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Article 370 was a wall between country and J&K's development: PM Modi in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Stating that the Article 370 was a wall between the country and J&K's development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after scraping the special status, J&K is on the path of everlasting peace and development that had been blocked by the people who remained in power for seven decades.

"Article 370 was a wall between

the country and J&K's development. This wall was removed forever by the BJP government. The families that ruled J&K for 70 years never thought about the people and the youth. They instead worked to keep their parties relevant to grab power again and again," the Prime Minister thundered from the stage at the jam-packed Moulana Azad Stadium in Jammu after inaugurating over 220 projects worth Rs 32000 Crore, as per news agency.

A massive crowd had gathered at the stadium to listen to PM Modi amid rain and chill.

He started his speech with a Dogri couplet of Padma Sachdev "Mitthdi-e- Dogri Di Boli Te Khand Mithi Dogri."

PM Modi said that he was happy to see 70-year-long dynasty rule dying in J&K. "Those who ruled J&K for seven decades never cared about downtrodden people including weaker

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LG thanks people

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday thanked the people of Jammu Kashmir for turning out in large numbers to welcome the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to shower their blessings on him. The PM's historic public rally at MA Stadium was also connected virtually to 285 blocks across the Union Territory.

"I am grateful to my sisters and brothers for turning out in record number in both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions despite inclement weather. Your affection, support and dedication to development is the biggest strength of the Administration. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has ensured holistic development of Jammu Kashmir and under his

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Hartal calendars replaced by University, School calendars in J&K: LG Manoj Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday while showering praises on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that gone are the days when hartal calendars would be issued from the neighbouring country as J&K is following the calendars issued by schools and Universities now.

Addressing the massive crowd at Moulana Azad Stadium Jammu, with PM Modi on the stage, the LG as per news agency, said that J&K is touching new heights under the leadership of PM Modi and gone are the days, when people from the neighbouring



country would issue protest and hartal calendars.

"Today, people including youth and children are following the education calendars of Universities and Schools," the LG said.

He said that post August 5, 2019, terrorism, separatism and injustice has ended forever. "For the first time, West Pakistan

Refugees, PoK displaced people and downtrodden people got their share. Panchayat polls would have been done but there was a reservation pending for the Pahari community. Pahari community people have been given their rights without touching the rights and

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PM Modi captivates audience with fluent Dogri, empathetic gesture

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched people with his fluency in Dogri and attentive listening during his visit to Jammu on Tuesday.

Addressing a massive public gathering after laying the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 32,000 crore, Prime Minister Modi began his 35-minute speech in Dogri.

Starting off, PM Modi said, 'It is a great honor for me to be here in Jammu. I am very happy to see you all here. I will try to do my best for you all. I will try to do my best for you all. I will try to do my best for you all.'



dear sisters and brothers of Jammu and Kashmir, Jai Hind, once again feel very good in this Duggar land. The Dogra people are very friendly, and their language is so sweet. So that's it... The poet of Duggar, Padma Sachdeva, has said - Sweet is the language of Dogras, and the people are much sweeter."

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PM Modi's rally draws massive crowd despite adverse weather

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Despite the relentless downpour and chilly temperatures, the fervour and enthusiasm of the people of Jammu were on full display as they gathered in large numbers at MA Stadium to hear Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak.

The inclement weather failed to deter the spirits of the attendees, who braved the rain and cold to participate in this event. As the clock ticked closer to the scheduled time for PM Modi's address, the roads

leading to MA Stadium were thronged with eager supporters, their voices echoing with chants of 'Modi-Modi'.

As per the news agency, the atmosphere was electric, with anticipation running high among the diverse crowd gathered from various parts of the Jammu division. The turnout was so overwhelming that the stadium quickly reached its maximum capacity, with an estimated crowd of over 20,000 individuals filling the stands.

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Modi Touch: Electric train runs through India's longest 12.7-km T-50 tunnel

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

Marking a significant milestone in Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL), Northern Railways has opened the T-50 tunnel, named India's longest, by running an electric train through it, officials said on Tuesday.

An official told the news agency that the 12.7-km railway tunnel, India's longest for transportation, located between Sumbar and Khari railway stations, was opened as Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the first elec-



trified trains of the Kashmir valley and the newly constructed 48.1-km-long Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan railway section on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) project. "USBRL involves the

construction of a large number of tunnels and bridges in highly rugged and mountainous terrain with the most difficult and complex Himalayan geology. The project entails 38 tunnels with a

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BJP govt will be formed for the third time, Modi will again become PM: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Congress is the progenitor of instability in the country. No one will be able to break the record of toppling Congress governments even 100 years later.

Addressing the second day of the BJP's national convention at Bharat Mandap in Delhi, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah said, "The country has decided that Prime



Minister Narendra Modi will once again be the PM of the country, there is no doubt about it.'

