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Yuva Sangam unique effort to give strength to spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat': PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 28

'Yuva Sangam' is a unique effort to give strength to the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

"We talked about the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam, Kashi-Telugu Sangamam was also held a while ago in Varanasi. Another such unique effort to give strength to the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat has taken place in the country. This is the effort of the Yuva Sangam," he



said in his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat'.
The PM also spoke with two young people, Gyamar Nyokum from Arunachal Pradesh and Vishakha Singh from Bihar, on phone and got their firsthand account being part of this effort.

Modi said India's strength lies in its diversity. There is a lot to see in our country. Keeping this in view, the Ministry of Education has taken an excellent initiative named 'Yuva Sangam'.
"The objective of this initiative is to increase

People to People Connect as well as to give an opportunity to the youth of the country to mingle with each other. Higher educational institutions of various states have been linked to it," he said.
In 'Yuva Sangam' youth visit cities and villages of other States, they get an opportunity to meet different types of people. In the first round of Yuva Sangam, about 1200 youths have toured 22 states across the country. Recalling his recent visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum in Japan, the PM said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

PM Modi inaugurates new Parl building, installs scared 'Sengol' in LS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the new Parliament building which is equipped with state of art technology.

The inauguration of the new parliament began with the installation of scared 'Sengol' a sceptre from Tamil Nadu, in the Lok Sabha chamber, right next to the Speaker's chair, after performing puja.

Modi was handed over the historic 'Sengol' by Adheenams before its installed in the new Parliament building.

The Sengol was received by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to represent the transfer of



power from the British. The scepter was previously placed in a museum in Allahabad.

Earlier the ceremony began with a traditional 'puja' with Vedic rituals which will continue for an hour.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was also present along with PM Modi during the puja. After the puja, Modi unveiled the plaque of the new building, accompanied by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Adheenams seers.

During the historic inauguration of the new Parliament building, prayers

from all religions (Jain, Judaism, Hindu, Islam, Sikh) were recited which was attended by the Cabinet ministers.

Dedicating the new Parliament building to the nation, PM Narendra Modi also felicitates the workers who helped in the building new Parliament House in a record time. The Prime Minister felicitated the construction workers with traditional shawls and handed over mementos.

Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, S Jaishankar, Jitendra Singh, Chief Ministers of several states, and BJP president J P Nadia presented at the sarv-dharma prayer ceremony. The interior of the new Parliament

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Rapist, woman peddler among seven hardcore criminals arrested in Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 28

Seven people with criminal history including a rapist and a woman drug peddler were arrested in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Upper age limit extended by 3 yrs for J&K Combined Competitive Exams

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 28

Jammu and Kashmir Administration has extended by three years the upper age limit for the combined competitive examination-2023.

According to a notification issued by the General Administration Department by the order of Lt Governor, the upper age limit for open merit candidates was fixed at 35 years from the current 32 years.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

KP celebrate annual Kheer Bhawani Mela; PDP Chief Mehbooba joins in

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 28

Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday paid their obeisance at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district and celebrated the annual Kheer Bhawani mela.

Nestled in the shade of mammoth Chinar trees in the central Kashmir district, the temple witnessed massive crowds of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who made the journey from across the country.

The devotees, walking barefoot, carried rose petals and offered tribute



to the goddess as men took a dip in the stream close to the shrine.

As the devotees jostled with each other to move closer to the main temple complex, the chants of hymns echoed through the temple compound and paid obeisance to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Drive underway to rescue children in street situation in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 28

As many as 18 children forced into begging or labour were rescued over the past couple of days in the city by a special task force constituted to deal with such cases, officials here said on Sunday.

The task force was set up by Deputy Commissioner (Jammu) Avry Lavasa to collect information on Children in Street Situation (CISS) and carry out rescue operations within the ecosystem created by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.



The task force members include the senior superintendent of police, chief medical officer, district child protection officer, assistant labour commissioner, the NGO Kitaab

aur Kalam Foundation and Childline (Jammu).

"We have rescued 18 children, including two girls, below the age of 14 years, from

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

MeT forecasts widespread rains from today, night temp stays below normal in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 28

The weather office on Sunday forecasted widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorm on May 30 and 31 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Quoting a meteorological department official here, that Srinagar recorded a low of 8.9°C against 9.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 6.6°C against 7.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 4.1°C for the



gateway town of Kashmir. Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 2.6°C against 2.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.5°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anant-

nag district. In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 7.4°C against 8.2°C on the previous night and it was 3.2°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.5°C against 5.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.4°C against 1.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said. Jammu recorded a low of 19.2°C against 20.1°C on the previous night and it was 5.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.1°C (below

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India facing 'very complicated challenge' from China, ensuring no attempt made to change status quo in border areas unilaterally: Jaishankar

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, MAY 28

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India faces a "very complicated challenge" from China, and the Narendra Modi government has taken steps to ensure no attempts are made to change the status quo in the border areas unilaterally.

This challenge was "very visible" in border areas in the last three years, Jaishankar said on Saturday, adding that both the countries have to find



an equilibrium in relationship, but it cannot be on the terms of the other party.

If peace and tranquillity between the two nations is disturbed, their relation-

ship will not remain unaffected, the minister said, delivering a talk on 'Modi's India: A Rising Power' at the Anant National University here.

"When I talk about

big powers, of course we have a particular challenge from China. That challenge is a very complicated challenge, but in the last three years it has been particularly visible in the border areas," Jaishankar said, apparently referring to China's incursions in eastern Ladakh.

"There are clearly responses that are required, and those responses have been undertaken by the government. And a lot of it to ensure that no attempt is made to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Kashmiri carpets bedeck new parliament house

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 28

The new Parliament House of India is adorned by the traditional Kashmiri silk-on-silk carpets.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the new Parliament building which is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

The carpets were woven by 50 Kashmiri artisans, including men and women at a far-off village Khag in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Qamar Ali Khan of Tahiri Carpets who got the order from a Delhi-based

company after submitting the samples in September 2021 to prepare 12 pieces of 8 x 11 feet traditional Kashmiri Silk-on-Silk carpets for the new Parliament House of India is jubilant after the inauguration of new parliament house by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It is a proud moment for us and for the artisans who worked day and night tirelessly to complete these carpets to adorn the highest place of the country, the Parliament house", Khan said.

Khan feels proud and honoured for hand woven carpets to be bedecking



the floors of India's biggest constitutional institution

where members from all across India will see crafts-

manship and traditional Kashmir worked on these

carpets. He said that 50 artisans

including women worked dedicatedly day and night to take the project to its conclusion and completed the order before its deadline.

Khan, whose family is associated with the carpet making for the past 30 years, said after receiving the order our artisans honestly started designing on the basis of traditional Kashmiri ancient tradition, nature and shawl making.

"We have weavers and looms and started the work proudly day and night on the project to complete it ahead a month of the deadline", Khan said.

He said the main aim of

the project was that the Kashmiri carpet should reach to the places where it would get proper notice and attention and the art will further flourish which is almost at the lowest ebb due to less demand across the globe.

"I wish that Kashmiri carpets should adorn all the highest houses of the government all across the world", Khan said.

He said the handmade traditional Kashmiri handicrafts including Carpets declined for the past several years due to less demand in the world and hopefully "I am sure

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Skoda and 92.7 Big FM presents 'Big Laughter Fest Season-7' with Haseeb Khan



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: 92.7 Big FM in collaboration with Skoda Wheelocity Motors presented 'Big Laughter Fest Season-7' here today at Anutham Hotel and Resort, Jammu in which celebrated comedian Haseeb Khan gave Jammutes some laughter and good humour. He mesmerised the audience with his style of comedy and left no stone unturned to make everyone stumped with his comedic skills. Mr. Mukesh Singh, IFS, ADGT Jammu was the chief guest whereas Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal GMC Jammu was the guest of honor on the

occasion.

The event was started with the humorous stand-up comedy by Shivam Singh who made everyone spellbound with his witty comedy. Afterwards the show was taken over by Amit Singh Andotra, popularly known as Comedian Chui who has made his presence on National TV.

He gave a splendid performance and received repeated applause. The event was further taken over by Jammu's favourite RJ Jubie who interacted with the guests and audience. Prominent among those includes MD- Wheelocity Skoda, Mr Mudasir Nabi Sheikh and Mr Ranjiv

Khajuria, Dr Vikas Padha, Senior Orthopedics SMVD Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, MD - Anutham Hotel, Mr Sarjeev Prabhakar MD- Tiles and Bath, Mr Aryaman Mahajan, Partner Halwaiz, Mr. Anush Rao & Mr Rishab Jasrotia, Chairman Vidyalankar Academy - Mr Gaurav Gumble, Editor in chief- State Times Mr Vivek Sharma,

The stage was further taken by one of the prominent Indian stand-up comedian Haseeb Khan who presented an improvisational skill unmatched and his talent of making people laugh with his humorous comedy which was deeply appreciat-

ed by the guests. Haseeb Khan is a talented stand-up comedian from Bhopal, aged 29, who has left audiences in splits with his hilarious performances. He has showcased his comedic skills on two popular TV shows, "Laughter Champion" on Sony TV and "Good Night India" on Sony Sab TV. With a massive fan following, he has amassed over 763K subscribers on YouTube and 130K subscribers on Instagram, along with an impressive 140 million+ views on his YouTube videos. Known for his relatable humor, he cleverly crafts jokes centred around the lives of middle-class Indian families and their day-to-day experiences. With a repertoire of over 500 shows, he is a true gem in the world of comedy.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion from 92.7 Big FM included Mr Vikrant Sharma Cluster Head, 92.7 BIG FM, Mr Gaurav Mahajan, Regional Marketing Head, Mr Siddharth Mahajan, Area Manager J&K, Mr Arshil Choudhary and Mr Ahmer Ikhlaiq.

DDC member Geetu Aulakh starts blacktopping of road at Raika

Assures people for quick deliverance of government schemes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: In furtherance of her social activities and reaching out to the people of her constituency far and wide, the District Development Council (DDC) Member Geetu Aulakh today visited Bhatindi Lower at Panchaty Raika and kick-started the blacktopping work to the appreciation of large number of people present over there.

The blacktopping of the road in Raika was a long pending demand of the people of Raika and once approached, Geetu Aulakh got the work sanctioned in earnest and started the work on ground.

The DDC member Geetu Aulakh was accompanied by Sarpanch Khandwal Sonam Deep Singh Aulakh and Panch Raika Praveen Akhtar . Liaqat Ali and Ashfaq also accompanied the team on the site of the work.

Speaking on the occasion, Geetu Aulakh said that schemes released by the Government of India under the patronage of the Prime



Minister Narinder Modi have benefitted a large section of people belonging to different segments and categories.

She said that kick-starting the work of blacktopping was the immediate need of the people of the area and she had already decided to do the needful.

Sonam Deep Singh Aulakh, Sarpanch Khandwal said that the DDC member since her inception with social responsibility have been keen observer of the things and have been on her toes to

work for the benefit of the people.

She said more such schemes will be coming from the centre that will benefit many people in various ways and she urged upon the people to come forward to avail the benefits of such schemes.

The DDC member, on the occasion once again appealed to her constituency people to come forward with different works and issues to be addressed so that she may list all at the appropriate forum.

"I am always available to

the people of my constituency and have made it clear to all to approach me with their issues and works so that I could take up the same at various meetings. Besides, I am thankful to the people who have expressed exemplary faith upon me and are standing shoulder to shoulder in all my efforts," said Geetu Aulakh.

The DDC member was accompanied by many sarpanches and panches on her tour besides many prominent people of the area.

BJP OBC Morcha in collaboration with SIBA holds Multispecialty free Medical Camp



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, MAY 28: Bharatiya The medical camp was organized by SIBA and BJP OBC Morcha with the aim to provide quality medical care and free medicines to the poor and needy people of the Panchari area besides to reach out to them at their door steps.

The Camp was inaugurated by Pawan Gupta (Former Minister) others prominent Persons Present

on the occasion are Chander Mohan Gupta (Vice President BJP JK UT), Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha), Arun Gupta (District President BJP Udhampur), Shamsheer Prajapati (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Ashok Verma (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Jeevan Verma (BDC Chairman), Sagar Verma (District Press BJP OBC Morcha Udhampur), Sunil dutt (General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha Udhampur), kha-

joor Singh (Social Activist). A team of doctors and paramedical staff from five different major Institutions namely Amandeep Hospital Amritsar, K. D.Hospital , Shankus Hospital, Seora Dental College and Prime time testing Lab rendered their services to more than 400 patients who had come from different farflung areas. Free medicine was also distributed among patients. Lab investigations like blood grouping and typing,

hemoglobin estimation, urine protein, urine sugar and blood sugar estimation were done free of cost. All the patients were given prescribed drugs free of cost.

Doctors from General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedics, OBG, Pediatrics, DVL, Ophthalmology, ENT Provided their Services.

Pawan Gupta Appreciating the steps taken by BJP OBC Morcha and SIBA to provide basic health facilities in far-flung areas, He demanded that more such medical camps should be organized across the Udhampur Region on a regular basis.

In the end Sunil Prajapati thanks SIBA team Sidharth Verma & Baljeet Singh co-founder along with team members Rameek kour , Meenakshi Verma , Adv. Sumit Verma, Jasmeet kour , Vishwas, Sumit, Amarjeet Singh and Manmeet Singh, Akash Singh along with JKDCUL, Bhwani Printers Gaurav.

Modi government welcomes new resurgent India blended with modern technology and proud culture: Dr. Pardeep



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: The Modi government welcomes a new resurgent India, which is blended with modern technology and our proud culture. While inaugurating the new Parliament building, the Modi government has welcomed a representation of common people taking pride in our roots and shunning colonial era mindset, stated Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge accompanied by Rekha Mahajan, President, BJP District South was addressing a meeting of senior party leaders from the District at BJP headquarters,

Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Akash Chopra, District General Secretary, Pushpinder Charak, District General Secretary, Abhinav Anand, Pardeep Sharma, Vivek Patyal and other party leaders participated in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as he dedicated the new Parliament building to the 140 Crore people strong democracy of the world. He said that as a 'Proud Indian', we stand witness to the historic day in the vibrant democracy of India. He rued that opposition parties led by Congress are actively opposing every positive

change; instead, they should embrace the positive impact of this architect marvel housing the enough seats and giving representation to our past glory. "In order to survive in the new Political structure of India, where youth watches your actions carefully, Congress needs to come out of 'Colonial mindset' and contribute in the shaping of New India studied with modern technology having a blend of our culture", said Dr. Pardeep.

Dr. Pardeep, while discussing the preparations for the forthcoming party programmes with the party leaders stressed on ensuring the reach of party workers to the real beneficiaries of various schemes. He said

that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir would hold beneficiary Sammelans across Jammu & Kashmir at the Assembly constituency level, and the party leaders from south district have to prepare for two Sammelans in Bahu and RS Pura Assembly Constituencies.

Rekha Mahajan, addressing on the occasion said that the District Jammu South would make its reach to the beneficiaries of various public welfare schemes initiated by Modi government. She said that every scheme and policy of the Modi government is framed with a clear objective to provide benefit to the last person living in the most deprived section of the society.

Rekha Mahajan further added that the BJP activists would approach the people with educating material about the schemes also the fact that the schemes framed by Modi government has benefited the real needy person with direct benefits in their accounts, while previous governments led by Congress made such schemes with a clear motto to loot the public money.

Shiv Sena condemns barbaric action of police on wrestlers protesting

JJ NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 28: Expressing solidarity with the demands of wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit today strongly condemned the brutal police action and detention of sportspersons on the wrestlers' march in Delhi today.

Interacting with media persons at the Party's State Office, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K said that a group of leaders of Shiv Sena's Jammu and Kashmir unit, led by him, staged a dharna last day (Saturday) at Delhi's Jantar Mantar in solidarity with the demands of the wrestlers.

Sahni said that it is very unfortunate that those who brought smile on the face of every Indian by winning medals at national and international level are protesting on the streets demanding justice. The gov-



ernment is suppressing their voice by using police force, he said, adding that these players have given a lot to the country with their hard work and now the time has come that all the countrymen from Kashmir to Kanyakumari should come forward to support their genuine demand.

Sahni said that those who insult national daughters will have to pay a heavy

price for their behaviour. Ravana, who abducted Sita Mata in Ramayana and Draupadi in Mahabharata, was the reason for the end of the Kaurava clan because of insulting women. The end of the party that saves Kalyug Ravana is also certain.

Among those who were present in the press conference include Shiv Sena President Women's Wing

Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, Mangu Ram, Dimple and North Indian Ekta Manch Delhi Chief Vikrant Kapoor, Rahul Mittal, Rajbir Mathur, Anikesh Rai, Sandeep, Pawan, Parveen Kumar, Deepak, Shankar, James, Neeraj, Yogi Yogesh, Gani, Rajeev, Amit, Charanjeet, Sameer and Rajendra.

NCF organises blood donation camp at Domana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: With the blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudhiksha Ji Maharaj Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation (Social Wing of Sant Nirankari Mission) organized a blood donation camp in branch Domana (Zone 1- Jammu). The devotees were enthusiastic to donate blood in a selfless way.

This camp was inaugurated by Smt. Anu Behl JKASSpecial Secretary - School Education, Sh. Ranjeet Singh JKAS State taxes, Sh. Mahohar Lal JKAS District Treasury Officer in the benign presence of Sh. Ajit Singh, Zonal Incharge Jammuadmired donors for true selfless service for the welfare of the people. He told that first Blood Donation Camp was organized in 1986 and since then for last 37 years Blood Donation Camps are being organized by this Mission to



lauded the efforts of Sant Nirankari Mission for their selfless services to the society. Sh. Ajit Singh, Zonal Incharge Jammuadmired donors for true selfless service for the welfare of the people. He told that first Blood Donation Camp was organized in 1986 and since then for last 37 years Blood Donation Camps are being organized by this Mission to

spread the message of Baba Hardev Singh Ji 'blood should flow in veins not in drains'. Till now Sant Nirankari Mission has Donated more than 125000 units of Blood. He also highlighted the other social spiritual activities of the mission. Pankshotam Singh, Mukhbirchan Domana presented the vote of thanks. Other Dignitaries present-

ed on the occasion were DrSalvi, DrDeepshikha, DrVaseer from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Sh Vishal Shoor SDPO Domanaand several senior citizens and social workers of the society. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu, Indian Red Cross Society&JKSACS.

