADP and other schemes in Agriculture and other allied sectors. The program also witnessed the distribution of KCCs among farmers, which is expected to boost agriculture production and productivity in the district by providing timely credit to purchase vital farm inputs.

The Deputy Commissioner planted a lemon plant in Degwar Panchayat and sent a message to farmers and the public to opt for the horticulture sector. This will not only promote horticulture but also encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture.

IIT Jammu hosts Indo-Taiwan Bilateral Workshop on cyber security

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, in collaboration with the India Taipei Association, Taipei, and Taipei Economic and Culture Centre, New Delhi, organized the Indo-Taiwan Bilateral Workshop at IIT's Jagti campus. The event aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to safeguard their organizations' digital assets in the face of evolving cybersecurity threats. The workshop focused on raising awareness about the latest cybersecurity threats and challenges, emphasizing the role of AI in cyber threat mitigation. It also aimed to strengthen the collaborative research relationship between India and Taiwan, educate participants about best practices and preventive measures in cybersecurity, and enhance their understanding about cybersecurity technologies and techniques.

Diverse participants, including IT professionals, cybersecurity practitioners, and students, attended the workshop, which featured a series of informative sessions and interactive discussions on key cybersecurity topics.

Prof. Manoj S Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, discussed the information security

by awareness program supported by Govt. of India. Furthermore, renowned cybersecurity experts from several institutes, including IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, CDAC, National Chung Cheng University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, and National Cheng Kung University, delivered insightful thoughts on cyber-security issues and challenges. The experts discussed several topics such as AI for Cybersecurity, Threat Detection, Malware Analysis, Trustworthy AI, AI and 5G/6G Security, and Disinformation.

The workshop provided ample networking opportunities for participants to interact with international experts, share experiences, and establish valuable professional connections. This facilitated the exchange of best practices and ideas among attendees.

The workshop achieved its primary objectives successfully, and parallelly, proved to be a valuable platform for participants to gain knowledge, exchange ideas, and strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the well-structured sessions and expert guidance, highlighting the success of the event.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railways, Firuzpur for and on behalf of STBA (Station Ticket Booking Agent) work.						
S No	Station	Code	Catg.	EMD REQUIRED (in Rs.)	Tender Form Cost (in Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Malsian Sharhket	MOS	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
2	Nakodar	NRO	NSG-5	5000/-	1180/-	Three years
3	Sujanpur	SJNP	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
4	Dasua	DZA	NSG-5	5000/-	1180/-	Three years
5	Ajilwal	AJL	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
6	Baddowal	BWZ	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
7	Bhogpur Sirwal	BPRS	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
8	Kandrori	KNDL	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
9	Kathunangal	KNGL	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
10	Mirthal	MRTL	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
11	Nasralla	NAS	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
12	Romana Albel Sings	RLS	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
13	Suchpind	SCPD	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
14	Gidderpindi	GOD	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
15	Jandiella	JNL	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
16	Bajalla	BLA	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
17	Jamitpura	JNT	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years
18	Khojwella	KWJ	NSG-6	2000/-	1180/-	Three years

Bids will be received only in Sealed Packet in Commercial Branch, DRM Office, Firuzpur Cantt. between 10:00 to 15:00 Hrs on 23.05.2023. For further details please visit Northern Railway's website www.northernrailways.gov.in
No. MCIA/7000/STBA/Policy/2022 Date: 22.05.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1552/23

CS launches revamped UT portal with latest features & info about J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, today launched the revamped UT portal, a single window platform for integrated delivery of information and services by various Government Departments with latest features in presence of Commissioner Secretary, IT, Premra Pari.



Dr Mehta praised the IT Department and the NIC for creating this inclusive platform offering both the services and information as well. He said that the portal would act as one stop solution for all the people availing services or seeking information about different aspects of the UT.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also enquired about the response of public over the online services. He also took note of the feedback from the applicants over RAS portal and

the status of integration of services with the Auto-appeal system for timely delivery of services to the public.

During the launch it was given out that the goal of this portal is to provide the holistic information about J&K to the citizens of the country. The core functionalities provided by the portal relate to Government structure in the UT, budget, key notifications, government schemes, key functionalities, important institutions, news feed, social media and emer-

gency contacts etc. It also provides transactional government services for citizens, business establishments and overseas people.

The various sections/features of the portal include profile of the UT and is available in three languages viz; English, Urdu and Hindi. There is a separate section providing information about the Government and its officials. It also contains the links to departments and all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Important links to

some important websites like LG Office, GAD, J&K Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic Police, SKIMS, EDI, JKPS, JKSSB, e-Umat, e-Gov Initiatives, Mobile Apps, Educational Institutions, Citizen Services, Tenders & Advertisement are available on the portal.