Wherever you go in the world today, people will

ask if you are coming from Modi's India. "In 75 years, this country has seen 17 Lok Sabha elections, 22 governments, and 15 Prime Ministers. Every

government in the country has tried to develop in a timely manner, but it can be said today without any confusion that comprehensive development, development of every sector, and development of every individual has only happened in the 10 years of Narendra Modi."

In his 10-year tenure, Modi has abolished nepotism, casteism, and appeasement and established 'Politics of Performance' within the

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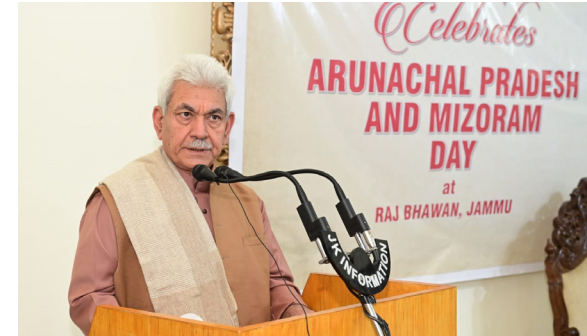
J&K Raj Bhawan celebrates AP and Mizoram Statehood Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan celebrated the Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conveyed his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on the occasion of their Statehood Day.

"I pray for the health, happiness and prosperity of the people and rapid



development of these states," the Lt Governor said.

He said the celebration of the auspicious occasion

will further strengthen the socio-economic and cultural bond shared by Jammu Kashmir with

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4 rescued from flash floods in Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 20

Three construction workers and the driver of a load carrier were rescued after they were trapped in a swollen river in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Tuesday, officials said.

The four people had gone for work on the construction of a bridge over Ujh river near Kathua town but were caught due to the sudden rise of water owing to

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Snow throws normal life out of gear in Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

Normal life comes to standstill on Tuesday after the fresh snowfall across the valley led to the cancellation of nearly two dozen flight operations and also the closure of main roads and highways in Jammu and Kashmir. The weatherman however, has predicted the improvement in weather conditions from Wednesday afternoon.

According to the news agency, the Kashmir valley and some parts of Jammu division continued to experience fresh snowfall including the summer capital of the Union Territory, Srinagar where a snowfall



of 5.5 mm was recorded till 05:30 PM.

A fresh Western Disturbance (WD) started affecting J&K on February 18 and under its influence, many areas received fresh snowfall for the third consecutive day while after receiving rains for two

straight days, Srinagar experienced a fresh snowfall today.

According to the local Meteorological department, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort and Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a snowfall of 28.0 mm today till 05:30 PM while Pahal-

gam received a snowfall of 27.7 mm today.

As per the reports, Sonamarg has recorded a snow depth of 5 ft in the last two days while Gulmarg has recorded a snow depth of 3.5 to 4 feet.

In plains of south Kashmir, snow depth ranged from 3 inches to 9 inches today, reports said.

Flight Operations Cancelled

At least 23 flight operations were cancelled in wake of the fresh snowfall and low visibility in Srinagar.

Director Srinagar International Airport, Javid Anjum said that 11 flights were operated while

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J&K beneficiary of 'Modi Ki Guarantee' of 2013: Dr Jitendra

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today hailed the world's most popular leader, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for inaugurating, dedicating to the nation and laying foundation stone of 220 projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore in a public function at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the projects relate to several sectors including health, education, rail,



road, aviation, petroleum, civic infrastructure, among others and added that this reflects the highest priority Prime Minister accords to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, soon after taking charge as Prime Minister in May, 2014, Shri Modi had flagged off the Mata Vaish-

no Devi Rail Project. The Minister also recalled that immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Modi was confronted with flood situation in the UT, and he not only navigated through the calamity, but also spent his Diwali with the victims of the flood.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiter-

ated that Prime Minister Modi has accorded high priority to the infrastructure development of J&K. He said the establishment of two AIIMS, IIM, IIT and IIMC in the Union Territory is evidence of the huge amount of priority Prime Minister Modi gives to Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the developmental projects under Prime Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said, world's highest rail bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge in the Reasi district of the Jammu, Asia's longest road tunnel, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, also known as Patnitop Tunnel, North India's first River Rejuvenation

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DC inspects snow clearance efforts in various parts of Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 20

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today toured various parts of Budgam and assessed snow clearance operations and supply of essential services across the District.

The DC also visited the District Hospital Budgam, where he took detailed inspection of availability of medicine and patient care.

During inspection at the hospital, the DC took assessment of healthcare facilities and ambulance services for seamless patient care.

He instructed all doctors and paramedics staff to adhere to duty roster in and ensure hassle-free services to patients across all healthcare facilities in the district.

Meanwhile, the DC visited various Budgam



Town areas and took on spot assessment of snow clearance work and assessed the supply of essential services to the general public.

The DC also visited market areas to check availability of essential commodities in the market.

He emphasised on carrying out seamless snow clearance work for prompt connectivity restoration across the district.