Kavinder slams Mehbooba for supporting life-term convict Yasin Malik

SEEKS PROBE, ACTION AGAINST FORMER CM OF J&K OVER ALLEGED LINKS WITH ANTI-NATIONALS, VIOLENCE MONGERS



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Sunday slammed PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for supporting terrorist Yasin Malik, for whom the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sought death sentence from Delhi High Court. Talking on the

sidelines of congregation of Khajuria Community here at Baba Amboji Devasthan, Bahu Fort, the BJP stalwart leader said that NIA has rightly moved the Delhi High Court as the crimes committed by the life-term convict Malik are unpardonable but in the course, the real face of Mehbooba has been exposed as her support to one of the top terrorists of all times in J&K is

and ensured stability, peace and progress once again by abrogating Article 370 and tightening noose around the elements inimical to peace and tranquillity. He demanded action against the Mehbooba for her devious role in acts which were detrimental to the region and the country. Earlier, he paid obeisance at Baba Amboji Devasthan at Bahu Fort and prayed for the peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP senior functionary also participated in a congregation at Data Rappal Devi in Birpur, and performed Darshan. On the occasion, Deputy Mayor Baldev Blowria, Rajeev Charak, concerned Block President organized the meeting to discuss strategy ahead of ULB polls.

The senior NC functionary said that only NC knows the plight of people in J&K as it's the grass-root party. He said that without assessing the status of people the BJP dispensation in the Centre is issuing dictatorial orders like the one imposing property tax, transforming the lives of people into virtual hell. He said that if elected in ULB polls, the NC will bail out the people from miseries given by the BJP govern-

ment. Rattan Lal also raised the issue of rampant corruption in the civic body viz JMC and also asserted that people have been facing many problems due to poor working culture in the Municipal Corporation. He also alleged that the Smart Meters installed by the concerned departments are faulty and people are facing trouble due to mismanagement of the concerned agency, which has installed these power meters in a careless manner. He said that people are suffering due to raised electricity bills as there is no one to listen to affected lot moving from pillar to post. Rattan Lal asserted that NC will develop Jammu city

NC will revoke property tax, provide 24x7 power supply, if voted to power in ULB polls: Rattan Lal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Making a big promise, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu on Sunday said that if voted to power in the upcoming ULB polls, the National Conference will revoke the property tax imposed by the government against the wishes of the people of J&K.

The NC stalwart leader was addressing the meeting of Block No 1 Jammu East at JKNC as Chief Guest at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chander Mohan Sharma, District President Jammu Urban. Ashwani Charak, concerned Block President organized the meeting to discuss strategy ahead of ULB polls.

The senior NC functionary said that only NC knows the plight of people in J&K as it's the grass-root party. He said that without assessing the status of people the BJP dispensation in the Centre is issuing dictatorial orders like the one imposing property tax, transforming the lives of people into virtual hell. He said that if elected in ULB polls, the NC will bail out the people from miseries given by the BJP govern-



ment. Rattan Lal also raised the issue of rampant corruption in the civic body viz JMC and also asserted that people have been facing many problems due to poor working culture in the Municipal Corporation. He also alleged that the Smart Meters installed by the concerned departments are faulty and people are facing trouble due to mismanagement of the concerned agency, which has installed these power meters in a careless manner. He said that people are suffering due to raised electricity bills as there is no one to listen to affected lot moving from pillar to post. Rattan Lal asserted that NC will develop Jammu city

on modern lines and new Municipal Markets will be constructed to accommodate small traders besides providing amenities to people including regular supply of water and uninterrupted power. He also promised that modern dispensaries will be opened in every ward with adequate infrastructure and staff.

Chander Mohan Sharma highlighted problems being faced by people related to shortage of power and water, and the widow, old age and handicapped pension, which are denied to concerned people for the reasons best known to those sitting at helm.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary Jammu, JK NC, said that only NC has the potential to satiate

the aspirations of the people and therefore people should come forward and extend wholehearted support to NC.

Pardeep Bali, Provincial Secretary, Jammu, JKNC appealed to the people to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to bring the desired changes in J&K as under the present regime all are suffering.

Among those who were present include Ashok Dogra, Vice President Jammu District, Gurnam Singh Block President, Prabhat Kapahi, Shashi Kumar, Ashok Raj, Rashida Begum, Varinder Khajuria, Mohammad Shabir, Harbans Lal Sabarwal, Waris Gill and Arun Pal Singh.

BMS hold two days state working committee meet



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh two days state working committee meeting held at Jyoti Puram District Rest and meeting was chaired by state working President BMS Sh Harbans Choudhary and Sh Pawan Kumar J. Usher Shetra Sangathan Matri BMS was also present in the meeting. In the meeting BMS district wise functioning was discussed and reviewed the burning issues of working class. In the meeting it was pointed out that Govt is not serious for the welfare of workers no any meeting is called the statutory Boards constituted under different labour Laws it is pertinent to mention here that Contract Labour advisory Board meeting was held in 2008 same is the position of an organized workers welfare

Board which was constituted in 2016 and since then no any meeting has been conducted. ESI Regional Board meeting was last held in 2019. PF board has been not constituted so far and poor workers who are contributing for ESI and EPF are facing lot of hardships, minimum wages are not being given to workers in Central spheres particularly in MES and security agencies thousands of workers engaged and in papers full salary is withdrawn by the contractors but workers are given less wages with the convenience of MES officials and other principal employers, 12 hours duty has become the norm but over time is not being given as per laws and labour officials kept criminal silence on exploitation of workers it is demanded that those labour contractor who fail to pay overtime as per

law their license be cancelled. While addressing the participants Pawan Kumar ji stressed upon to expand the work of BMS in unorganized sector specifically. In the meeting State BMS passed three resolutions as: BMS has demanded from state Govt to constitute welfare Board for Private Transport sector workers i.e. Drivers, Conductors, meter mechanics, and other allied workers in this sector on the analogy of Jammu Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBCCWBB) and have demanded that 1% cess should be levied on new vehicles at the time of registration and fund generated on this account shall be used for the welfare of manpower engaged in private transport sector. BMS further demanded that in J&K minimum wages

always revised after a gap of 4-5 years and the face value of minimum wages fixed lost its relevance in the absence of Variable dearness allowance which compensate inflation up to some extent whereas in neighboring states DA is given after every six months but in J&K a committee was constituted by the Govt way back in 2013 and has also given its report in 2016 hence BMS working committee passed resolution and demands that VDA be implemented so that face value of minimum wages can be some protection on account of inflation as there is no any provision of annual increment.

Anganwadi workers and helpers those who have been disengaged unilaterally must be given retirement benefits and UT/share in honorarium must be increased in line with others states/UTs. In the meeting Jagan Singh Sharma, state General Secretary, Harbans Choudhary working President, Chanan Singh Toor finance Secretary, Ashok Choudhary Sangathan Mantri, Dev Parkash, Mukesh Kumar, Anil Kumar, Rohit Seth, Chuni Lal, Suresh Raina, Subash Chander, Rohit Seth, Om Parkash, Veer Singh, Parshotam Kumar, Anil Verma Mahesh Singh and Bodh Raj were present in the two days meeting said in a press release.

Follow 'Hindu Muslim Sikh Ittihad' slogan in letter & spirit to become 'Vishwa Guru': Javed Rana



JJ NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR, MAY 28: Javed Ahmed Rana, President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Pir Panjal Zone has said that India cannot attain the target of becoming the 'Vishwa Guru' without following the slogan of 'Hindu Muslim Sikh Ittihad Zindabad - Zindabad' in letter and spirit. Addressing a public meeting here today, the senior National Conference leader asserted that in order

to become a world leader it is inevitable to make the nation strong and a vibrant democracy first. He said that in this direction, the unity among various communities especially the Hindus, Muslims and the Sikhs is a sin qua non. Without naming any party, he said that it is quite unfortunate that communal politics is being played today for winning elections thus creating communal divide among the people. He said that though it may satiate the vested interests of the

party adopting this tool but it will ultimately weaken or even lead to disintegration. Javed Rana said that the Pir Panjal has also become victimized by the vindictive politics of the incumbent government due to which this region is being blatantly discriminated against. He said that as a result of this discrimination the region has further suffered in terms of development. He said that the region did suffer a lot due to partition but the incumbent has further plunged this region and its

people into utter backwardness.

The former Legislator asserted that the whole Pir Panjal area was neglected on the name of development and this region is left on the mercy of God. He expressed great disappointment against the government for not paying any attention towards this backward region situated at LoC, which is quite unfortunate.

Javed Rana asserted that such stance of those in governance will only create fissions in the society which does not augur well with democratic health of Jammu and Kashmir. He said there is dire need to strengthen the democracy in J&K by holding Assembly elections at the earliest. The senior NC leader asserted that the slogan of 'Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Ittihad Zindabad' be made the fundamental principle to run this nation so that democracy which stands endangered today thrives across the nation.

BJP busy in celebrations, public suffering on all counts: Dr Manohar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BILLAWAR, MAY 28: Sharp price rise and inflation in general and of food articles in particular is now casting a devastating impact on poor household, though Modi government and so-called economic experts trying to underplay the dire consequences. This was stated by former Minister in a statement issued here.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar said BJP Govt telling the people all sorts of things that it is a global phenomenon, it is due to external factors, and even that the RBI and the Centre are doing their best to address the situation but ground situation belly their claims. He said Govt is not bothered about what it means to poor households and how mismanagement of the Indian economy have brought us where we are today. Dr Manohar claimed that so far the BJP rule has been of 'mismanagement, immense despair and agony' and the country today stands at a stage where the common people are suffering from the

wounds inflicted by the government. He said politics of disorientation and false propaganda have become the hallmark of the functioning of the Modi government.

Dr Manohar said that the ninth year of the government stands at a stage where the citizens of the country are forced to suffer the countless wounds and ruthless insensitivity inflicted by the government," the statement said. He lashed out at the central government for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post August 5, 2019. Hitting hard at the BJP and its state leadership, Dr Manohar said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal. Former Minister blasted the government for failing to tackle prices and making life difficult for the common man. There is no doubt that there has been a significant increase in poverty and hunger, he said. He said there is a rule of

untruth and injustice in the country. Whoever raises his or her voice has to bear the brunt of the government's anger, he added. He also said governments are elected to ease the burden of people and at the very least, not work directly contrary to their interests.

Dr Manohar further said that public grievances are mounting every day but the government has remained unmoved. He said that public issues and grievances are piling-up with the passage of every day but the administration has failed to solve the basic issues. He said people of JK UT have realized the political gimmicks of various groups and parties which were trying to make inroads in JK to create confusion among the voters.

Dr Manohar observed that governments are elected to ease the burden of people and at the very least, not work directly contrary to their interests.

Every citizen is anguished and deeply distressed regarding the spiralling fuel and gas prices. India is witnessing systemic erosion of Jobs, wages and household income.

Hindi play 'AAG' stages under Natrang's 'Sunday Theatre' series



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'AAG' staged here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Nagrota Park, Jammu under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The play showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations and thus crippling the developing nations. The youth of the country, the most energetic human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the world of drug-addicts.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment multi-

ple stories were woven by the playwright in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a fire, taking the toll of the important work force of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and entry in the college. He is isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural

inhabitation particularly the men-folk is shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the growing consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings for alcohol. Having drunk he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night the drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having bad intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunk man after losing senses damages his household property as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Yuva Sangam unique...

"I got an opportunity to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial museum. It was an emotional experience. When we cherish the memories of history, it helps the coming generations a lot. Sometimes we get new lessons in museums. Sometimes we get to learn a lot."

He also said a few days ago the International Museum Expo was organized in India. It depicted the specialties of more than 1200 museums of the world.

"We have many different types of museums in India, which display many aspects related to our past, like, Gurugram has a unique museum - Museo Camera. It houses a collection of more than 8 thousand cameras belonging to the era after 1860. Tamil Nadu's Museum of Possibilities has been designed keeping in mind our Divyang people. Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is such a museum, in which more than 70 thousand items have been preserved," said PM.

He further said looking at the future challenge, today 75 Amrit Sarovars were being constructed in every district of the country. "Our Amrit Sarovars special because they are being built in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kal and the essence of the effort of the people has been put in them. You will be pleased to know that till now more than 50 thousand Amrit Sarovars have been constructed. This is a giant step towards water conservation," said Modi.

He also mentioned in his address in Mann Ki Baat about 'Kumbhikagaz'. "I am sure you will like it very much. Kumbhikagaz Start-Up has embarked upon a special task. They are working on making paper from water hyacinth, that is, water hyacinth, which was once considered a problem for water sources, is now being used to make paper," said PM.

He also remembered freedom fighter Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary today.

"I cannot forget the day when I went to the cell in Andaman where Veer Savarkar underwent the sentence of Kalapani. Veer Savarkar's personality comprised firmness and magnanimity. His fearless and self-respecting nature did not appreciate the mentality of slavery at all. Not only the freedom movement, whatever he did for social equality and social justice is remembered every today," said Modi.

The PM also paid homage to NT Rama Rao. "On the strength of his versatility of talent, N.T. Rama Rao not only became the superstar of Telugu cinema, but also won the hearts of crores of people," he said.

PM Modi inaugurates...

building has three national symbols the lotus, the peacock, and the banyan tree as its themes.

The triangular-shaped four-story parliament building has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 970 crore in an area of 64,500 sqm.

The building has three main gates - Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar. The new Parliament building, part of the Central Vista Project, will replace the old Parliament House, which started its operations in January 1927.

Today's Lok Sabha can seat 888 members, with the capacity to expand it to 1,272 during joint sessions of Parliament and it is based on the peacock theme, the National Bird. While the Rajya Sabha will seat 384 and it is based on lotus theme, the National Flower.

Both chambers are roughly three times bigger than their counterparts in the earlier Parliament House.

The old lower house chamber had a significantly inadequate 148-member capacity at inception, necessitating remodeling for expansion in the 1950s, with the first floor added in the 1960s.

The increased floor space came at the cost of aesthetics and convenience, with many seats placed behind the 12 pillars that hold up the building.

Similarly, the upper house could initially accommodate only 86 members, and alterations were made to increase its capacity to 250. There are now 92 chambers for Cabinet Ministers and party offices.

The building has offices which are secure, efficient, equipped with the latest communication technology and has sophisticated audio-visual systems.

The state-of-the-art Constitutional Hall symbolically and physically puts the citizens at the heart of the democracy. The Central Lounge will complement the open courtyard.

A platinum-rated Green Building, the new Sansad Bhawan is a symbol of India's commitment towards environment sustainability. An embodiment of Indian heritage, it reflects the vibrance and diversity of modern India, incorporating cultural and regional arts and crafts.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament on December 10, 2020.

For the inauguration of the new building of parliament, the government has received.

The government has also received a confirmed list of 25 political parties, including some which are not a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), that participated in the inauguration ceremony.

On Wednesday, 19 parties including the main opposition Congress issued a statement announcing their 'collective decision' to boycott the inauguration ceremony.

They said that while the opening was a momentous occasion Modi's "decision to inaugurate the building by himself was a grave insult and a direct assault" on India's democracy.

Rapist, woman...

Parvaz Ahmed, accused of abducting and raping a minor girl, has been arrested from Rakh Amb Talli, a police officer said.

Police have also arrested one Saleema Bibi, who was wanted in a case registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said. She was arrested from the Bari Brahmana area.

"Bibi had been supplying heroin to addicted youths and was also involved in an attack on a Police party," the officer said.

Another criminal, Badroo Din alias 'Badaru', was arrested from Vijaypur for his involvement in an attack on a police party recently, he said. He was the fifth accused arrested from the Budgam home town.

Roshan Lal and Mohit Ram Patel were arrested from Bari Brahmana area after they were named in a theft case, while two cow smugglers were nabbed from Mansar, the officer said. Six cattle and two vehicles were seized

with the arrest, he said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh said a total of 82 thieves, 73 cow smugglers and 42 heroin suppliers have been arrested in the district in the past four months. (Agencies)

Upper age limit...

Similarly, the upper age limit was enhanced for Reserved category candidates and Physically challenged candidates from 34 years to 37 years and from 35 years to 38 years, respectively, the order issued by Commission Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma said.

On May 10, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had approved age relaxation in the upper age limit for JKCCB in view of the demands from aspirants and representations by several delegations.

KP celebrate annual...

arrangements, including security related, for the devotees.

Gudi Zutshi, a devotee from Jammu, said their 'pooja' is incomplete without visiting the temple shrine on the occasion of the annual mela held on the birthday of the deity. "She is our deity. It is an important day for us and without her, our pooja is incomplete, so we have to come here to celebrate her birthday. The deity has taken the form of water here. The colour of the stream keeps on changing when something happens," she said. It is believed that the colour of the sacred spring water which flows below the temple indicates the situation in the Valley.

While most of the colours do not have any particular significance, the black or darkish colour of the water is believed to be an indication of inauspicious times for Kashmir. However, the water in the spring was clean and milky white this year.

Zutshi said last year when she was here, she had witnessed that the colour of the stream water was red, apparently referring to the several attacks on the minority community in the Valley. "Its colour turned black when there was Corona.

The same happened when the Kargil war happened," she added. However, she said, this year, the colour of the water was very good. It means there will be prosperity in Kashmir, Jammu and Delhi. "We want prosperity everywhere. Today, the situation is good in Kashmir. The arrangements are good for the mela." Zutshi said as the situation had proved in the Valley, they prayed for the return of the community members who had left Kashmir in the early 1990s.