Significantly the portal also gives insights about latest news & happenings related to Jammu & Kashmir thereby giving authentic information to the people. The Explore J&K section contains the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir and the site can be explored for Handicrafts, Tourism, Arts & Culture, Horticulture, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine etc.

It was also revealed that the Portal has been made 100% compliant with National Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Guidelines of DARP and includes list of

Districts with contact details of District Magistrates and senior officials besides facility to log 'Grievances/ Complaints' on the Portal.

During this event the CS also launched on boarding of 16 schemes of Agriculture Production Department (10), Social Welfare Department (4) and Mission Youth (2) on the 'myScheme' portal, an exclusive web portal for all the beneficiary oriented schemes and welfare programmes offered by the government.

Some of these schemes includes Integrated Sheep Development Scheme, Kisan Credit Card, RKVY, PM KISAN, National Agriculture Market, Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization, Residential School for Blinds, Nari Niketans, Bal Ashrams, Finance Assistance to Child Victims of violence, Rise Together, and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative etc.

SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA 2023

ADC (Adm) reviews establishment of registration counters, other basic amenities in Geeta Bhawan, other places



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADM) Sandeep Scontra today visited Geeta Bhawan, Mahajan Sabha and Ram Mandir to review the steps taken for the establishment of registration counters and other basic amenities for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023. He also interacted with nodal officers along with other stakeholders during the visit.

Threadbare discussion was held regarding the establishment of registration counters, requirements and other facilities to be created for the convenience of the yatra pilgrims.

The ADC asked the nodal officers to establish all the counters well in advance to avoid any kind of inconvenience to the pilgrims. He directed the officers present in the meeting to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made available before the commencement of Yatra.

He also directed the concerned officers to make sure that the pilgrims do not face any hardship on account of basic amenities like drinking water, seating arrangements etc.

Ram Lal Sharma, Nodal Officer, Ram Mandir; Atul Dutt, Nodal Officer Mahajan Hall; Virender Gupta, Nodal Officer Geeta Bhawan along with Mahant Ram Mandir, Rameshwar Dass ji; President Sanatan Dharam Geeta Bhawan, Pursholam Dadichi, President Mahajan Sabha, Romesh Gupta were present in the meeting.

Div Com, ADGP discuss City Beautification & Street Development plan with civil Society

PROJECT ENVISAGES DEVELOPMENT OF HERITAGE TRAIL, SITE BEAUTIFICATION OF HISTORICAL RAGHUNATH BAZAAR



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu, Mukesh Singh today held a meeting with Raghunath Bazaar Association and other stakeholder departments to review the implementation of Street Development Project of Jammu Smart City Limited.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai; CEO Jammu Smart City Limited, Rahul Yadav; VC JDA, SSP Traffic and other concerned officers besides President Raghunath Bazar Association, Sanjay Gupta alongwith office bearers of Association and prominent citizens. The CEO JSCL gave a powerpoint presentation and apprised

the Div Com and Association about the overview of the street development project. He informed that under the project the market would be developed as the pedestrian friendly heritage corridor, which shall add immensely to the shopping experience and increased commerce in the area.

Various other development works will be part of project including upgradation of public spaces, provision of state of the art roadside amenities like Ornamental street lights, installation of dustbins, benches, water ATMs, underground service corridor for communication utilities, provision of cobble stoned junctions and Red sandstone footpaths to enhance the aesthetic and the longevity of the heritage corridor.

The proposal also includes upgradation of road, entry gate at Bharat Mata chowk, directions, information signage and display boards etc.

Workshop on Digital Literacy held for District Staff at Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 22: On the direction of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba, a highly productive workshop on digital literacy was conducted in the DC Office Meeting Hall.

The objective of the workshop was to equip staff from all district offices with essential digital skills for their routine official work. The event witnessed the active participation of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADDC) and Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC), adding to its significance and impact.

The workshop focused on raising awareness about the vast potential of cyberspace and online portals, as well as the efficient utilization of the e-Office platform.

The workshop aimed to provide participants with a fundamental understanding of digital tools and technologies, empowering them to navigate the digital landscape confidently and perform their official duties more effectively. To ensure a comprehensive learning experience, experienced Common Service Centre (CSC) operators from the district Samba were present to deliver training and guidance to the staff members.