Direction for manual snow clearance, repeated

clearance and salt sprinkling on required roads

was also given to the concerned.

The DC said that soon after snowfall started today, prompt snow clearance work was started in all areas for smooth traffic movement across all routes.

He appealed to the general public to contact District Control Room 01951-255291, for any assistance.

He was accompanied by ADC Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Executive Engineers from different engineering wings, Tehsildar, MS DH Budgam and other concerned.

DC Kupwara inspects snow clearance work, availability of civic amenities

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 20

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today toured different areas of Kupwara district to inspect the ongoing snow-clearance operation and assess the arrangements put in place to address challenges arising after heavy snowfall.

The DC inspected Baramulla- Kupwara National Highway at Drugmulla, Nutnussa and Kawari and other areas to evaluate the efforts being made to restore the basic services.

She directed the concerned department to remove the snow from the roads so that the vehicles and pedestrians do not face problems.

During her tour, the DC also visited Migrant Colony Nutnoosa to take stock of essential services being provided there.



She urged all departments to be responsive and put in best efforts to ensure quick restoration of essential services. It is pertinent to mention here that the entire Kupwara district is witnessing heavy snowfall for the last

three days. District headquarters and its adjoining areas have recorded one foot of snow, while higher reaches of Karnah, Keran Lolab, Rajwar, Machal, Budanmal have recorded three to four feet of snow till now.

NHRC Special Monitor visits Vessu, Kashmiri Pandit Colony



J1 NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 20

Rakesh Asthana, IPS (Retd.) Special Monitor of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), today conducted a visit to Vessu, Kashmiri Pandit Colony.

During the visit, the Special Monitor engaged with the colony's inhabitants, attentively listened to their issues and demands. DIG South Kashmir, Altaf Ahmad Khan; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar

Aamir Khan; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal and other officers also attended the event.

The inhabitants of the Colony had a detailed discussion with Shri Asthana about the various issues and matters.

In the meeting the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam briefed the Special Monitor NHRC about the current status of migrant colonies coming up at Mirhama, Chawgam and Vessu.

Div Com Kashmir unveils Wall Calendar-2024 of Sericulture Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri in presence of Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today unveiled the Annual Wall Calendar 2024 of Sericulture Development Department, here.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said that the Sericulture sector being a viable sector of our economy provides livelihood to a sizable population of U.T of J&K.

Lauding the efforts of the department in this regard, he said that the multi-pronged approach is being adopted by the department to disseminate awareness among people of J&K about the various schemes, facilities and activities of the department to leverage the potential of sericulture sector, and publication of the annual wall calendar



is one of the initiatives in this direction taken by the department.

He said that silkworm rearing activities are cost effective with higher returns. He instructed that an aggressive publicity campaign must be launched to aware the people about the benefits of silkworm rearing and every available media be explored for the purpose.

On the occasion, the Div Com further assured the Director Sericulture J&K that vacant Government land will be provided for the development of Mul-

berry nurseries and farms across Kashmir Division.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Sericulture J&K said that the annual wall calendar/ other published shall be a regular annual feature.

He highlighted the importance of undertaking extensive mulberry plantation on the vacant Government lands for raising highly improved mul-

berry reserves for enhancing productivity and readily keeping available mulberry leaf for Silkworm Rearing

across J&K.

On the occasion the Director Sericulture apprised the Div Com about the various initiatives and programmes of the Sericulture Development Department. He further informed him that the Department has kick started 05 days skill upgradation programmes as part of the departmental awareness programmes across J&K.

Development Officer, ISDP, Sonawari and other officers of the department were also present on the occasion.

Distt Admin Kulgam facilitates live streaming of PM's interaction

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 20

The District Administration Kulgam today facilitated live streaming of Prime Minister's interaction programme from Maulana Azad Stadium of Jammu in which Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had live interaction with beneficiaries of different public welfare schemes. In this regard, District Administration Kulgam organized a mega event in the new Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Additional District Development Commissioner, Bashir Ahmad Wani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri; Joint Director Planning, Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mushtaq Ahmad Lone District Officers, beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, Anganwadi/ASHA workers, field functionaries and a large number of people participated in the live interaction programme from the district.

Srinagar Admin Hosts Live Streaming of PM's Interaction with CSS Beneficiaries

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

As part of ongoing 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' (VBSY) and Prime Ministers scheduled interaction with beneficiaries of VBSY to ascertain how the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) have transformed the lives of the people, the District Administration Srinagar today hosted the Live Streaming of PMS interaction at SKICC, here.

Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmad and the Officers of all line Departments participated in the programme.

During the programme, the participants watched the Prime Ministers speech and his live interaction with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) being implemented by Rural Development Department, PM Kisan being implemented by Agriculture Department, Jal Jeevan Mission being implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, National Rural Livelihood Mission being implemented by Rural Development Department, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)/Ayushman Bharat, PM Ujjwala and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) being implemented by the Science and Technology Department.