"We want to return to Kashmir. We miss the place. Though we come almost every year, we want to return to our homeland permanently. We have prayed for the happiness and prosperity of everyone and the return of Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir," she said.

Another devotee, Dileep, said there was about 80-85 per cent improvement in the situation from the 1990s in Kashmir. "We also want to return to our homeland. We pray whenever we come here and today as well we prayed for our return," he said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, who also paid obeisance at the temple, said that she prayed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

"I came here to welcome our Kashmiri Pandit brothers who have come from Jammu and other places. We are here to pray for the dignified return of these people to their homes so that once again Hindu-Muslim-Kashmiri Pandits live together in Kashmir with brotherhood," she told reporters.

Asked if the community was wary of targeted killings that took place last year, Dileep said that such incidents happen, we cannot say anything on that. "But the situation is good now". "We want that brotherhood back. Our Muslim brothers also want that," he added.

Apart from the religious significance, the annual festival is important for the Kashmiri Pandit community as they get a chance to visit their homeland and meet with their friends. "The atmosphere here is very good. Our eyes are filled with emotions when we see our Muslim brothers.

My friends have come here and we felt so good to meet. We get to meet once a year," Rakesh Raina, who lives in Jagati, Jammu, said. He said the mela sends a message of national integration for the country.

"We are getting to see the same brotherhood for which Kashmir was famous. We prayed for the return of those good old days and that we live like we used to be. We all are together of many religions, and castes. There is no difference," he said.

Bilal Bhat, a local, said the Muslim community welcomed the guests with open arms and wanted Kashmiri Pandits to return to the Valley. "Every year we celebrate this festival. It is an unbelievable, unexpected crowd here.

We have kept open our houses for our guests. We want this love, brotherhood and peace we see here to remain forever," he said. Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar also paid obeisance at the shrine. He said, "Gandharb Police has made very good security arrangements."

Srinagar police had also deployed ROP (road opening parties). There is foolproof security and the locals have supported the police as well. I wish all of them well." Meanwhile, in Jammu, thousands of migrant Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday offered prayers to goddess Ragnya Devi on the occasion of 'Zaisht Ashtami' at Kheer Bhawani Peeth in the Janipur area.

The 'peeth' was constructed as a replica of the original shrine in Tulmulla after the mass migration of the community from the Valley in the early 1990s. "We missed a visit to Tulmulla this time and decided to offer our prayers here...We are witnessing the same atmosphere which used to prevail at the Kheer Bhawani shrine in Kashmir during the annual fair," Ratika, a devotee who visited the Jammu temple, said.

Raj Kumar, another devotee, said he had never visited Tulmulla shrine but is a regular visitor here. "There is a festive look with a massive gathering of pandits on the auspicious occasion of Zaisht Ashtami," he said, expressing his desire to visit Tulmulla shrine and retrace his Budgam home town.

The management of the temple, Ardh Ratna Maha Regheneya Sewa Sanstha Trust, had set up several stalls for the convenience of the devotees, who thronged the tastefully decorated shrine to offer their prayers in their

traditional way.

A member of the trust said the sanstha, with the help of local authorities, had made adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the festival at the peeth. (Agencies)

Drive underway to...

different hotspot areas in the city over the past couple of days. The children were then produced before the Child Welfare Committee for their proper rehabilitation." Arti Choudhary, Protection Officer of the Social Welfare department's Mission Vatsalya, said.

She said the drive was initiated in busy marketplaces, outside religious sites, traffic signals, posh localities, including Gandhi Nagar, Vikram Chowk and Bohu Plaza, immediately after the joint task force was set up on Tuesday. Its focus remained on children being forced to beg, work as rag pickers, sell articles or engage in labour work at construction sites, she added.

"Children are the future of our nation and we have to end this disease to protect their childhood. After rescuing a child, verification is done to know whether he or she is from within or outside Jammu and Kashmir and a rehabilitation plan is chalked out accordingly," Choudhary said.

The official said the rescued children have been admitted to child care institutions where proper diet, counselling and medical care are available.

Since most of the children rescued are from Rajasthan, efforts are underway to establish contact with the authorities concerned to ensure that they are linked to government schemes for their proper rehabilitation in their home districts, she said.

The rescued children will be enrolled in Anganwadi centres or schools and their information uploaded in the CISS portal so that they are not dragged back into begging or labour.

In her order, the deputy commissioner said the inspection-cum-rescue drive will be done every fortnight.

"The task force shall adopt standard operating procedures suggested by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for restoration of rescued children," Lavasa said.

She said all the rescued children will be produced before the Child Welfare Committee, which will then pass appropriate orders for their rehabilitation, including orders for family counselling and enrollment in nearby schools or vocational centres. (Agencies)

Met forecasts...

normal by 3.1°C, Batote 12.0°C (3.1°C below normal), Katra 17.2°C (4.4°C below normal) and Bhandarwah 8.3°C (below normal by 2.8°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 0.6°C, he said. (Agencies)

India facing 'very...'

unilaterally change the status quo in the border areas," he said.

The two countries will have to find some kind of equilibrium, and all the past governments in their own ways tried to find a balance, the External Affairs Minister said.

"But that balance cannot be on the terms of the other party. Then it is not a balance. There has to be something mutual," he said.

Mutual respect, sensitivity and interest have to be the basis of the relationship, Jaishankar said.

"How can we get along long term if you don't respect me, if you are not sensitive to my concerns, if you ignore my interest?" he said, adding that if India sees respect, sensitivity and recognition, it can think of a better relationship with China.

"But if we do not, I think we need to stand up for our rights, and we need to be firm in asserting opposition. And that, unfortunately, currently is the situation," he said.

Talking about India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaishankar stressed on the strengthening of relationship with immediate and extended neighbouring countries.

Neighbours like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, which have always been close to India, are today linked with us through roads, railway, waterways and electricity grid connections, he said.

"The linkage and perception today of India in the neighbourhood has changed, and nothing illustrated that more dramatically than what happened to Sri Lanka last year when it went through a very deep economic crisis," he said.

"And we have actually stepped forward in a way in which we ourselves never have before. What we have done for Sri Lanka is bigger than what the IMF has done for Sri Lanka," he said.

The Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat also said the Modi government is trying to expand the neighbourhood.

"When I speak of the neighbourhood, I think a big change of our Indo-Pacific...strategically, what happens there concerns us very much. At the same time, there are other big changes happening, changes which include the rise of China, which includes, in a way, how the US has become much more cautious about its own commitments," he said.

The Quad countries are today discussing maritime collaboration, infrastructure connectivity, 5G and vaccines, among other issues. India is also interacting with a group of countries to its West, such as Israel, United States and United Arab Emirates, Jaishankar said.

"Under PM Modi, we are not thinking just of tomorrow, we are not even thinking of the next term. We are thinking really beyond. And in many ways, without exaggerations, we are today laying the foundation of what is the global footprint," he said.

The rise of India has a very special significance in the world as the only comparable rise was that of China, Jaishankar said. (Agencies)

Kashmiri carpets...

that now it will get the recognition again not only in India but all over the world."

When he asked why he chose Silk-on-Silk material for the carpets to be flooded in the Indian Parliament house, he said "The Silk made carpets were almost shelved due to its less demand as the export of it has come to a stand

Police arrests 04 gamblers in Kulgam, stake money seized

JINNESS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 28

Continuing its drive against the social crimes, Police in Kulgam have arrested 04 gamblers and seized stake money from their possession.

Acting on specific information regarding gambling activities in the jurisdiction of Police Post Mirbazara, a police party headed by Incharge PP Mirbazara raided the suspected gambling site at Furrah and apprehended four gamblers on the spot. They have been identified as Shahmawaz Ahmad Lone on of Bashir Ahmad Lone resident of Malpora, Faved Ahmad Mir son of Mohd Amin Mir resident of Jurrad, Nisar Ahmad Khanday son of Ghulam Ahmad Khanday and Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Aziz Wani both residents of Zadoora. Officers have seized stake money of Rs. 46,000/- 04 mobile phones and a set of playing cards from their possession. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 93/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police station Qazigund and investigation has been taken up.

People found indulging in criminal activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with the local police units.

Police arrests 02 drug peddlers, contraband substances recovered

JINNESS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 28

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested 02 drug peddlers in Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession. In Baramulla, a police party led by SHO PS Baramulla under the supervision of DySP Hqs Baramulla Shri Sajjad Bukhari-JKPS during naka checking near Hospital crossing Baramulla intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 15 grams of Brown Sugar like substance was recovered from his possession.

Similarly in Kulgam, a police party headed by Incharge PP Frisal during naka checking at Dami-dulla Crossing intercepted one person identified as Tariq Ahmad Kuchay son of Abdul Majeed Kuchay resident of Kaddler Kulgam. During search, 05 Cannabis sticks (105 grams) were recovered from his possession.

Both the drug peddlers have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations.

Police solves burglary case in Baramulla, 3 accused arrested

JINNESS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 28

Police in Baramulla have solved a burglary case by arresting 03 accused persons involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property from their possession.

On 27/05/2023, Police Station Boniyar received a complaint from one person Mushtaq Ahmad Ahanger (Accounts officer of Small Hydro Electric Project Boniyar) stating therein that some unknown burglars have stolen steel shuttering plates from construction site at Maidan Boniyar. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Boniyar and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, officers with the help of technical and human resources zeroed in on some suspects for questioning. Among them, 03 suspects identified as Agib Ahmad Shah son of Mohammad Hafeez Shah resident of Nangli Pora Sopore, Bashir Ahmad Jander son of Sayia Jinder resident of Madian Boniyar & Sajad Ahmad Thakar son of Gulam Qadir Thakar resident of Uranbowa confessed their involvement in the commission of crime after thorough interrogation.

On their disclosure, officers have also recovered stolen property from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

still, Silk cotton was exported earlier, but that too could not be continued."

He said "we have started weaving Silk-on-Silk carpets after a long span of time and it was the demand of the company who have provided us the order". He said the carpets will give a perfect look and shine only on Silk-on-Silk nature carpets, not on any other material made carpet."

He said the design on the carpets are similar to what the new parliament building looks like.

He said "we did not face any problem in making the carpets, even everybody including weavers and my all staff wholeheartedly supported us to complete this project."

Khan gave 80 percent credit to his weavers who have shown their caliber and dedication and worked hard day and night to take this project to its logical conclusion.

"It is a proud moment for the carpet industry of Kashmir and hopefully in future such orders will pour from other parts of the country as well as from the international forum", Khan said.

However, Khan, expressed his regret that artisans who made these carpets should have been invited and honoured for their work during the inauguration of the Parliament House. (Agencies)

Rekha asked karyakartas to gear up for upcoming party programs



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 26: To expand the BJP party activities in Jammu District South important meeting was chaired under the leadership of BJP Jammu District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan in connection with all "Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan" on all organizational Mandals and constituencies falling under Jammu district south. All Morchas of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu District South will hold mega "Sanyukt Morcha Sammelans" in both the constituencies of Jammu South to mark the celebration of 9 years of Modi Government

will commence on May 30 and will continue till June 30. For the Mega "Jan Sampark Abhiyaan" Rekha also assigned duties for all seven Morchas of District Jammu South to make the grand event like a pomp and show successfully at ground level with all common masses in Jammu. Rekha Mahajan instructed that the Bharatiya Janata Party is going to organize a month-long campaign "Nau Saal Bemisal", in which intellectual meetings, door-to-door campaigns, Rallies, and Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan. She also laid stress on strengthening the organizational structure of the Party. Rekha said that the nine years of the Modi government remained momentous and fruitful for the country as many historical steps were taken in these years with the top notch move of abrogation of Article 370, which changed the course of life of people of J&K as normalcy and peace returned and days of turmoil ended successfully. She said, "It was only the BJP Government under which J&K has witnessed drastic change as days of turmoil are over and peace has started knocking on doors."

at the Centre, informed BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. Rekha said the Sanyukt Morcha Program is going to be held on 4th June in District Jammu South in their respective Constituencies. She asked the workers to gear up for upcoming Programs to make the Program Successful. District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, Sanyojak Pt. Ashok Khajuria, Vivek Patyal, Mandal Prabhari's Shalpu Gupta, and Karuna Chetri attended the meetings. Mandal Presidents Neeraj Puri, Bharat Bhushan, Ranjit Singh, Vikram Sandhu, and Vijay Sharma organized these meetings in their respective Mandals. Rekha Mahajan addressed the meeting of Jammu South Morcha Presidents and Morcha General Secretaries of BJP in all the five Mandals. She said that all the Karyakartas of Morchas in both the Assembly Constituency would attend these "Sanyukt Morcha Sammelans". "The nine years of the Modi government are dedicated to welfare, service to the nation, and social justice", said Rekha. Rekha Mahajan outlining the mega "Jan Sampark Abhiyaan" campaign which

New Parliament will mark start of India's golden era under PM Modi: Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu on Sunday congratulated the countrymen on the opening of new Parliament building by PM Narendra Modi. In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP spokesperson said that the new building to house the Parliament will mark the beginning of a new era of India's colossal progress as this could be compared as the Golden era under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The senior BJP leader condemned those political parties which boycotted the opening ceremony on Sunday claiming that it was their loss as one's



presence on this occasion of national pride is itself a matter of prestige as the names of those present in the ceremony shall be written in the annals of the history of India and those who missed the opportunity will not be

remembered at all. It is pertinent to mention that PM Narendra Modi has dedicated the new Parliament building to the nation today. Purnima Sharma said that by boycotting the inaugural ceremony the opposition parties have shown their narrow-mindedness and Obscurantist bent of mind. She said that the attempts made by the opposition to undermine the significance of the work accomplished by PM Modi in the last nine years across the country and before that in Gujarat would all be thwarted by none other than the people of the country who are observing every jealous move of the leaders of the opposition parties and shall teach them the lesson of life during the election time.

India assertive on shedding colonial traces: Vibodh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, MAY 28: The inauguration of the new parliament house is India's assertive step towards shedding its colonial mindset and a resolve to India's global resurgence based on the principles of "swa" or selfhood (swadharna, swadeshi and swaraj). The

new parliament house is a matter of pride for every Indian and those opposing it are not against Prime Minister Narendra Modi but are against the very idea of 'One India', said BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta while addressing an impressive gathering at Palma. "Our hearts are filled with

pride and honour to have a new parliament house, showcasing India's time-honoured values and exemplifying India's illustrious culture and rich heritage. The installation of 'Sengol' in the new parliament house will motivate every lawmaker to uphold justice and add to more integrity to his work", said Vibodh

Hitting at opposition, Vibodh said that the inauguration of the new parliament should not be used as a gimmick to delude people as this is a moment to be cherished, adored and exalted by all. The new parliament building reflects the aspiration of New India and 140 cr people irrespective of party affiliation, religion, caste or creed, he added. Speaking on the occasion, senior BJP leader Sudesh Gupta asserted that the inauguration of the new parliament house is a matter of pride for every India and is being celebrated as a festival across the country. He maintained that India's path to development and growth should be inspired by its age-old culture, tradition, heritage and values. He criticised Congress for creating unnecessary controversy before the inauguration of new parliament house.

Col Mahan kick-start two JJM Schemes worth Rs 16.82 in hilly region of District Kathua



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, MAY 28: Col Mahan Singh (Retd) DDC Chairman alongwith former Dy CM Dr Nirmal Singh today inaugurated two JJM Schemes comprising JJM Scheme Dharmahampur and JJM Scheme Dhar Jankeri in hilly region of District Kathua. On the occasion, DDC Member Mahanpur Tajinder Goldy, BDC

Chairperson Dhar Mahanpur Sushma Karyal, BDC Chairman Mahanpur Raj Singh, large number of local residents including Sarpanches, PRIs, youth, women, PHE AEE Basohli and staff were present. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman applauded Modi Government nationwide JJM Scheme which provides safe drinking water too million of households. He said that providing safe and adequate drinking water is among the Govt's top priorities and it stands fully committed to achieve the target of 'Ghar Ghar Jal, Ghar Ghar Na' very soon. Giving details, Col Mahan informed that JJM Scheme Dharmahampur Panchayat will cost Rs 8.92 Crore and encompasses at least 5 Sump tanks of 20000 gallons capacity, 4 GSR Tanks of

10000 Gallons each, Rapid Sand Filtration Plant of 5000 Gallons and lying of 30 KM pipe lines of varying sizes. The other JJM Scheme Dhar Jankeri will cost Rs 7.9 Crores and encompasses one 5000 Gallons Slow Sand water filter, one Sump tank of 10000 Gallons, 4 GSR tanks of 10000 gallons each and laying 24 KM pipe of various sizes, he added. The DDC Chairman said that the Union Govt led by PM Narendra Modi has committed to provide basic necessities to the people in every nook and corner of the nation especially the rural and far flung and remote areas irrespective of caste, creed, colour, political or other affiliations. He asked PHE Department AEE and staff to ensure quality of work and timely implementation of the projects.

CSIR-IIIM distributes quality planting material to farmers of Poonch under CSIR Floriculture Mission

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Poonch, today organised a one day training and planting material distribution programme under CSIR Floriculture Mission here in the Dak Bungalow, Poonch under the patronage of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR IIIM Jammu. Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Malikzada Sheraz Uj Haq was the Chief Guest of the event. He hailed the initiative of CSIR-IIIM of reaching out to the farmers of the district Poonch and informed that adoption of the floriculture crops like Marigold and

Gladiolus can add to the economic returns of the farmers. He emphasized on the judicious utilization of the available resources for achieving maximum profitability. Production of fresh loose flowers like marigold by farmers of the district has local demand due to its use in religious and cultural traditions, he added. He also expressed his gratitude to the participating farmers and impressed upon the officers of the department of agriculture to have a coordinated approach with the CSIR-IIIM team for translation of the activities under the Mission for greater outcome. In the event 95 participating farmer beneficiaries from different areas of the district were imparted training on commercial cultivation and post-harvest technologies for Cut and Loose

flower cultivars. The farmers were also provided the quality planting material of Gladiolus corms and hybrid Marigold seed. Chief Agriculture Officer Poonch, Rakesh Sharma while welcoming the chief guest, Addl. District Development Commissioner Poonch Malikzada Sheraz Uj Haq, Nodal Scientist CSIR Floriculture Mission, Dr. Shahid Rasool, Officers of the Department of Agriculture and participating farmers, gave a brief introduction of the programme and apprised farmers about the remunerative benefits and entrepreneurial opportunities in commercial cultivation of floricultural crops. He commended the initiative of CSIR-IIIM for extension of activities of the Mission in Poonch district to benefit the farmers.