Throughout the workshop, participants received practical training on various aspects of digital literacy, including online communication, data security, internet usage, and effective utilization of digital tools and resources. The CSC operators patiently assisted and addressed the queries of the attendees, ensuring an interactive and conducive learning environment.

DLSA Samba organises students' awareness program on Int'l Biodiversity Day

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, MAY 22: As per the Action plan for the month of May, 2023 issued by Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and also under the radiant guidance of Ms. Yesh Pal Kotalw, Worthy Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Samba (also Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) District

Legal Services Authority, Samba, in collaboration with Department of Forest Samba today organized an awareness program to observe 'International Biodiversity Day' (2023) under the theme "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity" here in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Rahya, Samba.

Pardeep Kour, Lecturer Environmental Science, Government

Hr.Sec. School. Jakh was the resource person. She highlighted the importance of the day and also dwelled upon the solutions to preserve biodiversity, ecology and environment.

Sunny Jadyal, Block Forest Officer, Samba and Rakesh Choudhary Forest Guard, Samba also sensitized the students as to how they protect the environment by doing several things in their

daily routine.

Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Samba also spoke on the occasion.

The objective of organizing this awareness camp was to raise awareness among the students about Biodiversity which is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth, including humans.

JKBOSE concludes maiden Online Affiliation, Upgradation of Schools

NEXT PHASE IN ITS FINAL STAGE; FRESH APPLICATIONS FOR 2023-24 ADVERTISED

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: With an objective to make the delivery of public services more effective and efficient across its various domains with the active mediation of Information Technology, J&K Board of School Education has successfully added one more online service online affiliation of schools to its stakeholders.

The maiden endeavour of online affiliation and upgradation of schools concluded after the issuance of online affiliation/upgradation orders to more than 150 such schools across the UT of J&K that had applied for such services to JKBOSE. Earlier the affiliation/upgradation process of JKBOSE was done in an offline mode. All the stakeholders expressed their satisfaction



over this initiative which has been very facilitating to all of them. Chairman JKBOSE Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas congratulated Joint Secretaries of General Sections JD/KD & IT wings of JKBOSE, & National Informatics Centre for their consistent and persistent efforts, despite odds, to get fruitful results.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that we could successfully execute this initiative. The

school owners of far-flung areas cannot afford to visit our office time and again. This service has highly facilitated them. We are in the process of offering many more IT-mediated student services to realise the vision of Digital India Initiative launched by our Hon'ble Prime Minister with an aim to make the services available to citizens electronically by online infrastructure improvement. Student centricity, service convenience and

transparency are the mainstay of our endeavours which have got an enormous boost with the Digital India initiative. Our digital initiatives shall keep growing to simplify our processes," he added.

JKBOSE has already implemented the relevant pillars of Digital India programme viz. e-Governance & e-Kranti. It has already been offering many online services which include online applications for photostat copy of answer sheets, re-evaluation, registration examination forms, results, eligibility migration etc. The result and registration record is also being digitised to ensure its safety and security. Digital empowerment of the students has recently been ensured to provide the students access to their authentic documents through Digilocker

services. The next phase of online affiliation/upgradation of 325 schools has also reached its zenith with the meeting of UT level Affiliation Committee which was held recently on 18th of this month. After the completion of procedural proceedings, necessary online orders will be issued. This shall finalise all the pending eligible cases till date.

The fresh schedule of online applications for affiliation/upgradation of the eligible schools has also been issued recently wherein the schools interested in fresh affiliation/recognition, extension of affiliation and upgradation of classes can apply alongwith necessary documents and those who are found eligible shall be allowed to deposit the requisite fee.

Int'l Biodiversity Day: PSPS Govt Women College Organises 'Nursery raising'

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 22: Department of Botany, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt. College for Women Gandhi Nagar today celebrated International Biodiversity Day by organising 'Nursery raising-2023' competition.

The activity was inaugurated by the College Principal Prof. Minu Mahajan. Prof. Mala Bhasin, Convener and Head of Department of Botany welcomed the esteemed dignitaries and threw light on the importance of Biodiversity and its conservation. Interacting with students, Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of College appreciated the participation of students and motivated them to be part of conservation based research programs launched by Govt. of India.

A total of 36 students participated and displayed their plants under the category of adopt, rescue and propagate. The event was judged by Prof. Kamlesh Salathia, Dr. Indu Khajuria and Prof. Vasudha Choudhary. Prableen Kour and Haspreet Kour got First and Second Positions while third position was clinched jointly by Dyuti Kour and Ayera Bashir.

The event was coordinated successfully by the members of the organising Committee- Dr. Anju Koul, Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Prof. Swarn Singh and Dr. Moien Qadir Malik.