Police rescues Pregnant women amidst heavy snowfall in Sopore

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SOPORE, FEB 20

In a commendable display of swift action, Police in Sopore rescued a pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall today morning from Zethan to PHC Dangiwa. Sopore Police received a distress call from Shamshad Ahmad Mir resident of Zethan Dangiwa, requesting for urgent rescue and medical evacuation of his pregnant wife who was in critical condition. Due to heavy snowfall from last two days, the road was completely blocked and the movement of vehicle was very difficult. Upon receiving the distress call, a police party led by SHO PS Dangiwa, quickly reached the location. Despite the difficult conditions, including treacherous roads, the rescue team evacuated the pregnant woman in the official vehicle to PHC Dangiwa for immediate medical treatment.

The locals, particularly the family members of the pregnant woman, expressed gratitude and admiration for the prompt response and timely assistance provided by Police during this critical situation.

SARAS mela draws to a close: JKRLM celebrates success, empowering women entrepreneurs

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

The second edition of Saras Aajeevika mela Jammu a celebration of livelihoods, empowerment, and cross-cultural exchange, came to a grand conclusion today at Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu with overwhelming public participation.

The event, organized by the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), showcased the talent and resilience of over 220 rural women from 15 different states, who actively participated in this grand affair.

The Mela was a true celebration of livelihoods and empowerment, highlighting the outstanding craftsmanship in handloom, handicrafts, and culinary arts from various corners of India. Visitors had the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of products, including exquisite handloom textiles, intricate handicrafts, and a delectable array of regional cuisines.

The Mela which began here at the iconic Baghe Bahu on Feb 10 continued till today, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country.



Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib said that Saras Aajeevika mela serves as a platform for women from rural India to exhibit their skills and creativity, providing them with a significant opportunity to showcase their talent and entrepreneurial spirit. The event truly embodies the essence of empowerment and cross-cultural exchange, she asserted.

"It provides a unique avenue for different states

to come together, fostering mutual learning and promoting cultural harmony. The exchange of ideas, techniques, and designs is expected to give rise to innovative collaborations and creative synergies", she added. The MD extended heartfelt gratitude to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, for gracing the occasion with his presence, noting that his support served as a significant boost of encouragement to all participants. She also commended Commissioner Secretary

RDD, Dr Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary for his visionary leadership throughout the event. The collaborative efforts and unwavering commitment towards fostering women empowerment and sustainable development in the community shall go a long way in achieving the desired results, she added.

She also extended sincere gratitude to all the participants, visitors, and various line departments who contributed for making Saras Aajeevika Mela Jammu a grand

success.

Emphasizing the importance of Saras Aajeevika Mela, Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridhu Slathia, said, Saras Aajeevika exemplifies the collective efforts towards promoting women artisans and providing them with opportunities to thrive in a competitive market. By nurturing their talents and facilitating market access, this event instills confidence and economic independence among rural women, contributing to the overall development of the region.

The closing ceremony was attended by Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridhu Slathia, State Project Managers JKRLM, District programme Managers JKRLM, Block Programme Managers JKRLM besides other officers and officials from the line departments.

It is to mention here that the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2.0, was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary on 11 February 2024. This was the second edition of Saras Aajeevika Mela organized in Jammu, where SHG women from across the country showcased their handicraft and handloom products along with regional culinary delights.

GDC Ramgarh conducts cleanliness, plantation drive on College Campus

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 20

The National Service Scheme Unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College Ramgarh conducted cleanliness and plantation drives in the college campus here today as part of 7 day Winter Camp activity.

The drives were conducted under the guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College.

Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the importance of cleanliness and clean surroundings. She said that an institution of higher education must impart the knowledge regarding cleanliness, safe environment, hygiene, extension work, open classrooms, Shramdaan, beautification, awareness campaigns, sports, plantation drives, and the health of stakeholders, to the students in



particular and the society in general through these activities and extension works.

Regarding the plantation drive, she said that tree plantation is not just something that should be done; instead, it is a necessity, the urgent need of the hour. Planting trees is especially important to protect our environment against air pollution and global warming.

Prof. Brahm Dutt Sharma, the NSS Programme Officer, motivated the NSS volunteers to participate in such activities with zeal and enthusi-

asm. He encouraged them to plant more and more trees and plants for environmental conservation and sustainability. He also briefed the volunteers regarding the importance of cleanliness and encouraged them to always keep the surroundings clean. He said that these activities provided a great opportunity for the College to perform its social responsibilities for the society at large.

A large number of NSS volunteers participated in the cleanliness and plantation drives in the premises of the College.

KPDCL geared up amidst heavy snowfall

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam, today said that KPDCLs frontline workers are fully geared up in post-snow restoration works, even as heavy snow has caused disruptions especially in North Kashmir districts and some parts of South Kashmir.