Zero tolerance against terrorism delivered: Pathania



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RATHNAGAR, MAY 28: Ranbir Singh Pathania, BJP Spokesperson was all praise for NIA's bait for strictest punishment to the criminals involved in perpetrators of worst crimes against humanity. He further said that zero tolerance towards terrorism means that there cannot be permissible form or format of terrorism. Terrorism is a bane first and last. No country can afford a compromise on its integrity and sovereignty. He further called upon the people in Kashmir to remain aware about the diversion tactics of

politically rejected, spent-up forces who are trying to put up a show on empty slogans and non issues. He further said that zero tolerance policy against terrorism has yielded results there has been a big swoop on NARCO terrorism, hawala funding, certain media houses, unwanted movement of foreign exchanges. And space for mischievous forces has virtually shrunk. People and forces which have been dividing and creating dissensions in the people stand exposed and marginalised. All-out campaign of government against terrorism, corruption and secessionism has set a trend

and rather a wave in J & K whereby people have come to heave a sigh of relief. In his concluding remarks he made a scathing attack on secessionist forces and said that forces which have bred secession, promoted division, spread hatred stand exposed now. Mr. Pathania was addressing a series of meetings at Pinger, Bainsta, Fatola, Kogarmarh, Bain Lair Kougha villages of Rathnagar. He further sensitised the people about various plans of the government. A heartening, first hand interaction with beneficiaries of centrally sponsored schemes, especially Ayushman Bharat, PMAY, PM Kisan, was also carried out where the beneficiaries shared their valuable inputs and experiences. They were all praise for the Samaritan gesture of Modi Sarkaar. Pathania said that schemes like AYUSHMAN Bharat, JJM, Saubhagya, Atal Pension Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, MGNREGA, National Literacy Mission Programme, Pradhan Mantri Adash Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.

Private schools loot gullible parents with impunity: Rajesh Kesri



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today in a press conference appealed Govt to stop open loot by private schools on pretext to another. Addressing media persons, Kesri said that private schools increase admission fee and class promotion fee every year putting unnecessary burden on parents' especially middle class parents who have already been badly hit by high inflation and high price of basic commodities. Jijya is collected from the parents of the children in the name of promotion

fee whereas the admission fee should be paid only once up to 10th class. But every school is looting the children by charging different fees, it takes fees in the name of annual fees, takes monthly fees, whereas they are taking monthly fees every month, then what is the use of annual fees, all this is going on because of the weaknesses of director education, if Director becomes strict, then which school has the guts to take annual fees from children in any way, added Kesri. Private Schools have been looting the gullible parents in the name of books, uniform and other things being provided to their children at exorbitant

rates during the new session. Kesri said the private schools have unholy nexus with the wholesalers who supply them books, uniform, shoes and many others items and they compel the parents to purchase all the items from the school. Private schools make fortunes by looting the gullible parents on the name of books and uniforms, he said. He said that school management forces them to purchase all the items from them. Govt has constituted several teams to tighten the noose of erring private school management but Kesri alleged that these teams are nowhere in the sight and the monopoly of private schools was going on unabated. Kesri urged the district administration to take stock of the situation and direct the team to take action against the management of private school. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Balveer Kumar, Vijay Luthra, Rajkumar, Balwant Fauji, Omprakash, Labba Baba, Rajesh Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Anju Devi, Jyoti Devi besides others.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Holistic approach to revive old pristine of Mubarak Mandi

Historic Mubarak Mandi complex renovation has always remained under a heated debate. The Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society (MMJHS)—which has been assigned the task of renovating mammoth structure—invited Express of Interest (EoI) for development of Heritage Hotel in one portion of the complex in the past but uncertainty remains over its development. The proposal, though, is not new but it has triggered a debate with stakeholders casting aspersions on the working of the Society. The same proposal was mooted way back in 2008-09 when the renovation work was undertaken but at that time too it had invited sharp criticism from local MLAs who had accused the then government of selling the project to private players. Consequently, the project was pushed to cold storage and no progress was made over it during the last over a decade. Now, the government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has set into motion an exercise to convert a portion of historic Mubarak Mandi complex into Heritage Hotel under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on Design Develop-Finance-Build-Maintain and Operate basis. Besides, other buildings, which are being conserved by utilizing the funds provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, will be converted into State of the Art Museum. In the year 2009-10, J&K Assembly had witnessed protests with BJP MLAs opposing the idea of developing a Heritage Hotel on the complex. Recently, UT administration held detailed discussion on this subject and the Society was given the nod to start an exercise in this direction. Accordingly, the Society has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) for development of the Heritage Hotel in one portion of the mammoth complex. Authorities believe that it is the only way to make the adaptive reuse of the complex as mentioned in the Master Plan and generate sufficient revenue for the proper maintenance of the whole complex in future. The proposal is aimed at creating world class category/business class Heritage Hotel with allied facilities which would attract national/international users. However, it will be an uphill task for the MMJHS to ensure that during the conversion of the identified portion into Heritage Hotel the original architecture of the buildings is not fiddled with and protected properly. By converting a portion of the historic complex into a Heritage Hotel the Government wants to promote Mubarak Mandi as a wedding and tourism destination and generate sufficient funds for proper maintenance and upkeep of the entire grandeur in future. Till last year, the unplanned and crawling pace of renovation work at Mubarak Mandi complex, the royal residence of erstwhile the Dogra rulers in J&K, had made stakeholders unhappy and dejected who were alleging that work was “in the hands of jokers having no idea of culture and heritage”. Only five percent of the estimated cost of Rs 298.86 crore has been spent on the project during the past 11 years. The project commenced in 2008 without any specific deadline fixed for completion. The historic complex spreads over 14 acres of prime land and is steeped in a history of 187 years. Work on the project has been expedited after the Lieutenant Governor's administration showed keen interest in it and provided liberal funding for its renovation. The stakeholders should keep aside their personal interests and allow the government to execute its plan for better reuse and renovation of the royal complex as this is the only way to give it a new lease of life.

PROF. (DR.) MANOJ S. KAMAT

Following the surprise announcement of the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes from circulation by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last Friday, a public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Delhi High Court challenging the decision.

The PIL argues that the RBI has no independent power under the Reserve Bank of India Act to take such a decision. It is contended that the decision to withdraw the banknote only after four-five years of circulation citing it as unjust, arbitrary, and against the public interest. It is mentioned that the impugned initiative is 'arbitrary', accusing RBI of adopting the decision without analysing the problems of the public at large.

The decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 note has no comparisons to the previous move of demonetisation. This time there was no fear or panic among the commoners. The expanding scope of digital transactions and e-commerce in the past six-seven years and the lower denomination currency being in major circulation have warranted off enough disruptions.

Although the ₹2,000 note will be considered legal tender, people have been advised to deposit or exchange them by September 30, 2023, with a limit of ₹20,000 at a time. However, similar transactions done multiple times by bank customers and non-customers would be under the scrutiny of bank officials for suspicious activities. The insurance companies have clarified that premiums can be paid with ₹2,000 notes. Moreover, one could also deposit the said notes in post offices and non-banking financial companies, but cannot exchange them.

The government's decision seems to have been long planned as it was realised that this denomination is not commonly used for everyday transactions. When the ₹2,000 notes were introduced in 2016 their primary purpose was quickly to replenish the currency in circulation after the demonetisation.

As of date the value of ₹2,000 notes in circulation are ₹3.62 lakh crore or close to ₹44.27 billion, being only about 10.8% of the currency in circulation. Over the past four years, the RBI has expressed its intention to reduce the number of high-value notes in circulation and ceased printing the ₹2,000 notes. Data reveals that RBI printed 3,543 million pieces of ₹2,000 notes in 2016-17,

which drastically came down to 111.50 million notes in 2017-18 and was further reduced to 46.69 million notes in 2018-19. Considering the above, withdrawing these notes aligns with streamlining the currency system, and promoting the usage of more widely-used smaller denominations. It is presumed that this move may be related to the upcoming state and general elections to prevent the misuse of cash and promote transparency in transactions. With many states headed for elections towards the end of 2023 and the nation set for a general election in 2024 this decision seems right. This move may also lead to reducing the hoarding of black money and the fake currency racket. It is interesting to note that the detection of 13,604 counterfeit notes of the ₹2,000 denomination during the 2021-22 financial year, represented a 54.6% increase from the previous year.



Fake currency has been a big draw for operatives in Pakistan and Bangladesh with hubs in border areas of Kashmir, Bihar, and West Bengal. However, even after this move, addressing fake currency will remain a challenge as the RBI report of May 2022 cites instances of a high number of fake notes of ₹500 denomination, doubling from 30,054 pieces in 2019-20 to 79,669 in 2021-22. Those individuals using these notes as a store of unaccounted value will be relatively discouraged.

It is reported that small vendors and shopkeepers have already stopped accepting the notes while Petroleum Dealers Association has highlighted how cash purchase of fuel at petrol pumps using ₹2,000 notes has spiked to almost 90% of daily sales. Apart from the petrol pumps, jewellers across the country have reportedly seen a sudden rise

in cash payments in these notes.

It is reported that the currency exchanges in the Middle East countries have started to shun the Indian rupee though none of these nations has officially asked its forex dealers to stop changing Indian rupees. The duty-free shops and retail outlets at holiday travel destination airports abroad at the international airports have stopped accepting the ₹2,000 note, but there was no bar on transactions with lower-denomination notes. In the short run, it is believed that there will be a limited reduction in cash in circulation. It is also expected that the banking system's liquidity will improve with an increase in low-cost deposits, known as current accounts and saving accounts, in the near term. This will ease the pressure on deposit rate hikes and could also result in a moderation in interest rates. The net interest margin, the difference between the bank's lending rate and the interest on deposits will narrow.

The inflow of notes would lead to an increase bringing down the overall cost of funds for the lenders and improving their margins. The bulk borrowing rates for the government and corporates are set to reduce in the short term. As these excess funds are invested in shorter-term government securities, it could also have a downward impact on the rates in the bond markets.

Small businesses and cash-dependent sectors like agriculture and construction are likely to face minor inconveniences. If consumers opt to use these notes for purchases instead of depositing them in bank accounts, discretionary spending may rise. The RBI Governor is on record that the withdrawal will have a very 'marginal impact' on the economy. The central banker has defended the move clarifying it is

not demonetisation, but a statutory currency management exercise taken for operational convenience. According to the RBI, it is phasing out the high denomination note as they have already served their intended purpose of replenishing the economic system after the demonetisation.

This move is also claimed to be a part of the 'clean note policy' followed for the past 18 years to give good-quality currency with better security features and withdraw them from circulation having crossed the estimated lifespan of four-five years.

Till now RBI has not brought in clarity as to how long it intends to grant legal tender status to these notes, post-September. After it was suddenly decided to withdraw 86% of the currency in circulation overnight in 2016 over 99.3% of the scrapped ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes came back into the financial system and were shredded. This yields a conclusion that there was no black money in the economy, as claimed. Since then, economists have been questioning the reason to re-monetise the economy by issuing high denominations expressing apprehension that the hoarding of black money will be further eased. If it is claimed that ₹2,000 note is being withdrawn for being a storehouse of unaccounted value, it would also mean that the earlier act of demonetisation has failed. Whatever it is, the RBI will have to bear the onus of answering these questions someday.

(Prof. (Dr.) Manoj S. Kamat is Post Doctoral Fellow (Economic Policy) and Ph.D. (Finance) from IIT Bombay, and serves as Professor and Principal of Dempo Charities Trust's SS Dempo College of Commerce & Economics at Cujira-Bambolim.)

As women writers show their prowess

WOMEN'S STORIES TOLD BY WOMEN ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THEIR STORIES TOLD BY MALE NARRATORS THAT THE RISING WORTH OF WOMEN AUTHORS IS NOW RECOGNISED BY MOST PRIZE COMMITTEES

IRA PANDE

Even though I am tempted to add my two-penny bits to that storm in a teacup — the inauguration of the new Parliament House by the PM and the Opposition's boycott of it — I will refrain from giving in. For one, I keep away from political comments as a principle and two, because enough is enough. So let me go to a topic that is really close to my heart: translations and the rise of women writers in our literary firmament. Like most Indians, I can read and write fluently in two languages, yet despite a speaking acquaintance with other Indian languages, sadly I can't read them. This is why I never forego an occasion to serve on the jury of any prize that gives me an opportunity to read good English translations of works from the languages I don't know. I am currently reading 10 such works in languages as varied as Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Assamese and Maithili. Each one has its own social universe and offers a glimpse of the India that lies beyond my Hindi-English one. Even more interestingly, several authors are women and their perspective adds another dimension to this unfamiliar but fascinating territory.



Fortunately, over the last few years, publishers have located some very competent translators within our own land and the quality of translations is improving so rapidly that I look back with horror at those early dumpy, babu English ones that failed to get the nuances and music of the original works. Of course, where they were translated into other Indian languages (such as Sharatchandra from Bangla into Hindi), they birthed a cultural

understanding of another part of India that many of us had never visited. Then, there were writers (such as Premchand, Manto and Ismat Chughtai) who attracted some fine translators to bring them out of Urdu into mainstream Hindustani. However, it has been a slow process to find the right text, a sensitive translator and marry the two together. Beyond this, one has to find a good editor who can shape the meandering original

work into a sharper, pointed story that retains the flavour of the original but manages to drop the fat from the huge tomes that many earlier novelists preferred. The other problem, of course, was the sounds and smells of an unfamiliar world to be conveyed in a language that may not have the appropriate vocabulary and voice registers.

As readers and translators became sensitive to these problems, they also devised ways of creatively transform-

ing these handicaps (if they can be called that) into a new and exciting journey of discovery. Over the years, I have been acquainted with lands that lie very far away from my Hindi one with kinship patterns and religious rituals that are fascinating even if unfamiliar. The result is a widening of my own horizons and also of a better understanding of the anger and suspicion with which several states (particularly those that lie in the south and the north-east) view the alarming flattening of individual cultures under the determined bid to make us one nation with a common language. Our political parties would do well to be mindful of the damage they do to their own acceptance in such areas if they appear to threaten the native cadences and rhythms that have proudly celebrated and encouraged diversity in language, religion and ethnicity. It is a shame that several less-spoken languages (like Maithili and Marwari in north India) are slowly dying out as literary languages. Each such loss has erased a universe of memories that may never again flower.

I used to always wonder why there were hardly any novels written by women until a few decades ago. The reason was so simple that I am amazed it did not strike me earlier. Girls were

seldom allowed by their patriarchal families to go out to study. They were well versed in managing families but not many had progressive parents who educated them before they were married off to be smothered by domesticity and motherhood. The sudden outburst of women writers is largely a post-independence phenomenon and the stories they have to tell are gut-wrenching. Women's stories told by women are so different from their stories told by male narrators that the rising worth of women authors is now recognised by most prize committees.

Ashoka University in Sonapatn has a special programme on translations. Currently, it is encouraging a series called 'Women translating women'. Among its promoters are well-known translators Rita Kothari (translator of Sindhi and Gujarati works and a widely respected academic of bhasha literature and popular culture), Arunava Sinha (a prolific translator of Bengali works), Neeta Gupta and Urvasi Butalia (both publishers who have worked closely with translations and women writers). This is a thrilling new direction that translators can look forward to. Neglected and suppressed for decades, women are telling their stories to an audience that has ignored them for too long. Watch this space.

'SWATANTRYA VEER SAVARKAR' Teaser Attempts To Rewrite Mahatma Gandhi's Role In History

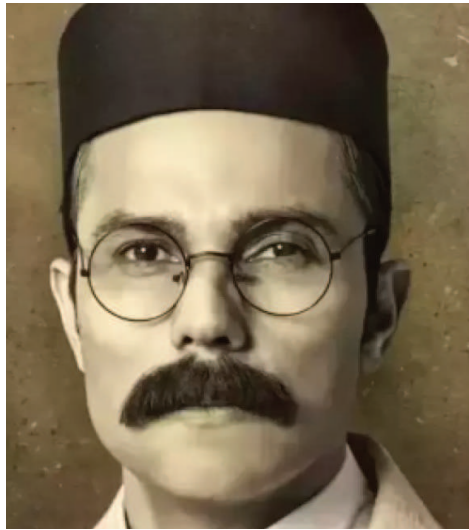
The teaser of the upcoming film 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar', based on the life of V.D. Savarkar, was unveiled on Sunday on the occasion of freedom fighter and Hindutva ideologue's 140th birth anniversary. The film has been directed by actor Randeep Hooda, who has also co-written the film along with Utkarsh Naithani. The teaser of the potentially contentious film starts with a voice-over from Randeep, saying the struggle for Independence stretched for more than 90 years but it would have been over had the people followed the path of an armed revolution.

Few participated in the freedom struggle, the voiceover said; the rest just wanted to gain political mileage in the garb of the fight for independence, it claimed. Launching the film's teaser, Hooda said: "Savarkar led an incredible

life, and as I learned more about him while researching my film, I have come to admire him tremendously. So it gives me immense pleasure to share a sneak peek into our film on his 140th birth anniversary."

The teaser calls Savarkar "the most wanted Indian by the British", who not just inspired the armed revolution, but also inspired the likes of "Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose and Khudiram Bose".