In a statement released to the press today afternoon, the MD said five 33 kV feeders out of 120 are presently under fault, while 76 out of 1118 HT 11 kV feeders are down, in view of heavy snowfall in parts of Electric Divisions Handwara, Baramulla & Kupwara, where damage to power infrastructure due to heavy snowfall has also been reported.

"Five 33 kV feeders under fault have been reported from North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla. Efforts are on to restore the feeders under fault, but the same would require road connectivity especially in those districts where upper reaches have been cut off due to snow," he said, urging consumers residing in these areas to exercise patience.

The statement added that 33 kV Gurez line has been charged partially while as 33 kV tap lines



Keran, Machhil and Tangdar is under fault. Similarly, 33 kV Wanpoh-Qazigund line is also charged

partially. In 11 kV category, 39 out of the 76 feeders are under fault in Baramulla and Kup-

wara Districts, while as 12 in Budgam, 08 in Shopian-Pulwama. 05 feeders each are under fault in Srinagar and Anantnag-Pulwama districts, the statement added.

He further stated that all feeders in capital city Srinagar are operational, along with majority of the 11 kV feeders in other districts like Ganderbal, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Shopian.

MD KPDCL also directed SEs of O&M Circles and Executive Engineers of all Electric & STD Divisions to personally monitor restoration measures following heavy snowfall. He also emphasized upon the Subdivisional Officers to ensure that the field workers take all safety measures by using safety gadgets (PPE) like helmets, gloves, harness belts, and using earthing roads while restoring power supply.

Presently, all Executive Engineers of Sub Transmission Division in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Sopore, Bijbehara are monitoring the status of Receiving Stations across Kashmir Division, the statement added.

MD urged the consumers to follow KPDCL's official media handles to get regular updates about restoration works currently underway. He said the figures will be updated in the evening and shared on its official social media platforms.

Khelo India Winter Games adds glitter to Gulmarg

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

Amidst the snowflakes hitting the slopes without a break, the preparations for the Khelo India Winter Games continued unabated.

As the preparations for the Night Ski demo, which has been a traditional way all through the previous editions to warm up for the games were completed, the program had to be deferred as many athletes could not reach the venue due to the cancellation of several flights hit by bad weather.

Earlier in the day, despite the heavy snowfall the engineering team of CDK Sports Council after an initial assessment of the situation, meticulously planned for the execution of non-stop work to not affect the schedule. Though due to the heavy snowfall, it was difficult for the vehicles to move, the team made a quick decision and prepared a sledge to transport some of the required material to the inaugural venue without wasting any time.

Gulmarg Development Authority on the directions of its CEO Waseem Raja also aided the efforts by pressing snow groomers into the service despite heavy snowfall to facilitate the efforts of workers on the ground.

The administration



also ensured that the roads leading to Gulmarg were cleared of snow and maintained properly for smooth traffic movement.

Meanwhile, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull said that this event opens gates of opportunity not only for our athletes to showcase their talent but also to various stakeholders for whom Gulmarg is a source of livelihood. "What Khelo India Winter Games has done is that it has highlighted Gulmarg as not only one of the best winter sports destinations but also marked it as a much sought after tourist destination and as more and more people reach Gulmarg, the commerce in and around the area will grow manifold,

benefiting the hundreds of households in the ensuing process," Gull said.

The Secretary Sports Council also said that in the era of micro specializations, we are fine-tuning Gulmarg as one of the sought-after snow-related winter sports destinations not only in the country but globally as well.

Nuzhat Gull while speaking to one more media outlet at Highland Slopes where she was supervising the preparedness of the venue for the night ski demo said that the Gulmarg is ready to welcome the athletes and guests.

"The games are also expected to boost the tourism and economy of the region," said one of the

hoteliers while speaking to the desk on the occasion.

The games are set to be inaugurated tomorrow and the events scheduled for the day include a Nordic sprint for women and a 10 kilometres distance race for men to be held at the Gulmarg Golf Course.

The signages and glow boards erected in and around the Gulmarg bowl and the Upper vat have made the Gulmarg colourful and pleasing to the eye said one of the tourists, Ritika Vaidya from Maharashtra.

The live streaming of the Khelo India Winter Games apart from multiple online platforms shall be also aired on DD Sports.

Director Agriculture addresses 08 days skill entrepreneurship development programme on Mushroom Farming

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today addressed the eight days skill entrepreneurship development programme under the theme 'Mushroom farming as an Agribusiness' at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar in collaboration with 10 Bn Sashastra Seema Bal and department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Kashmir.

In his address, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of small scale Agri-cottage industries like Mushroom Cultivation, Bee keeping, etc in the overall development



of the agriculture sector. He said the main aim of organising such programs is to promote such enterprises and to generate a skilled farming community.

Mushroom farming has a potential to generate employment opportunities and the units already established by many educated youth are making success stories out of it, he added.

Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction that many people, mostly educated youth are able to earn their livelihood because of mushroom farming. He said the

mushroom farming forms the potential part of integrated farming and could play an important role in complementing the farmers income. He also said mushroom farming as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation and contribution to rural economic growth.

The programme was also attended by the Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir, Program Coordinator KVK Srinagar, Officers from Agriculture department and a large number of mushroom farmers.

DLSA Kishtwar organises awareness program on World Social Justice Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 20

As per the calendar of Activities issued by J&K State Legal Services Authority for the month of February, 2024, an awareness programme on "World Social Justice Day" was organised here today in ITI Institute Kishtwar under the able guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) and under the supervision of Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (Chief Judicial Magistrate) Kishtwar, Mahmud Anwar Al Nasir

Incharge ITI Irshad Ahmed, Dy. Chief LADC Naveed Khurshid; Assistant LADC. Sanveer Singh; Advocate Suman Bhandari, Panel Lawyers Vinay Kumar Shan and Sandeep Kumar PLVs and students and staff members were also present.

The resource persons



highlighted the significance and importance of World Social Justice Day, observed on 20th of February, every year. The theme for the year 2024 chosen by the United Nation is "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances" to emphasises the importance of collaboration and partnership in addressing the world's challenges.

The Chairman TLSC Kishtwar, who was the

country developed.

The Deputy Chief LADC, while addressing the participants, emphasized on skill development and employability of Persons with disabilities. He referred to Divyangjan Rozgar Scheme under the framework of PM Daksh-DEPWD including Divyang Jan Koshal Vikas and Divyangjan Rozgar Setu, which aim at providing skilled

training and employment opportunities to the PwDs.

The participants were also informed about the digital platform WWW.PMDAKSH.DEPWD.GOV.IN wherein information is available in the digital form regarding the job providers, employers and the skills training in 200 plus skill development programs.

The other resource persons included panel law-

yers and Advocates. The students of ITI also aired their views on the Subject.

The resource persons spoke about the historical perspective and concept of Social Justice and its importance. They highlighted the constitutional and statutory provisions regarding the concept of Social Justice and also listed the various Governmental Schemes for the welfare of the public so as to achieve the Social Justice and equality.

The idea behind celebrating the day is to foster and achieve the goal of social justice through suitably designed national and international policies as social development and social justice are indispensable for achieving and maintaining peace and security within and among nations.

At the end of the event, prizes were presented to the students who spoke on the topic.

GDC Vijaypur conducts Selfie-Taking Campaign to promote Voting Rights

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, FEBRUARY 20

In continuation to the sequel of events being organized under the banner of Voter Awareness Campaign" NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a selfie-taking campaign with the aim to aware the staff and students that right to vote is a fundamental right in any democratic society. The event was organised under the guidance of the College Principal Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta and coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator NSS) and co-coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO). Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology), Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce), Prof. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr.



Radhika Rasyal, Prof. Mohd. Wani, Dr. Tisha Renuka Kundan, Dr. Singh also attended the event. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Jan

Commissioner directs concerned wings of SMC to remain vigilant for Dewatering & Snow Clearance operations

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed today passed clear-cut directions to all concerned wings of SMC to remain vigilant and proactive in undertaking the dewatering and snow clearance operations in the Srinagar city.

In light of the weather conditions, the Commissioner emphasized the critical need for efficient dewatering measures to prevent water logging and smooth discharge of Storm water ensuring low level in all sumps of permanent Dewatering Stations for the better pedestrian and vehicular movement in the city. Furthermore, the Commissioner stressed for timely and effective measures to clear snow from



roads, lanes/ bylanes, sidewalks, walkways and all vital establishments viz. Hospitals, Religious places, Ration Depots etc. for the convenience and safety of the citizens.

The directions passed by the Commissioner underscore the significance of the SMC operations and prompt action to mitigate any potential challenges posed by adverse weather conditions. The Commis-

sioner SMC appealed to residents of Srinagar for their cooperation and support in view of ongoing Dewatering and Snow Clearance Operations in the Srinagar City.

Meanwhile, if any issue related to dewatering and snow clearance arises, people may report to SMC's 24x7 Control Room on the following numbers: 0194-2474499 18001807038 0194-2470465.

DC Bandipora chairs DLIC meeting of HADP



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 20

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was today held at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman approved 356 cases of agriculture and allied sectors.

The approved cases included 121 of agriculture, 184 cases of animal husbandry, and 51 cases of Sericulture sectors.

The DC, on the occasion, asked the concerned departments to focus on unemployed youth and check all the necessary eligibility criteria before forwarding the cases to higher-ups.

He also directed the concerned departments to complete the targets within the stipulated time.

The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Javid Ahmad Samoon; Chief Horticulture Officer, Farooq Ahmad; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Gh Ahmad Lone; Assistant Director Fisheries and other concerned.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Article 370 was a...

sections of the society," he said. He said that there was a movie coming on Article 370. "This movie will help make people aware about certain important facts about Article 370," he said. The PM said that J&K was no longer in news for guns, bombs and separatism. "Education, Connectivity and development has replaced this all. Youth of J&K don't need to go out of J&K for professional courses as Kashmir and Jammu regions are emerging as the educational hubs," he said. "Far from hartals and bandhs, youth of J&K are scripting their own future."