Randeep goes on to say in the teaser that Mahatma Gandhi was not wrong but had he not been stubborn on his principles of non-violence, India would have been independent 35 years earlier. Producer Anand Pandit added: "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar is a very prestigious project for us because of the incredible impact that Savarkar had on our nation's freedom struggle.



'KANTARA' STAR RISHAB SHETTY APPEALS FOR FILM CITY IN BENGALURU



Actor-director-writer-producer Rishab Shetty, who became an overnight sensation after 'Kantara', made an appeal at a public forum for a Film City in Bengaluru. Rishab was invited as a panellist for the 9th Seva Sushasan Garib Kalyan National Conclave hosted by the Ministry of Broadcasting and Information to cast light on how Yuva Shakti, the powerful force of India's youth, is igniting a transformative wave across the nation.

It was here that Rishab spoke about how the industry is getting support from the government and also put forward the request to have a Film City in Bengaluru.

The theme of this year's conclave, 'Yuva Shakti: Galvanizing India', was addressed by each of the six panellists and Rishab was the only representative from entertainment and cinema. While addressing his request, Rishab said, "Reaching the audience is one challenge and we are getting support from the government. But there's also a need to have a Film City in Bengaluru." At the conclave, Rishab was joined by Oyo Rooms Founder & CEO Ritesh Agarwal, Patiala gharana musician Amaan Ali Bangash, former Indian hockey player and national captain, Viren Rasquinha, CAXpert co-founder Yashodhara Bajoria, and boxer Akhil Kumar.

'KARMAA MEETS KISMET' DIRECTOR FEELS 'CONNECTED TO HER ROOTS' WITH SANJAY MISHRA

Gitanjali Aran, the director of the upcoming film 'Karmaa Meets Kismet', has shared that she feels connected to her roots in the company of her film's actor Sanjay Mishra and that he makes her feel creatively nourished through their conversations.

'Karmaa Meets Kismet', which also stars Farida Jalal, is a tale of 'Karma' and 'Destiny'. The director has opened up about her experience of working with the veteran actors and how they became a part of the script. Heaping praise on Sanjay Mishra, Gitanjali shared: "With Sanjay sir, I always felt connected to my roots. Our conversations mostly revolved around art, music and literature. I always felt creatively nourished in his company. His expansive knowledge of art and literature



always allured me. I wanted to learn as much as possible from him. What can one say about him as an actor? He brings your

imagination alive and adds so much value that your vision too expands. "It was evolving to direct him. I evolved

not only as a film maker but also as a human. His connection to his roots is something to learn from. He makes you proud of who you are. With him I learnt the significance of Improvisation. As a creative mind sometimes you tend to block your vision but spending so much time with him I learnt that even the best can be further enhanced," she added.

She also shared her experience of working with senior actress Farida Jalal.

"Working with Farida ma'am was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I had grown up watching her on the big screen and when I saw her in real life I went quiet. I preferred to just keep listening to her. I knew the value of this opportunity and therefore, did not want to miss even a single moment with her.

Palm d'Or Winner Stirs A Row After She Slams French Govt In Acceptance Speech

The prestigious Palm d'Or went to a French director night at the Cannes Film Festival, but President Emmanuel Macron was not celebrating because Justine Triet made a fiery political speech that took aim at the French government's handling of weeks of protests on the streets.

After being introduced on stage by Jane Fonda and thanking her partners on the film and Cannes' jury, Triet said, according to 'Variety', that the country "was rocked by an unprecedented protest movement that was extremely powerful and unanimous against the pensions reform".

The "protest was denied and suppressed in a shocking manner, and this pattern of increasingly uninhibited dominating power is now at work in several areas; obviously socially is where it is the most shocking, but we also see it in all spheres of society, and the film industry hasn't been spared," said Triet, noted 'Variety', drawing cheers and a few boos from the captive audience inside the Lumiere Theatre.

She went on to blame the "neo-liberal government" for promoting a "commodification of culture" and "breaking down the French model cultural exception".

Triet dedicated her prize "to all young female and male directors and to those who today are unable to make films," adds 'Variety'. She said: "We must make room for them, and give them the place I took 15 years ago when I started, in a world that was a little less hostile in which it was possible to make mistakes and start over."

France's Culture Minister Rima Abdul Malak was

Parineeti Chopra And Raghav Chadha Arrive In Jaipur To Finalise Wedding Destination

BOLLYWOOD ACTOR PARINEETI CHOPRA AND AAM AADMI PARTY MP RAGHAV CHADHA ARE IN JAIPUR ON SUNDAY, REPORTEDLY BUSY FINALISING THE LOCATION OF THEIR WEDDING IN RAJASTHAN.



Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha are in Jaipur on Sunday, reportedly busy finalising the location of their wedding in Rajasthan.

Parineeti reached Jaipur on Sunday after seeing locations in lake

city Udaipur. Sources said that Parineeti and Raghav could finalise a 230-year-old fort for their dream wedding. The families of both have been busy preparing for the wedding since the engagement. According to sources, wedding functions can be held in Jaipur

as well as in Delhi and Mumbai. Raghav and Parineeti were received at Jaipur airport by Rajeev Arora, Chairman of Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO) and his son Tarang Arora, Creative Director of Amrapali. After breakfast at Rajvilas Hotel in Jaipur,

they left for Bishangarh Fort. Apart from this, both will also visit heritage and luxury hotels of Jaipur. According to the information, both Udaipur and Jaipur are favourite places and they could keep some wedding programmes at both places.

Bishangarh Fort is about an hour away from Jaipur. It has a history of about 230 years. There is no uniformity anywhere in the design of this eight-storied fort. Rao Bishan Singh had built this strong fort keeping in mind the security of his state. Later, this fort came in the part of Rao Rajendra Singh. It has now been converted into a luxury hotel.

This fort, known as Alila Fort, shows the influence of Mughal and British architectural styles.

Emily Blunt Is 'Hard To Offend' And Sometimes Forgives People 'Too Quickly'



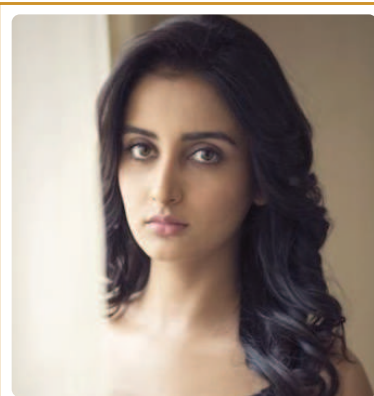
Actress Emily Blunt has shared that she sometimes forgives people "too quickly". The 40-year-old star has admitted she is "hard to offend", which has made her an ideal cast member for directors or fellow actors looking to avoid on-set drama, and she has learned to "let things go", reports 'Female First UK'.

She told Candis magazine: "It's really hard to offend me. I'm not somebody who likes to dwell on things or stew and stay angry - I just find that a really uncomfortable way to be. I'm a quick recoverer and I tend to forgive very quickly - maybe sometimes too quickly! But then, you learn with age - who cares about that stuff? It's much easier to just let things go."

As per 'Female First UK', a big part of her easy going attitude is her marriage to 'The Office' actor John Krasinski, who has a similar outlook. The couple were introduced by a friend at a restaurant in 2008, got engaged in 2009 and then got married at George Clooney's house the following year.

As well as having "complete trust" in her husband, Emily also admitted she is "a sucker for funny".

She said: "For me, marriage is when the party begins. I think you know when someone is right for you, and John just feels right for me - He's very loving and very stable, which suits me perfectly - I've never cultivated drama in my relationships with anyone, let alone my husband. I'm also a sucker for funny, and he's the funniest person I know."



HOW SAMBHABANA MOHANTY JUGGLS TV SHOOTS WITH PH.D. STUDIES

ZEE TV'S POPULAR SERIAL 'PYAAR KA PEHLA NAAM RADHA MOHAN', A ROMANTIC DRAMA BASED IN MODERN-DAY VRINDAVAN, HAS BEEN AN AUDIENCE FAVOURITE SINCE ITS LAUNCH LAST YEAR.

Zee TV's popular serial 'Pyaar Ka Pehla Naam Radha Mohan', a romantic drama based in modern-day Vrindavan, has been an audience favourite since its launch last year. The serial has its share of twists and turns, but Sambhabana Mohanty, who plays Damini, has given her career trajectory a dramatic non-entertainment industry twist by pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology, juggling her studies with a busy

TV career. Said Sambhabana: "My mother is an actress from the Odisha film industry, my father is a music album director, but I still am inclined towards studies. After my graduation, I worked in a few Hindi and Odia television serials and then decided to pursue my studies and enroll myself for a Ph.D. in Sociology at Sambalpur University in Odisha."

Talking about her life's twists

and turns, Sambhabana said: "Clearly, life had a different plan for me. Soon after signing up for the course, I got the offer to play Damini in 'Pyaar Ka Pehla Naam Radha Mohan', and without giving it a second thought, I took up the opportunity."

Undoubtedly, it's a lot of work. As she puts it: "It is not easy to juggle between the two. I really have to take out time from the busy shoot schedule,

but the professors and my production team are very supportive. So, I am able to manage both the things, and I hope I clear my exams with flying colours." Meanwhile, the series is at a dramatic point. In the recent episodes, viewers have seen that Radha (Neeharika Roy) is stuck in the cold freezer and her life is hanging by a thread.

Although Mohan (Shabir Ahluwalia) and the Trivedi fam-

ily are trying to trace Radha's location, Damini and her mother are doing everything in their power to stop them. Even as Damini is close to her mission being successful, Sambhabana is struggling between managing her shoot and studies. When an actor does a show, it is not easy for her to take out time for any other task. Sambhabana, however, is pursuing distance learning, and she's proving to be a good time manager.

Here Is Why You're Not Shedding Weight Despite Your Workout Efforts

osing weight can be a challenging journey, a journey that often requires you to give it your all. However, what is especially triggering is when you're putting in the effort and time to exercise regularly. However, if you've been diligently hitting the gym but the numbers on the scale refuse to budge, it's essential to understand the possible reasons behind this frustrating plateau. If this is something that you are facing then do not be disheartened, such a situation does not mean that you should give up on your weight loss or even your fitness journey.

Here are some key factors that might be hindering your weight loss progress despite your dedicated workouts:

Inadequate Calorie Deficit: One of the fundamental principles of weight loss is creating a calorie deficit, which means consuming fewer calories than you burn. While exercise helps burn calories, it's equally crucial to assess your overall calorie intake. Even if you're exercising regularly, consuming excessive calories or indulging in unhealthy food choices can counteract your efforts.

Unbalanced Macronutrient Ratio: Weight loss isn't just about cutting calories; it's also about the quality of those calories. If your diet lacks balance and is skewed towards one macronutrient group, such as excessive carbohydrates

or unhealthy fats, it can impede weight loss.

Consult a nutritionist or dietitian to ensure your meals are well-balanced and aligned with your fitness goals.



Inconsistent Workout Routine: Remember that consistency is always the key when it comes to weight loss. Merely exercising sporadically or inconsistently won't yield optimal results. It is imperative to set up a regular workout regimen that involves a mix of cardiovascular exercises, strength training, and flexibility exercises. Aim for at least 150 minutes

of moderate-intensity aerobic activity per week, along with strength training sessions.

Insufficient Intensity or Duration: While any physical activity is beneficial for overall health, it's important to ensure that your workouts are challenging enough to promote weight loss. If you find yourself stuck in a rut, consider increasing the intensity, duration, or frequency of your workouts.

Incorporate high-intensity interval training (HIIT) or other forms of vigorous exercises to boost your metabolism and calorie burn.

Undiagnosed Medical Conditions: In some cases, underlying medical conditions can hinder weight loss progress. Hormonal imbalances, thyroid issues, insulin resistance, or certain medications

can impact your body's ability to shed pounds. If you suspect a medical condition might be playing a role, consult with a healthcare professional for proper evaluation and guidance.

Inadequate Rest and Recovery: Believe it or not, sufficient rest and recovery are crucial for weight loss. Overtraining and lack of sleep can lead to hormonal imbalances, increased stress levels, and decreased metabolism. Make sure to prioritize quality sleep, listen to your body's signals for rest days, and incorporate stress management techniques such as meditation or yoga.

Unrealistic Expectations: Weight loss is a process that is rather gradual, and everyone's journey is unique. Unrealistic expectations or a fixation on the number on the scale can lead to frustration and demotivation. Instead, focus on overall health improvements, such as increased energy levels, strength gains, and enhanced well-being. Remember that sustainable weight loss is about long-term lifestyle changes, not quick fixes.

Evaluate your diet, exercise routine, and overall lifestyle to identify areas that may need adjustment. By making informed choices, addressing potential obstacles, and maintaining a balanced approach, you'll be one step closer to achieving your weight loss goals and embracing a healthier, happier you.

DND, Masaba Gupta Is Busy Setting Weekend Fitness Goals



What's keeping Masaba Gupta busy nowadays? If you are also pondering this question for some time, the fashion designer's latest Instagram entry is just for you. On Saturday, Masaba Gupta shared two photos of herself, to sum up her "life lately." She can be seen performing yoga in the snaps and her post will serve you the much-needed fitness inspiration.

A scroll through Masaba's Instagram profile and you'll see that she hardly skips her workout sessions. Here, in the first image, the actress can be seen doing the Bhujangasana or Cobra Pose in a tank top and black shorts. The next slide shows her trying a plank.

"Life lately," Masaba Gupta wrote in the caption and added a brown heart, pinched fingers and a woman in lotus position icons. Take a look.

When it comes to exercises, "if you can't hold your core, it's all over," and Masaba Gupta knows it very well. The fashion icon, in one of her previous posts, can be seen maintaining her balance on a Pilates ball. She chose the song Stayin' Alive by Bee Gees as the background music for her clip, which she captioned: "She's back! Pilates Friday with Karina Ramchandani. So good. If you can't hold your core it's all over honey (in life and on the mat)."

Masaba Gupta remembered to give her fans fitness goals on World Health Day. She posted pictures of her toned physique and wrote, "Good Health is in. Filters are out! Happy World Health Day everyone. (Aam Ras is also in)."

This clip gives a sneak peek into Masaba Gupta's training sessions with coach Apoorv Mathur. "Nobody knows what nonsense we do in our training sessions but somehow body has been built. Welcome back coach," read her caption.

Low-Calorie Food Dietitians Say You Should Always Have In Your Pantry For Weight Loss

While trying to lose weight, it's important to have a kitchen that's stocked with healthy staples you can rely on for a range of meals. By filling your pantries with weight loss-friendly foods rather than fattening processed snacks, we can create a solid foundation for healthy eating habits and sustainable weight management. Luckily, there are plenty of tasty, nutritious options out there.

To get a run-down on some of the pantry essentials you should have on hand as you work towards your goal weight, we spoke to dietitian and personal trainer Jesse Feder from My Chrons and Colitis Team. He told us that oats, popcorn, and canned fish make some of the best options. Learn more about how each of these foods can help you lose weight below!

Oats are a fantastic superfood that are packed with health benefits. As it turns out, Feder says they're also great for weight loss.

"Oats are very high in dietary fiber which can help promote fullness," he says. "This can prevent you from snacking or overeating during the day and lead to weight loss." Luckily, this ingredient is also super-versatile. Not only can you make a delicious bowl of oatmeal (which is especially healthy with the right fat-blasting toppings), but Feder also notes that oats can be added to smoothies or used as a topping for various snacks.

5 REASONS WHY PAPAYA SHOULD BE YOUR BREAKFAST STAPLE

PAPAYA ADDS ALL THE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS TO YOUR BODY THAT HELP YOU KICK-START THE MORNING AND STAY ENERGETIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

If there's one fruit that can give bananas a run for their money, it's papaya. Similar to bananas, papaya is available year-round and makes for a healthy and fulfilling meal on its own. Papaya contains fibre, antioxidants, and several essential minerals and vitamins, all of which come together to nourish us from within. You can enjoy a bowl of papaya as is, add it to your smoothies, or use it as a garnishing element for various desserts. That's not all-sweet papaya also works as a palate cleanser after a spicy and flavorful meal. While you can have papaya anytime during the day, experts recommend having it in the morning to make the most of its goodness. Let's delve further.

Why You Should Start the Day with Papaya? It is rightly said, "morning shows the day," and starting your morning on a healthy note can set the tone for the rest of the day. This is where a wholesome breakfast comes in handy, and there are multiple options to choose from, with the easiest and most convenient one

being fresh fruits. A bowl of papaya for breakfast adds all the essential nutrients to your body that help you kick-start the morning and stay energetic throughout the day.

In this article, we bring your attention to some of the major reasons why you should consider having papaya in the morning on an empty stomach. Read on.

1. Reasons to Eat Papaya on an Empty Stomach: Keeps you full for a long time. As mentioned earlier, papaya is a storehouse of fibre and protein that makes for a wholesome meal, keeping you full for a long time. It also helps prevent untimely hunger pangs.

2. Promote digestion: The dietary fibres, along with antioxidants, aid the body's power to metabolize and digest food. This further helps boost easy bowel



3. Aid weight loss: A healthy digestive system automatically regularizes the balance in our body by breaking down the nutrients and making

the most of them. This further helps manage weight and shed those unwanted extra kilos.4. Boost healthy skin: As mentioned above, papaya helps promote a healthy gut. This further boosts healthy skin and prevents issues like acne and pimples.

5. Besides, the antioxidants help flush out toxins and regularize the blood flow in the body, promoting the skin's natural glow.5. **Boost Immunity:** Papaya is packed with vitamin C as well, which helps prevent various seasonal diseases and promote immune health. A good dose of vitamin C also helps fight inflammation and reduce oxidative stress in the body.

Photo Credit: UnsplashCan Diabetics Eat Papaya In The Morning? Unlike many other

fruits, papaya is considered a good addition to the diet for diabetics. It is high in fibre and has low sugar content. The fibre helps keep you full and prevents sudden spikes of glucose in the blood, keeping it stable throughout the day. However, we suggest consulting an expert before making any changes in your diet. Who Should Avoid Eating Papaya? While papaya is loaded with goodness, it can have the opposite reaction for people with heart problems and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Papaya contains laxative properties that might lead to uterine contractions, making it bad for pregnant women. On the other hand, the compound called papain in the fruit may slow down the heart rate, causing various cardiovascular risks. How Much Papaya Should You Eat in a Day? A bowl of papaya is considered enough to add all its nutrients to your daily diet. Consuming it in excess may have a laxative effect, leading to an upset stomach, vomiting, and even diarrhoea at times.

Vegetarian and vegan diets proved to lower heart disease risk

Plant-based diets can lower cholesterol and fat in the blood - reducing blocked arteries and lowering the risk of heart and blood vessel diseases, reveals a new study. Vegetarians and vegans saw their risk of cardiovascular disease drop by seven per cent over five years compared to omnivores.

But it was only a third of the effect of taking statins, though researchers said a plant-based diet combined with statins would boost the effect further. Researchers examined 30 randomised trials with just over 2,300 participants, published between 1982 and 2022.

The trials revealed how vegetarian and vegan diets affect all types of cholesterol compared to omnivorous diets, where people continue to eat meat and dairy. The first two types are low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL), which is known as the bad cholesterol, and triglycerides, a type of fat found in the blood.

The third type is apolipoprotein B (apoB), a protein that helps carry fat and cholesterol in blood and is a good indicator of the total amount of bad fats and cholesterol in the body.

Thanks to the apolipoprotein B, they found that vegetarian and vegan diets were linked with a 14 per cent drop in all artery-clogging lipoproteins.

Compared to people eating an omnivorous diet, vegetarians and vegans also saw a 10 per cent reduction in LDL cholesterol levels. Overall, they experienced an average drop in total cholesterol of seven per cent from when they started the study.

Study author, Professor Ruth Frikke-Schmidt, a chief physician at the Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen, Denmark, said: "We found that vegetarian and vegan diets were associated with a 14 per cent reduction in all artery-clogging lipoproteins as indicated by apolipoprotein B. This corresponds to a third of the effect of taking cholesterol-lowering medications such as statins, and would result in a seven per cent reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease in someone who maintained a plant-based diet for five years.

"Statin treatment is superior to plant-based diets in reducing fats and cholesterol levels. However, one



regimen does not exclude the other, and combining statins with plant-based diets is likely to have a synergistic effect, resulting in an even larger beneficial effect."

She added: "If people start eating vegetarian or vegan diets from an early age, the potential for reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease caused by blocked arteries is substantial. Importantly, we found similar results across continents, ages, different ranges of body mass index, and among people in different states of health."

The participants were randomly picked to follow either a vegetarian or vegan diet or to continue eating meat and dairy. The length of time on the diets ranged from ten days to five years, with an average of 29 weeks.

Professor Frikke-Schmidt said: "We saw significant effects from both vegetarian and vegan diets and people ranging from a normal weight to obese." Over 18 million people die from cardiovascular disease (CVD) each year around the world, making it the leading cause of

death.

It is responsible for one in four premature deaths in the UK, with those from poorer areas being more likely to die from cardiovascular issues. These problems include coronary heart disease, angina, heart attack, high blood pressure and stroke.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda states that premature deaths from non-communicable diseases, like CVD, should be reduced by a third by 2030. They are also increasing their focus on the effect of what we eat on the environment.

Professor Frikke-Schmidt added: "Recent systematic reviews have shown that if the populations of high-income countries shift to plant-based diets, this can reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases by between 35 per cent to 49 per cent. Our study provides robust evidence that plant-based diets are good for our health for people of different sizes, ages and health conditions.

"Furthermore, populations globally are aging and, as a consequence, the cost of treating age-related diseases such as atherosclerotic cardio-

vascular disease is increasing. Plant-based diets are key instruments for changing food production to more environmentally sustainable forms, while at the same time reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease.

"We should be eating a varied, plant-rich diet, not too much, and quenching our thirst with water." The study was not able to find out the potential benefits of a pescatarian diet as there were not enough studies available.

Professor Frikke-Schmidt said: "However, the Mediterranean diet is rich in plant-based foods and fish and is well-established as being beneficial in dietary guidelines."

Professor Kevin Maki, from Indiana University School of Public Health Bloomington, US, who was not involved in the research, said: "The results reported by Koch et al add to the body of evidence supporting favourable effects of healthy vegan and vegetarian dietary patterns on circulating levels of LDL-C [LDL cholesterol] and atherogenic lipoproteins, which would be expected to reduce ASCVD [atherosclerotic CVD] risk."



Massive Turnout of 50,000 at 'Yoga Mahotsav' in Hyderabad

J I NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 28 May, 2023: The 'Yoga Mahotsav' witnessed a massive participation of 50,000 enthusiasts at the NCC Parade Ground here today. The event - organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India - was held to commemorate 25 days to the International Day of Yoga.

Honourable Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest as the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal; the Union Minister of Culture, Tourism & DoNER, G. Kishan Reddy; Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development and Ayush, Dr. Munjipara Mahendrabhai actively participated in making this grand event a great success. Celebrities from the city like Padma Bhushan awardee & noted Badminton player & coach Pulella Gopichand; cine actors Sree Leela, Vishwakhen, Krishna Chaitanya among other dignitaries were also witness to the electrifying atmosphere here today. Dr. Ishwar V Basavaraddi, Director, MDNIY conducted the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) as thousands performed Yoga in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, the Honourable Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai



Soundararajan said, "Happy to be here on this beautiful morning to perform Yoga. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate Yoga as a festival of happiness, festival of health. I urge everyone to embrace yoga. I must thank Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for taking Yoga to the global stage and making it a mass movement towards good health. Yoga will make you happy, yoga will make you healthy, yoga will make you beautiful."

Addressing the grand audience, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "My heart is filled with joy to see massive participation in the Yoga Mahotsav by the people celebrating the cause of good health through Yoga. As a true sign of India's glorious heritage, Yoga received an unprecedented boost when the world started celebrating Yoga every year on 21 June. Due to his unflinching effort to make Yoga a massive healthcare

movement to enrich the quality of life, our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has been championing the cause of Yoga leading from the front. Since then, Yoga has continued to reach more and more people around the world and has benefited all for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Yoga has surpassed all divisions of caste, creed, gender, religion and nationalities. In the whole world, people of all ages have embraced it for their benefit. The theme of IDY for this year is quite apt - Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam. It perfectly echoes the mood, spirit and acceptance of Yoga at national and global levels. From villagers to city dwellers, from students to home makers to corporate employees - all are embracing Yoga to remain healthy both physically as well as mentally. The untiring efforts of our charismatic Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji have resulted in ever increasing impact of Yoga

and its acceptance by the world community. Today, the whole world is accepting Yoga as an unflinching vehicle of holistic health and well-being."

Highlighting the novelties in the celebration of this year's IDY, Sonowal added that these novelties would be on international, national and local levels.

Sonowal said, "On the International level, an Ocean Ring of Yoga will be created on June 21st with the help of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Yoga demonstrations at many ports, on many ships will take place and many friendly countries will also join hands in this exercise. Similarly, Yoga demonstrations will also take place from Arctic to Antarctica - countries falling on or near the Prime Meridian line will join the Yoga demonstration. The flight Decks of INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya will showcase Yoga demonstration in synergy. Under YogBharatmala, Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard and Border Road Organisation will join hands for Yoga demonstration at borders, coasts and islands to form a YogBharatmala. Yoga will also happen on North and South Pole regions. Himadri - the Indian Research Base in Svalbard, Arctic as well as Bharati - the third Indian Research Base in Antarctica. At the local level,

Panchayats, Anganwadis, Asha/ANM will be involved in Yoga demonstrations. Health and Wellness centres of both Health and Ayush Ministries, which are more than 1.5 lakh in the country and all the Amrit Sarovars (around 50 thousand) will have Yoga demonstrations. This year we will witness 'Har AanganYog' is going to happen in true spirit."

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of Culture, Tourism & DoNER as well as local MP (Secunderabad), G. Kishan Reddy said, "Yoga is a wonderful gift of India's rich heritage to empower humanity to remain hale & hearty. As all of us have congregated here, the massive turnout by all of you has affirmed people's outpour of love for Yoga. This wonder of India's culture was rejuvenated under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji as it has now become a global movement towards living healthy. In today's world, the role of Yoga in keeping one calm and focussed is immense. We must all embrace Yoga and keep doing it regularly thereby celebrating it always. Let us make this event a grand success as we move on to celebrate International Day of Yoga."

In his welcome address, the Union Minister of State for Ayush and Women & Child Development, Dr. Munjipara Mahendra said, "International Day of Yoga is now well known throughout the world.

DC Kupwara visits Fire Sufferers of Kalaroos, assures all possible help



J I NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, MAY 28: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatraya Sunday visited the far-flung Narizub hamlet of Kalaroos and met the 7 affected families whose 3 residential houses were damaged in a fire incident recently.

The Deputy Commissioner on the occasion expressed sorrow over the damage of the residential houses and other property and assured the fire sufferers of all possible support from administration.

Pertinently, on the directions of DC Kupwara, the District Administration has already provided an immediate cash assistance of Rs.60,000 to affected families under the Red Cross Fund.

Moreover, the Administration has also provided 50 blankets, 7 Kitchen sets, Ration, cooking stoves, buckets, and 20 pairs of clothes among the affected families.

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, SDRF cases for each affected family has been prepared.

Pertinently on the intervening night of May 17 & 18 two residential houses were fully damaged and one was partially damaged in a tragic fire incident at remote Narizub hamlet of Kalaroos leaving 7 families affected.

Career Guidance Session organised at Reading Hub (24*7) Library, GHSS Girls Kishtwar

EMPOWERED STUDENTS OF CLASS X TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE

J I NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 28: The District Administration Kishtwar today hosted another highly informative Career Guidance Session at Kishtwar Reading Hub (24*7) Library of Government Girls Higher Secondary School.

The session aimed at providing students with valuable insights into the array of opportunities available after completing Class X. The event was chaired by Tasleem Wani (BDO Inderwal), in presence of Arshad Hussain Dev, Senior Lecturer, GHSS Boys Kishtwar and other teachers which proved to be a resounding success, equipping students with the knowledge and guidance necessary to make informed decisions regarding their future endeavors.

Pertinent to mention that the commendable initiative of organising comprehensive Career Guidance ses-



sions for students of Kishtwar district conceptualized by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, has a vision to empower students and facilitate their successful career paths. Recognizing the importance of providing guidance and support to ensure a promising future for the youth, a series of sessions have been conducted till date by roping in the Officers of district administration and other counsellors, benefiting scores of students and competitive Aspirants. Today's Career Guidance Session, held at the Kishtwar Reading Hub Library, witnessed the participation of

students from various educational institutions in the district. The session was specifically designed to address the concerns and queries of Class X students, who are at a crucial juncture in their academic journey, where they are required to make important choices that will shape their future career paths. Tasleem Wani captivated the audience with an engaging presentation that covered a wide range of topics, including potential career options, educational pathways, and professional development opportunities. With his expertise and vast knowledge, Mr. Wani inspired the students to

explore diverse fields and encouraged them to think critically about their passions, strengths, and aspirations. Besides, he shared his valuable insights and personal experiences with the students. The Career Guidance Session provided an interactive platform for students to ask questions, seek guidance, and receive personalized advice from the distinguished speaker.

Attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to gain clarity about their future prospects after class X and appreciated the District Administration Kishtwar for organizing such a beneficial event.

Besides, the teaching faculty present on the occasion also highlighted the district administration's commitment to provide ample opportunity for students to excel in their chosen fields and hoped for continuing support and guidance from administration for a successful journey of students.

Annual festival of Kheer Bhavani celebrated at Tikker amid scenes of communal harmony, strong cultural bonding

J I NEWS SERVICE



KUPWARA, MAY 28: Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits thronged the temple of Ragnya Devi (Kheer Bhavani temple) at Tikker area of Kupwara district today to Jyeshtha Ashtami to celebrate the annual festival of Kheer Bhavani and paid obeisance at the holy temple.

Devotees participated in Pooja Archana, Havan and offered floral tributes to the idol of the Mata. Walking barefoot, the devotees carried rose petals, milk and offered tribute to the goddess.

Annual festival presented the emotional scenes of harmonious coexistence, communal harmony, and cultural bonding between the Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims, as people from all walks of life, irrespective of their faith, had gathered at Tikker Kupwara.

The district administration Kupwara had made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatraya also visited the holy temple along with district officers to take stock of arrangements for the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, the District administration had made the adequate arrangements of drinking water, health, transport facilities, and tents for the devotees.

Legal Metrology Deptt organizes two days Seminar at Bemina

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: Legal Metrology Department J&K successfully organised a two days seminar at Legal Metrology Complex Bemina during which the officials of Legal Metrology Department were apprised about the various consumer oriented legislations.

The seminar was inaugurated by Controller LMD J&K, Majid K. A. Drabu who enjoined upon all the officials of LMD to enhance their level of wisdom in view of the changing trends in consumerism. The three day discussions were held on the recent amendments under which the online shopping platforms like Amazon were brought under the ambit of Legal Metrology Act 2009.

It was emphasised that the various e-commerce portals need to disclose the details of the products like complete manufacturing address, Country of Origin, Date of Packing, Customer Care details etc. in pursuance to the recent amendments and the methods for enforcement of such provisions were thoroughly highlighted during the programme. Speaking on the Occasion, Drabu stressed upon the Legal Metrology Officials to enforce the Legal Metrology provisions in letter and spirit and expedite the process of service delivery in a time bound manner.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, field units of the department were specially trained with respect to the model approvals, Government approved test centres, Numeration rules besides the various other provisions.

The speakers, while highlighting the importance of consumer rights, stressed upon the Legal Metrology Officials to apply their judicious mind in the larger interest of Consumers while enforcing the consumer welfare. The speakers also highlighted the newly evolved ways of verification of Weights & Measuring Instruments in order to ensure their accuracy. It is pertinent to mention that the Legal Metrology Department has completely shifted its services through online mode only and the various technical procedure involved in this was simplified by way of this training programme.

2 Day Annual Review Meeting of All India Coordinated Project of Weed Management concludes at SKUAST-Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 28: The 2 day XXX Annual Review Meeting of AICRP Weed Management was organized at SKUAST-Jammu by ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research (DWR), Jabalpur in collaboration with SKUAST-Jammu at SKUAST-Jammu, main Campus, Chatha.

The concluding session of the Review Meeting was graced by Dr. R.K. Samotra, Director Research, SKUAST-J as Chief Guest and Dr. J. S. Mishra, Director, Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur as Guest of Honour.

Eminent expert, Dr. N. N. Angiras, Retd Professor, CSKH-PKV, Palampur, Dr. R. P. Dubey, Incharge- AICRP, DWR, Jabalpur and Dr. B. R. Bazaya, organizing Secretary and PI,



AICRP-WM, SKUAST-Jammu were present on the Dais during the session. The meeting was attended by more than 75 weed scientists from all over the country. Dr. R.K. Samotra, the Chief Guest called for framing a comprehensive weed policy for location specific weeds and their management suiting the needs of line departments and farmers of the region as well as at the national level.

"The weeds cause huge losses in crop yields and cause ill effects on human and animal health. This needs to be managed effectively to save the huge losses. Problems of herbicide resistance need to be addressed on priority nationally as new herbicide development is a lengthy process and takes at least a decade of research for development of new molecules," he suggested. He further maintained that in view of labour

shortage the new technologies like herbicide application through drones needs to be standardized and popularized. Location specific weed management strategies for fields, vegetable crops, and fruit crops need to be devised for different agro-ecosystems and must be popularized for the benefit of farmers.

Dr. J.S. Mishra, Director, DWR, Jabalpur and guest of honour of the occasion briefly

highlighted that the weed seed museum will be established at ICAR-DWR, Jabalpur and he also requested to provide seed of different weed species from the respective weed management centers. He also emphasised on publishing in good impact Journals. He also said about the best centre award adding that there will be no best centre award given by the directorate from this year. Now the centres will be judged on the basis of performance. At the last, he congratulated all centers for the effort and work in weed management.

Eminent expert Dr. N. N. Angiras, Retd. Professor, CSKH-PKV, Palampur highlighted the benefits of long-term experiment on weed management to estimate the herbicide residue in soil.

Athletic event held in Akhnoor under My Youth My Pride campaign

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY: More than 1100 athletes demonstrated their skills in tug-of-war and athletics in men and women open categories under 'My Youth My Pride' event organised in Government Higher Secondary School, Sohal, Akhnoor. Vice Principal of the School, Dilnawaz Khan was the chief guest on the occasion, while Ashok Kumar, Zonal Education Physical Officer was the guest of honour.

The special invitees expressed gratitude to the J&K Sports Council for hosting the activities in the zone to boost the morale of the prospective athletes.

In Junior Boys U-14 (100 mtr), Nitish Kumar stood first, Avinash Kumar (2) and Anil Kumar (3), Senior Boys U-17 (200 mtr), Rahul Singh (1), Vikas Singh (2) and Vishav Pratap Singh (3), Girls U-14 (400 mtr), Sheha Devi (1), Jyoti Devi (2), Sonali Bhagat (3), Girls U-17 (800 mtr), Nancy Devi (1), Sumana Devi (2), Siya Devi (3), Junior Girls U-14 (800 mtr), Jasmeet Kour (1), Roshini (2), Vaneet Kour (3).

In Girls - U-17 (400 mtr), Neeti Devi (1), Priya Devi (2), Sakshi Devi (3), Sub Junior Boys U-14 (400 mtr), Avinash Kumar (1), Shubham Kumar (2), Anil Kumar (3), Mixed Sub Junior, U-10 (100 mtr), Seema (1), Vansh (2), Anjali (3), Junior Girls U-14 (200 mtr), Jasmeet Kour (1), Roshini (2), Vaneet Kour (3), Senior Boys U-19 (1500-mtr), Arun Sharma (1), Manmeet Singh (2) and Nitish Verma (3).