He said after removal of Article 370, he has asked people of the country to give BJP 370 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and over 400 seats to NDA. "Today's huge response of the people of Jammu is a real morale booster for every citizen of the country," he said. "I am told that people are watching my speech in 280 blocks on the big screen as well."

As per KNO, PM said that during his foreign trip to gulf countries recently, he was told that J&K's hospitality and mesmerising atmosphere was awesome. "This has happened after the successful G-20 presidency and meetings in the country and Srinagar," he said.

PM Modi said his last year 2 crore tourists visited J&K which created livelihood opportunities for many. "I assure you as far as infrastructure, people would forget Switzerland and prefer J&K as infrastructure is going to get a big boost," he said.

He said that in the last 11 years, India has become the world's 5th largest economy and in the next five years, "we will be the world's 3rd largest economy."

PM Modi said that post Article 370 revocation, weaker sections of the society, Valmikis, Safai Karam Charis, Paharis, Kohli's, STs, got their due share. There will be due representation of women in Assembly and Panchayats as well," he said.

He said "Modi's guarantee's final and is the guarantee that every one's dreams will be fulfilled".

He said that 10 years ago, there was no concept of the development that J&K had achieved. "There are two IITs, two AIIMS, one of which has been inaugurated by me today in Jammu," he said, adding that this is the Modi guarantee and this guarantee is for the lifetime.

"The number of Medical colleges has been taken up from 4 to 12. There are 650 PG Medical seats today besides 45 nursing and para medical colleges," he said. Training his guns at the Congress, the PM Modi said that the party ignored the demand of soldiers about "one rank one salary." Earlier, PM Modi spoke to the beneficiaries of various schemes including Ayushman Bharat, Jan Jewan, Sehat Scheme and sought their feedback. KNO

LG thanks...

leadership Jammu Kashmir will attain greater heights of development in the future," the Lt Governor said. Prime Minister during the public rally at MA Stadium, Jammu, today inaugurated and laid foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore. KNO

Hartal calendars...

reservation of Gujjar and Bakerwal community," he said as per KNO. The LG said that Panchayat elections will be held in time and efforts are afoot in that direction. "Today with the active support of PM Modi, J&K is on the path of peace and development. There is 75 per cent decline in the terrorism related incidents, stone pelting is a history, local terrorist recruitment is at an all-time low. Nightlife has returned to Kashmir and Cinemas are functional. People are spending time late at night on Jehlum river fronts and time is not far when people of Jammu will spend time on the River Tawi," the LG said. Speaking on the occasion, MoS in the PMO Dr Jitendra Singh said that it was due to PM Modi's efforts, 70 years of injustice ended in J&K. "Every section of society, be that Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis, Valmikis and KPs are living a dignified life," he said. "Today, we have the world's highest rail bridge over Chenab and Asia's longest tunnel on the highway. Modi hai to mumkin hai..." KNO

PM Modi captivates...

"Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai". During his address, the Prime Minister noticed a man carrying a child on his shoulder in the crowd seeking attention. He briefly paused his speech and appealed to the man not to expose his baby girl to the cold weather. "Don't trouble that girl, brother. She is a very small doll. If she were here (on the stage), then I would have blessed her a lot, but don't trouble that girl in this cold weather," the Prime Minister urged. The Prime Minister made a special mention of the recent reservation granted to the Pahari Community, Valmiki community, and OBCs.

He said, "Be it our refugee families, Valmiki community, or sanitation workers, they have been granted democratic rights. The years-old demand of the Valmiki community to get the benefit of the SC category has been fulfilled. 'Paddari tribe', 'Pahari ethnic group', 'Gadda Brahmin', and 'Koli' communities have been included in the Scheduled Tribes. Seats have been reserved in the Assembly for Scheduled Tribes. Reservation has been given to OBCs in Panchayats, Municipalities, and Municipal Corporations. This mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas is the foundation of a developed Jammu and Kashmir."

Earlier, the Prime Minister interacted with beneficiaries of various government schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu' program. Veena Devi from Padder-Kishtwar district informed the Prime Minister that she has availed the benefits of the Ujjwala Yojana, which has improved her life and allowed her to prioritize time for herself and her family. Kirti Sharma of Basholi Kathua, a beneficiary of the Rashtriya Ajivika Abhiyan, highlighted the benefits of being attached to a Self-Help Group and promised to assist the PM in creating Lakhpati Didi. Laal Mohammad, a farmer from Poonch, thanked the Prime Minister for the aid under the M Awaz Yojna, which helped him build a pucca home where he now

resides. He also recited a couplet on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' in appreciation of the Prime Minister.