Daryl Mitchell outshines Shaheen Afridi as Lancashire down Notts

LESS-HERALDED OVERSEAS SIGNING KEY TO HOSTS' MATCH-WINNING TOTAL

AGENCY

LONDON: Shaheen Sha Afridi is the glamorous signing who Nottinghamshire hope will sweep them to glory in the Vitality Blast. He still might, but his debut figures were symptomatic of a losing Nottinghamshire night as Lancashire turned in a superbly marshalled display for a third successive victory that they rarely looked likely to relinquish.

As for Daryl Mitchell, well, he's that New Zealand bloke isn't he, decent player, been around a while, highly respected by those in the know, three Test hundreds in a single series in England last summer, even spent a bit of his childhood in Manchester, but despite all that and more still not somebody to set the casual fan's heart racing.

But this was a night that moved to the rhythm of a steady heartbeat, a night not for the superstar, but for the largely unsung professional, or at least as unsung as 95 international appearances can be and a quietly-built reputation as one of the most productive, adaptable players around, able to adjust his game and his role in all formats.

He could be one of the overseas signings of the summer, that Manchester background ensuring that he has settled into



the season with barely a second thought. It's unfashionable to say it, and these days difficult to achieve, but a sense of belonging really helps. Mitchell fashioned Lancashire's progress to 208 for 4 with an unbeaten 85 from 41 balls with six sixes and then accentuated the feeling that they were strong favourites by running out Matthew Montgomery with a fast, flat throw from long-off - the fourth wicket to fall, and leaving Notts 97 short with 50 balls remaining. They never quite got on terms after that.

Mitchell is having a good summer and also made a Championship hundred against Somerset on debut. He was reprieved three times though, the first of them on 7 when he blazed the Surrey loanee, Conor McKerr through Steven

Mullaney's hands at mid-on; the second, a return catch to Mullaney on 32. On both occasions, instead of a reset by carefully scratching his guard, he settled himself with a look-at-me straight six. Three sixes against Afridi - including a startling ramp over fine leg - were later to rival such nonchalance, although he was dropped again on 79 by Lyndon James, rushing in from the cover boundary - Afridi this time the bowler to suffer.

Lancashire's opening stand was worth 56 in 5.3 overs as Phil Salt and Luke Wells made light of the absence through injury of the captain, Keaton Jennings. Salt has possessed adventure from the first time he picked up a bat; Wells, once renowned as one of the dullest Championship openers around,

someone even Eastbourne, his home town, would regard as overly sedate, has reinvented himself.

It took Samit Patel to arrest Lancashire's progress. He is 38 now, and it has to be said his trousers have a bit of an overhang (his full-on Tudor house phase is only a couple of seasons away) but his bowling intelligence should never be underestimated. He doesn't bother much with flight, certainly not on a flat surface like this, but he thinks batters out. When Steven Croft sliced an innocuous delivery to backward point, it was hard to understand why, but when he bowled Salt, sneaking below his attempted pull, he skidded one on with a perfect line.

Liam Livingstone is Lancashire's stand-in captain - Dane Vilas, a stawart for so many years, can't get in the T20 side, largely because of the presence of Mitchell, who fulfills a similar role - and he bore his responsibility gravely, taking 18 over his first 18 balls as Mitchell cut loose. He became Afridi's only wicket of the night, but only after he had peppered the new hotel, which is scheduled to be completed in time for the Ashes Test, with two monumental midwicket sixes, the second of them given a nod of appreciation by a steward in a white crash hat. There was a

time when blows like this would have sailed out of the ground; now they are destined to bash into a shatter-proof window as somebody orders room service.

If Lancashire had begun in domineering fashion, Nottinghamshire replied disastrously as Luke Wood reminded his former county of his talent. He yorped Alex Hales with an exceptional inswinger in his first over: Afridi would have been proud of it and you can't say much better than that. Then in his next over, outdid Joe Clarke with a short ball which was miscued to midwicket.

Colin Munro, in at three, was more of a threat, packing five sixes into his 60 from 29 balls. Lancashire preferred Wells' legspin to Matt Parkinson - Parkinson's career appears to be at a slightly rocky juncture - and the move came off when Munro tried to hit Wells over long-on and skied a top-edge to the wicketkeeper.

Lancashire and Nottinghamshire have won more T20 matches than any other counties - this win, statisticians told, taking Lancashire 138 - 137 ahead. It would be no surprise to find either of them at another Finals Day, but it is Lancashire, beaten finalists last year in that frantic finale against Hampshire, who must be brimming with confidence.

Rayudu to retire from IPL after final against Titans, promises 'no U-turn'



AGENCY

MUMBAI: Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from the IPL. He said in a tweet on Sunday that the IPL 2023 final for Chennai Super Kings against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad will be his last game in the tournament and that he will not be making a "U-turn" on his decision.

Last year, Rayudu had posted a tweet in which he had said IPL 2022 would be his final season in the competition. He, however, deleted it after intervention from the CSK management.

That wasn't his first time Rayudu had taken back a decision about his future in the game. In 2019, he had announced his retirement from all cricket after being snubbed for the 2019 ODI World Cup. But he then returned to domestic and IPL cricket.

Rayudu has been a big part of the CSK set-up, having been with the side since 2018 after playing for Mumbai Indians from 2010 to 2017. This year, he's largely played as an impact substitute for CSK - coming in to bat in the middle order in place of/being substituted by a bowler - on their way to the title clash.

He hasn't had a great season, though, in 11 innings, he has scored 139 runs at a strike rate of 132.38. He scored a nine-ball 17 in tough conditions in the Qualifier 1 in Chennai to help take CSK to the final.

Rayudu is among the top-ten most experienced IPL cricketers, and the second-most successful IPL cricketer, with five titles, with Mumbai Indians and CSK. Only Rohit Sharma (six) has won the IPL more times and Rayudu has the chance to equal the record if CSK win on Sunday. Under Rohit, Rayudu won the 2013, 2015 and 2017 IPL titles with Mumbai Indians and then won the 2018 and 2021 IPL titles with CSK. Rayudu had missed the first two years of the competition because of his association with the Indian Cricket League.

Rayudu is currently on 203 IPL games. He has made 4329 runs with 22 half-centuries and one century, which came against Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2018.

Jaiswal replaces Gaikwad as stand-by player for WTC final

AGENCY

Yashasvi Jaiswal has been included in the India squad for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final as a stand-by player, in place of Rituraj Gaikwad, who is getting married on June 3.

The BCCI had added Gaikwad as a stand-by opener for the WTC final against Australia, but ESPNcricinfo understands that the batter informed the board that he would be able to join the team only after June 5. As Jaiswal holds a UK visa, he will be flying to London in the next few days.

Jaiswal has been in top form in recent times. He scored 625 runs in 14 innings in IPL 2023 for Rajasthan Royals with five fifties and a century.

Jaiswal is yet to make his India debut in any format but has an outstanding first-class record where he has scored 1845 runs in 15 matches, averaging 80.21 in nine hundreds and two fifties.

In the 2022-23 Ranji Trophy, he scored 315 runs in five matches, averaging 45.00, with one fifty and a century.

He followed that season up with 213 and 144 in the Irani Trophy for the Rest of India against Madhya Pradesh. His aggregate of 357 runs in the match was the most for a batter in an Irani Trophy game ever.

F1: Max Verstappen Wins Monaco Grand Prix To Extend Driver's Championship Lead

Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season-best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium in six races, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place and a rare podium for Alpine.



AGENCY

Formula One champion Max Verstappen's lights-to-flag victory win at the Monaco Grand Prix gave the Red Bull driver his fourth victory of the season and extended his championship lead on Sunday. (More Motorsport News)

Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season-best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium in six races, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place and a rare podium for Alpine. For most of the race, Verstappen coasted on a dry and

narrow track where overtaking is the hardest in F1.

But an incident-free race in Monaco is rare and heavy rain played havoc with about 20 of the 78 laps left. Some drivers had pitted for the wrong medium tires shortly before the downpour and slid around. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. glided sideways into the barriers and was lucky not to damage his Ferrari. Kevin Magnussen lost control of his Haas and Lance Stroll retired after damaging his Aston Martin. Red Bull had wisely put Verstappen on the versatile and more suited to the wet conditions

intermediates on Lap 56 and they carried him to his second win in Monaco. The first was in 2021.

Lewis Hamilton finished fourth for Mercedes and picked up a point for fastest lap. His teammate George Russell was fifth, having earlier almost slammed into Sergio Perez's Red Bull as visibility worsened. A serious crash was somehow avoided in a hectic few minutes before the rain eased off.

On Saturday, Verstappen just edged out Alonso to deny the 41-year Spaniard his first pole for 11 years.

Perez, who won the race last year, started from last after a clumsy crash in qualifying and finished 16th.

Verstappen's 39 F1 wins have all been with Red Bull since his first on debut for the team at the Spanish GP in 2016 when he became the youngest F1 winner at 18 years old.

He set a team record for wins as he passed former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel's previous tally of 38 victories for the team when he won four straight titles from 2010-13.

Ligue 1 2022-23: Paris Saint-Germain's Record 11th French Title Comes After Season Full Of Low Points

AGENCY

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's season is ending with celebrations after a record 11th French title, but it's been one of the most fraught and tension-filled campaigns for many years that saw fans turning on the players, including soccer great Lionel Messi, and the club president.

PSG's 1-1 draw at Strasbourg on Saturday secured the trophy with a round to spare and took the Paris club past Saint-Etienne's 10 titles. But perhaps this season will mostly be remembered for the many low points.

"It's not been the best season for PSG," captain Marquinhos said recently.

Coach Christophe Galtier was hired to oversee a new era after bigger-name managers had failed to secure a coveted first Champions League title for the club. Galtier pledged there would be no favors for star players but he ended up falling short in Europe anyway, and even had to fight for his job at the end of a troubled first season. Galtier is not expected to be in charge for a second campaign.

Parc des Princes was once a fortress for PSG but not this season, as it lost three home games in the league.

Players were jeered off the field after home defeats, including back-to-back losses to Rennes and Lyon without even scoring a goal. Even Lorient, a modest side which finished in 10th place, won 3-1 in Paris. Rennes beat PSG home and away, while a 3-1 defeat in Monaco saw players Marquinhos and Neymar arguing with sporting director Luis Campos.

Yorkshire haunted by defeat again as Alex Lees adds to Headingley hurt

AGENCY

LONDON: A badly-publicised switch to a Sunday morning start at 11.30am under slate-grey Headingley skies does not immediately strike you as the future of T20 cricket and it failed to bring any change of fortune for Yorkshire as they succumbed to a comprehensive 28-run defeat against Durham. Still, as various websites also revealed that the game was starting at 3.30pm and 6pm, at least they could console themselves that they would have two more goes to put it right. More on those results later.

Disgruntlement is rife as Yorkshire's winless runs since August 21 in all competitions drags on. When the pressure is on, they look psychologically damaged, their sense of self weakened by the schisms in the county over not just the racism allegations, but the way they were handled. Senior pros wondering what they have let themselves in for; kids wondering when the misery will all end.

About 6000 turned up, the rest presumably in mourning for the possibility of Leeds United's potential relegation from the Premier League a few miles down the road later in the day. Yorkshire look a poorer side in T20 than in the Championship and, in the



Championship, they are bottom of Division Two. The Roses T20 is at Headingley on Thursday and Lancashire will never have been stronger favourites.

Down in Happy Valley, the soap opera runs on pace. Alternative candidates to the return of Colin Graves as chair, a figure associated

with the fallen old regime but the man who could tip Yorkshire into bankruptcy, now include not just a Saudi prince and Indian investors, but apparently no lesser figure than Mike Ashley, the former Newcastle United owner and majority shareholder of Frasers Group, who is worth around £2.5 billion so he

could spare a £20m loan or so to keep the club functioning and have a little dabble in cricket.

Ashley's involvement does not immediately smack of an obsessively progressive future, but as the average progressive appears to have about £80 in the bank, a mortgage, and no spare time, it might be politic not to be too picky about these things. And at least the replica shirts would be discounted.

When you are up against it, the last thing you need is a former player returning to give you a battering, but Yorkshire endured that, too, as Alex Lees' forthright 90 from 53 balls spearheaded Durham's charge to 217 for 3, their highest score against Yorkshire. Lees and Ollie Robinson, who completed affairs with an unbeaten 64 from 30, both registered career-bests in this format. Durham's first T20 win at Headingley since 2012 was a breeze. The north-east renaissance is gaining pace.

Yorkshire had made an ideal start when Matthew Fisher removed Graham Clark for naught with the first legitimate ball of the innings, finding early outswinging to have him caught at the wicket. Clark had made an unbeaten hundred in Durham's 10-wicket trouncing of Northants two days earlier -

Durham's first hundred in this competition for six years - whereas Fisher had suffered a terrible night at Worcester, looking many a mile away from the bowler who won an England Test debut in the Caribbean little more than a year ago. But patterns in T20 can change in an instant and with the ball swinging, for Fisher bowling was a happier undertaking.

But Lees, with that mournful power of his, soon reestablished Durham's superiority. David Wiese curbed Lees' leg-side blows, but was just as readily picked through the off-side. Yorkshire's bowling became ragged and somewhat downcast. Stands of 85 with Michael Jones and 111 with Robinson were built without much threat. Little moments can encapsulate a side's morale. There have been few finer fielders in county cricket than Adam Lyth, but he dropped a challenging catch when Lees was 73, pedalling back at mid-off. Wiese, the unfortunate bowler, followed up with a full toss which Lees duly deposited into the West Stand to secure his best T20 score.

The potential Yorkshire saw when they signed Ben Mike from Leicestershire has yet to come to the fore, although he did dismiss Lees when Jafar Chohan took a fine diving catch at

Rajnath Singh on first-ever defence minister visit to Nigeria; eyes on military ties, market

AGENCY

NEW DELHI, MAY 28: The fact that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's May 28-30 three-day-long visit to the West African country of Nigeria is the first one ever by an Indian defence minister, is replete with significance because of the timing.

Besides the fact that Singh—who is leading a large delegation comprising defence ministry and military officials—is in Nigeria primarily to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu, India is currently pursuing a pro-active 'Africa Outreach' policy that is laden with huge political, economic and military implications.

Just two months ago, India had invited the military chiefs of 25 African nations—including that of Nigeria—to take part in the first-ever India-Africa chiefs conclude that was held in Pune on March 28.

The military chiefs' conclave had followed the India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave that was held on the sidelines of the



DEFEXPO 2020 in Lucknow and the India-Africa defence dialogue in Gandhinagar on the sidelines of DEFEXPO 2022. Nigeria—Africa's largest oil producer—is considered to be among the most important nations on the West African coast. Despite huge hydrocarbon reserves, the oil production lacks consistency in supply because of disruptions due to local pipeline vandalism and oil theft.

Nigeria has also been

holding China's interest in Africa for quite some time. Till 2021, China had invested approximately \$21 billion in the African country mainly in oil-extraction and free trade and export processing zones. China is also the leading contributor to Nigeria's infrastructure including in roads, rail and airports.

A growing Indian influence in Nigeria would serve to counter and circumvent China's 'String of Pearls'

strategy that seeks to establish a network of Chinese military and business establishments from western Africa to the Chinese mainland in the east. For India, another attractive proposition would be the big market Nigeria would provide for export of India-made weapons and other military systems and platforms, given the fact that the Indian defence production capability is growing fast. During 2018-22, Africa was the des-

tinuation for about 5 per cent of the total world weapons imports. The main suppliers were Russia (40 per cent of African imports of major arms), US (16 per cent), China (9.8 per cent) and France (7.6 per cent).

But with Russia embroiled in the ongoing conflict with Ukraine, it is much likely that Russia would encounter difficulties in maintaining assured supply of weapons and military equipment to Nigeria. And that is where India can step in with a foray into the African arms market. What would strengthen already existing bilateral ties is the similar background of being ruled by the British—which means Commonwealth membership, a strong ideological mooring in democratic ideals, playing important roles in the non-aligned movement, and a history of trade relations since ancient times. Nigeria is home to more than 8,00,000 Indian-Nigerians. It is the biggest ethnic minority and mostly descendants of Indians who were taken to Nigeria by the British to build the rail network in Africa.

Politicians and sportspersons condemn police action and detention of protesting wrestlers

NEW DELHI, MAY 28: The dramatic detention of protesting wrestlers by Delhi Police on Sunday was condemned by several politicians and sportspersons who termed the act as "shame on the government".

Top wrestlers, including the likes of Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were detained for violation of law and order after they breached the security cordon while trying to move towards the new Parliament building for a planned women's Mahapanchayat.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed at the protest site at Jantar Mantar as wrestlers and police officers shoved and pushed each other when Vinesh Phogat, her cousin sister Sangeta Phogat and Sakshi Malik tried to breach the barricades.

"I am pained to see this. There has to be a better way to deal with this," the reigning Olympic champion in javelin throw, Neeraj Chopra, wrote in a response to a video Sakshi posted on Twitter.

In the video, Vinesh and Sangeta are being pushed to the ground by police offi-



cial. "Strongly condemn the way Delhi Police manhandled Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers. It's shameful our champions are treated in this manner," West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted.

"Democracy lies in tolerance but autocratic forces thrive on intolerance and quelling of dissent. I demand they be immediately released by police. I stand by our wrestlers."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) termed the police action as "shame on the Govt." "Delhi Police have detained women wrestlers' Medal winning wrestlers bundled into buses and detained for fighting sexual harassment while man accused will be sitting in new parliament building, Shame!"

Vinesh provided a strong resistance against her detention and Sangeta clung on to her cousin sister while lying on the road as the struggle continued for a few dramatic minutes.

The police officials dragged and lifted them into buses along with several other wrestlers and their supporters. The wrestlers were pushed into buses and taken to different unknown locations. The champion wrestlers had resumed their agitation against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23, demanding his arrest for alleged sexual harassment of several women grapplers, including a minor.

ISRO begins countdown for launch of navigation satellite to maintain continuity of India's own satnav



SRIHARIKOTA, MAY 28: Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday at 7.12 am commenced the 7.5 hour countdown for the launch of a navigation satellite on board a GSLV rocket here on May 29.

The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services—an Indian regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, providing accurate and real-time navigation in India and a region extending to 1,500 km around the mainland.

NavIC signals are designed to provide user position accurate to better than 20-metres and timing accuracy better than 50 nanoseconds. The 51.7 metre tall Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, on its 15th

flight, would carry the navigation satellite NVS-01 weighing 2,232 kg on Monday at 10.42 am from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) here, about 130 km from Chennai.

Nearly 20 minutes after the flight, the rocket is scheduled to deploy the satellite in a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) at an altitude of about 251 km, ISRO said.

The NVS-01 carries navigation payloads L1, L5 and S bands and in comparison with the previous one, the second-generation satellite would also carry an indigenous developed rubidium atomic clock.

It is for the first time that an indigenous developed rubidium atomic clock would be used in Monday's launch, ISRO said.

According to the space agency, scientists earlier used imported rubidium atomic clocks to determine date and location. Now, the rubidium atomic clock developed by Ahmedabad-

based Space Applications Centre will be on board. It is an important technology that only a handful of countries possess, it said.

ISRO developed the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system to meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the country, particularly with regard to civil aviation and military requirements. NavIC was earlier known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

"The L1 navigation band is popular for providing position, navigation and timing services for civilian users and for interoperability with other GNSS (global navigation satellite system) signals," ISRO said.

Some of the applications of NavIC include terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation, precision agriculture, location-based services in mobile devices and marine fisheries, among many others.

NavIC is designed with a constellation of seven satellites and a network of ground stations that operate 24x7. NavIC offers two services—Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service for strategic users.

NavIC SPS signals are interoperable with the US global navigation satellite system signals, GPS, Galileo (European Union) and BeiDou, China.

BJP MLA urges Guj govt to bring in stricter laws against food adulteration

AHMEDABAD, MAY 28: Senior BJP MLA and former minister Kishor Kanani has urged the Gujarat government to bring in stricter laws against people involved in preparation and sale of adulterated food.

In a letter to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Kanani, a legislator from Varachha Road seat of Surat, demanded that people caught for food adulteration be booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under section 304 of the Indian Penal Code. The MLA's demand has come close on the heels of the seizure of thousands

of kilograms of adulterated food items, mostly spices, from different parts of the state in recent months.

"Some recent incidents suggest that food adulteration is happening on a large scale. People's health is in danger due to the consumption of such adulterated food items, including cheese, paneer, bread, cooking oils, species and other food items sold by street vendors," Kanani said.

The current legal provisions to penalise offenders are not enough, as they escape with mild punishment, he said. Although authorities collect samples

based on suspicion and send them for forensic analysis, the results arrive after a considerable time, said Kanani, who has served as the minister of state for health. By the time results arrive, the adulterated food is consumed by thousands and it also leads to serious ailments or even death, he said. "I demand that people caught for food adulteration be booked for culpable homicide. Such stricter punishment is needed to create fear among the perpetrators and this is the only way to stop food adulteration," Kanani wrote in the letter dated May 25.

SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during summer rush, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Trains as under:-

04052/04051 New Delhi – Varanasi Jn – New Delhi Reserved Festival Special Express (Weekly)		Train No.: 04051		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
09:45	19:20	NEW DELHI	09:00	18:35
		VARANASI JN		

DAYS OF RUN: 04052 from New Delhi on every Sunday from 04.06.2023 to 24.06.2023 & 04051 from Varanasi Jn. on every Monday from 05.06.2023 to 25.06.2023.
STOPPAGE: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations.
ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy.

04071/04072 New Delhi – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra – New Delhi Gati Shakti Special Express (Weekly)		Train No.: 04072		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
11:25	23:15	NEW DELHI	06:50	18:30
		SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI KATRA		

DAYS OF RUN: 04071 from New Delhi on every Friday from 02.06.2023 to 30.06.2023 & 04072 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Saturday from 03.06.2023 to 01.07.2023.
STOPPAGE: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Udhampur Stations.
ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy.

04075/04076 New Delhi – Udhampur – New Delhi Special Express (Weekly)		Train No.: 04076		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
10:55	23:15	NEW DELHI	06:50	19:00
		UDHAMPUR		

DAYS OF RUN: 04075 from New Delhi on every Thursday from 01.06.2023 to 29.06.2023 & 04076 from Udhampur on every Friday from 02.06.2023 to 30.06.2023.
STOPPAGE: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Udhampur Stations.
ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

04080/04079 New Delhi – Varanasi Jn – New Delhi Reserved Festival Special Express (Tri-Weekly)		Train No.: 04079		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
09:45	19:20	NEW DELHI	09:00	18:35
		VARANASI JN		

DAYS OF RUN: 04080 from New Delhi on every Monday, Friday, Saturday from 03.06.2023 to 30.06.2023 & 04079 from Varanasi Jn. on every Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday from 04.06.2023 to 01.07.2023.
STOPPAGE: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations.
ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

04081/04082 New Delhi – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra – New Delhi Special Express (Weekly)		Train No.: 04082		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
11:25	23:15	NEW DELHI	06:50	18:30
		SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI KATRA		

DAYS OF RUN: 04081 from New Delhi on every Saturday from 03.06.2023 to 24.06.2023 & 04082 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Sunday from 04.06.2023 to 25.06.2023.
STOPPAGE: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Udhampur Stations.
ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTEAS App.

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MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU
e-mail: xenorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 78 of 2023-24

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of major components of damaged Auto Transformer Starter (ATS) of 350 HP Motor unit No. 5 Lohar at CPS Sittler.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing: 26-05-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-05-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-05-2023 (02.00 pm) to 01-06-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 02-06-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC Link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days after last date of receipt of Bid.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his/bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

Mela Kheer Bhawani Celebrated with Religious Fervor, Gaiety at Tullamulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MAY 28: Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits and devotees today visited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple on the auspicious occasion of Jyestha Ashtami here at Tullamulla Ganderbal.

Every year, on this auspicious day, Kheer Bhawani Mela is organized at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple in Tullamulla, Ganderbal and devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir visit the holy shrine here.

Kheer Bhawani is considered to be the deity of Kashmiri Pandits, who have a lot of recognition there. Over the years, the Kheer Bhawani Mela has become a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir.

The religious sanctity of Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, built atop a holy spring,



has a special spiritual significance among Kashmiri Pandit devotees across the world. The Tullamulla area of district Ganderbal witnessed enthusiastic scenes

as a large number of devotees arrived here who paid obeisance and prayed for the entire humanity. Earlier of the day, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the

arrangements and enquired about the facilities being provided to the devotees. Full attention was given to ensure that devotees do not face any issue.

Mostly Kashmiri Pandits were seen performing the rituals of the festival at the temple besides that Muslims were seen greeting pandits and making arrangements.

Pertinently, the District Administration had made necessary arrangements for uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, transport, security, fire tenders, ration, bedding, medical camps, and medical facilities at the temple besides free transport facility was also made for the devotees on various routes.

Several NGOs and civil society had also made arrangements to provide wheelchairs and other aids for the convenience of the devotees during the mela.

Over 550 runners participate in 3rd edition of Patnitop Marathon

J1 NEWS SERVICE



PATNITOP, MAY 28: The third edition of Patnitop Marathon organised here on Sunday witnessed participation of more than 550 enthusiastic runners and fitness lovers who arrived at Patnitop from different parts of the country. Known as India's most beautiful hill race, Patnitop Marathon is an initiative of Iron Man Kapil Arora, an International Tri-Athlete, Ultramarathoner and a Fit India ambassador, supported by Patnitop Development Authority, Directorate of Tourism Jammu, District Administration Ramban, Udhampur and Sky view by Empyrean, Patnitop.

Organised under 'Visit Jammu' event series, the Marathon was held in four categories of the run viz, 21.09 KM, 10 KM, 5 KM and 1 KM. The 1 KM category was introduced this time for the kids. The participants were divided in age groups of 10-14 yrs, 14-18 yrs, 18-35 yrs, 35-45 yrs, 45-55 yrs and 55+ yrs. The Half Marathon (21.09 KM) was flagged off by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, D Vinod Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur, Thakur Sher Singh, CEO PDA and Kapil Arora at 6 AM from Skyview Terrace Patnitop. They too ran along with the participants towards Nathatop, Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu was also present on the occasion to participate in the run.

The participants of the other three categories were flagged off at 6:35, 6:30 and 7:00 AM, respectively. Winding trails, scenic views and cool breeze all through the marathon route made it special for the participants across ages ranging from five to 60+ years, and coming from different states such as Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab. In 21.09 kms category, Akshay Sharma won the award for fastest male runner, and Rimpay Sharma for fastest female runner. In 10 kms category, Raghav Sharma won the award for fastest male runner, and Avny Lavasa, for fastest female runner.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Mega Health Camp held at Chatta Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MAY 28: Health Department Doda organised a mega health check up cum awareness camp at Village Chatta under HWC-Sub Centre Chatta in Medical Block Ghat, the other day.

The camp was held by the BMO Office in collaboration with BPMU NHM Ghat on the directions of Chief Medical Officer.

The camp was organized as a part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Adbbut Doda's initiative of District Administration Doda.

During the camp, more than 350 people were examined and screened for general health checkup, Diabetes, Hypertension under NCD, besides eye screening and TB screening. As many as 115 sputum samples were collected from the patients who were examined free of cost and provided with free medicines by the department.

Giving details about the camp, the officials said the health camps are being organised to connect the general public with health services & to aware them about the schemes of the health department.

The event was conducted by Mashood Latif (BMEO), Zahid Wani (Sr Asstt) and Zeeshan Tramboo (I/c Stores) with the help of staff of HWC-SC Chatta.

Dr Hamid Parry (MO PHC Gundna), Dr Aamir Malik (MO NTPHC Sazan), Dr Tarif Younis (MLHP HWC Chatta), Arshad Latif (Lab Tech PHC Gundna), Raju Kumar (Opth. Tech PHC Ghat), Ishaad Ahmed (STS DTU Doda) besides local PSHAs rendered their services in making the camp successful.

Meanwhile, a health awareness lecture on good health & hygiene was delivered by the experts. The people were also sensitized about the mode of transmission, symptoms and treatment of Tuberculosis.

ADDC B'la Flags Off Devotees to Kheer Bhawani Mela from Veerwan Migrant Colony

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, MAY 28: Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf today flagged off buses from Veerwan Migrant Colony Baramulla with a batch of members of Kashmiri Pandit community for annual Kheer Bhawani 2023.

The annual Mela is being celebrated on Zesht Ashtami at Tullamulla in Ganderbal district.

The yatries will visit the prominent temples in the district and will participate in the Annual Hawan and Mela at Mata Kheerbhawani Temple Tullamulla (Ganderbal).

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional District Development Commissioner said that elaborate arrangements have been put in place for devotees for smooth celebration of Kheer Bhawani. He also greeted the yatrias and wished that the festival users in an era of peace and prosperity in the district. The ADC also highlighted the significance of preserving and promoting the age-old cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the need for safeguarding religious plurality and fostering an environment where all communities can thrive with mutual respect and understanding.

DC Kishtwar holds public grievance redressal camp at village Marwari -Panchayat Karool -B in Block Drabshalla

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, MAY 28: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav accompanied by a team of District and Sectoral Officers conducted a public grievance redressal camp at Marwari panchayat Karool B of Block Drabshalla.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ACD, Sunil Bhatnagar; Tehsildar Kishtwar, Muneeb Umar, Executive Engineer PwD, Rabinder Kumar; Executive Engineer, PHE Sunil Sharma; BDO Trigam Anil Singh; ZEO, Kishtwar Ranbeer Singh; AEE JPDCI, besides other concerned officers.

The camp provided a platform to the local community, including PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions), to express their concerns and project demands related to infrastructure up-gradation and improvement of public services.

The camp began with the Deputy Commissioner giving a patient hearing to the



grievances and demands put forth by the attendees. Conceding the importance of timely redress of demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the people that their genuine concerns would be addressed within a specified timeframe.

To facilitate this process, necessary directions were issued to the respective departments redressal of grievances.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner

visited the Government Middle School Marwari to assess the infrastructure gaps in the educational institution. Acknowledging the need for improvement, Dr. Devansh Yadav instructed the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) to take up the construction of a protection wall and toilet repair under RDD schemes.

Further, the concerned Tehsildar was directed to take steps to repair the access route to school.

Continuing the inspection, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, accompanied by district and sectoral officers, evaluated the progress of various developmental works across different panchayats.

At panchayat Drab, specific instructions were given for the development of a Passenger Shed under the 14th Finance Commission (14FC).

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to the prescribed guidelines in terms of quality and pace of the shed's construction.

Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2023 conducted smoothly in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: The Union Public Services Commission today conducted Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2023 throughout 78 cities across India. For Kashmir based aspirants examination was successfully held at twelve centres in Srinagar.

Government of J&K had Nominated Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri as State Level Observer for Srinagar Centers, while the Assistant Commissioner, Central with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Aadil Fareed was appointed as Coordinating Supervisor for the conduction of Examination.

Besides, the Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir had appointed 12 inspecting officers for the said venues in compliance to the measures undertaken to strengthen the process of conducting the Commission's Examination.

Further, the office of Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar had nominated Mobile Magistrates for each venue.

Pertinently, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir yesterday had held a meeting in connection with ensuring necessary arrangements for smooth conduction of exam which was attended by all Principals, Venue Coordinators, Inspecting Officers and representatives of Police, Security & Traffic respectively.

Following the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the Assistant Commissioner Central, Kashmir visited all the 12 centers on Saturday and took the stock of all the arrangements. The Total Number of candidates which were supposed to attend the examination was 4211, however the examination was only attended by 2430 candidates in 1st session & 2408 no. of candidates in 2nd session respectively, making the present percentage 57.7 %.

DC Budgam visits Shrine Charar-i-Sharief, Regenya Mata Asthapan Temple Badipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE

TAKES STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS, PARTICIPANTS IN MAHA YAGYA

BUDGAM, MAY 28: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today visited the Shrine of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (R/A) at Charar-i-Sharief and Regenya Mata Asthapan temple, Badipora today.

After paying obeisance at the Shrine, the DC took detailed stock of ongoing developmental works.

During inspection of projects,

the DC directed concerned to ensure works related to main park development, children park and pathway development up to Talab be completed within a month's time period.

He instructed concerned to expedite pace of work on other ongoing projects and ensure all facilities are dedicated to the devotees at the earliest.

During the visit, various dele-

gations called upon the DC and raised their demands with him. DC gave them patient hearing and assured them that all their genuine issues shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for early redressal. Meanwhile, joining the Jyestha Ashtami celebrations, the DC also visited Regenya Mata Asthapan Temple Badipora in Chadoora and participated in Maha Yegya with

other Kashmiri pandits present there. The DC was accompanied by SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Gillani and President Municipal Council Chadoora, Syed Fahad.

On the occasion, the DC extended his greetings of Jyestha Ashtami. Taking stock of developmental works, the DC instructed on early completion of path development, spring develop-

ment and speedy construction of terrace development near the Temple.

The DC also instructed on installation of street lights and pathway construction including tile works at the earliest.

He also instructed concerned R&B authorities to ensure patchwork and clearance of potholes on both Charar-i-Sharief and Temple road Chadoora on priority basis.

Maiden All India Women Cricket Championship 2023 Culminates in Sports Stadium Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD ELEVEN LIFTS TITLE BY BEATING SPORTS AND FITNESS HUB DODA BY 11 RUNS

DODA, MAY 28: The 1st all India Women Cricket Championship 2023 organized by the department of physical education and sports Government Degree College culminated the other day.

The tournament was organized under the overall supervision of the College Principal Dr Attar Singh Kotwal and in collaboration with Sports and Fitness Hub Doda here in the Sports Stadium Doda.

Hyderabad Eleven and Sports and Fitness Hub clashed in the final after winning their league matches which were played during the week long tournament at Sports Stadium Doda and Ghat. Bating first, Hyderabad



Eleven scored 44 runs for the loss of one wicket in the stipulated overs when the match was reduced from a 20 over game to 6 over due to wet outfield.

Anita Singh played a brilliant knock of 36 runs

with the help of two sixes and three boundaries. In reply Sports and Fitness Hub were restricted to 33 runs only.

The Principal GMC Doda Dr (Prof) Puja Vimesh was the Chief Guest on the

occasion and Chandan Manhas was the Guest of Honour. Dr (Prof) Attar Singh Kotwal principal GDC Doda presided over the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the guests congratulated all the players in general and the guest teams from UP and Hyderabad in particular for demonstrating great show of discipline, sportsmanship and dedication.

Besides that they urged the girls to come forward to participate in these kinds of sports activities. They appreciated the efforts of Dr (Prof) Attar Singh Kotwal Principal GDC Doda, Mr Bharat Bhusan Director Sports and Fitness Hub, Dr Arjun Singh HOD Physical Education and Sports for providing a platform to girl players to prove their mettle.

In his presidential address Dr (Prof) Attar Singh Kotwal congratulated Sports Committee and

teaching and non teaching faculty members of the college for their meticulous efforts in making this tournament successful.

He further thanked ZPEO Chat Mr Surinder Parihar for his support and cooperation.

He assured that more such activities shall be organized in future to chisel and hone the talent of young boys and girls.

Later, the guests handed over the trophies to the winners and runners up of the tournament.

Besides that the official umpires, scorers, media men, commentators, groundsmen and other volunteers who supported the organisers were also felicitated on the occasion.