Shaheena Begum from Bandipora, a self-help group member, informed the Prime Minister about her struggles with unemployment despite holding a post-graduation in Sociology. She also mentioned her brand name during the conversation, which both the Prime Minister and Jammu and Kashmir's LG appreciated, recognizing her entrepreneurial skills.

Riyaz Ahmed Koli of Pulwama, a beneficiary of the Jal Jeevan Mission, informed the Prime Minister that every house in his village now has piped water, resulting in a significant transformation of life for his family. He also conveyed the blessings of the women in the villages to the Prime Minister. After the abrogation of Article 370, he attained property rights to his land. He and other members of the tribal community greatly benefited from that. The Prime Minister, recalling his days as a political worker, praised the hospitality of the Gujjar community. KNO

PM Modi's rally...

The authorities, in response to the situation, swiftly directed the overflow of attendees to alternative viewing areas at the campuses of Jammu University and Gulshan Ground. Large LED screens were installed at strategic locations in the university campus and Gulshan Ground, allowing those unable to secure seats in the stadium to watch the proceedings live. From distant districts to nearby towns, individuals from all walks of life converged at the venue, eager to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister and hear him speak. Over 500 vehicles, including buses and matadors, arrived from various parts of Jammu district alone.

As PM Modi took to the stage amidst thunderous applause, the crowd erupted with cheers, eagerly hanging on to his every word. KNO

Modi Touch: Electric...

combined length of 119 km and 927 bridges with a combined length of 13 km," the official said. The official stated that the electrification of the Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section of the USBRL project, spanning 185.66 kilometres, has been completed at the cost of Rs 470 crore, covering 19 stations.

"The electric train comprises eight coaches, each equipped with a wide range of amenities, including automatic doors, CCTV cameras, air-conditioning units, charging points, and station screens," he said, adding that the 48 km Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section, was constructed at a cost of Rs 15,863 crore.

Rajesh Khare, Senior PRO of Northern Railway, said, "Most of the 48 km section consists of tunnels, about 90% of it. The longest tunnel is 12.77 km. We have electrified the section, so trains will now run on electric power." KNO

BJP govt will be...

country. He has worked to remove the symbols of slavery from the country. Shah, the Chanakya of Indian politics, said that these actions should have been taken immediately after independence. However, Congress never tried to do so.

"Just as the Pandavas and Kauravas were divided in two camps in the past. Similarly, today there are two camps. On one side is the NDA coalition under the leadership of Modi, and on the other side is the arrogant coalition of all family-based parties under the leadership of Congress. This arrogant coalition is the supporter of corruption, nepotism, and appeasement politics, while the BJP and NDA coalition are based on the principle of 'Nation First.' The foundation of our coalition is 'Nation First.' On the other hand, there are parties that are concerned about their own families."

Just as the Congress party committed many scams, similarly, today the Aam Aadmi Party is also escaping from the court after committing scams like the liquor scam and the Mohalla Clinic scam. There has been a Mahadev scam in Chhattisgarh, Lalu Ji is convicted, the entire I.N.D.I Alliance is tainted with corruption. The people of the country must decide whether to give a mandate to Modi or to the I.N.D.I Alliance.

In addition, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Modi is working for the poor of the country, while parties in the I.N.D.I Alliance are concerned about their own families. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the country with the goal of a great India, but what is the purpose of the I.N.D.I Alliance in politics?"

"Sonia Gandhi's goal is to make Rahul Gandhi the PM, Pawar Sahab's goal is to make his daughter the CM. Mamata Banerjee's goal is to make her nephew the CM. Whereas Stalin, Lalu Yadav, Uddhav Thackeray also aim to make their sons the CM. Mulayam Singh Yadav has already made his son the CM. The goal of all these is only to gain power. Will these parties ever think about the welfare of the poor? Never."

J&K Raj Bhawan...

the North Eastern states. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are the symbol of India's rich cultural heritage. The glorious legacy of literature, folk, art, festivals, sports, handicrafts of both the States is the reflection of the unity in diversity of this great nation, the Lt Governor observed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has removed the development gaps and connected the aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram with the aspirations of the nation, he said.

The Lt Governor also paid homage to the great personalities of the Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. I am confident that the younger generation will play an important role in realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Lt Governor further added.

Security forces Personnel and students from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram living in J&K were the special invitees. KNO

4 rescued from...

heavy overnight rains, the officials said. A joint team of the State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF) and the police rushed to the scene and successfully rescued the trapped persons after several hours of hectic efforts, they said.

Snow throws normal...

23 were cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. The flight operation has been completely suspended now, he said.

MAJOR ROADS CLOSED

Due to the fresh wet spell, the major roads and highways including Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road and others continued to remain closed for vehicular movement.

The officials had said that heavy rains triggered landslides and shooting stones along NH-44. The landslides blocked the road at Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria, Ramban, Chamliwas and Gangro while the shooting stones occurred at T2, Jaiswal bridge, Gangro, Marog and other places along NH-44 on Monday.

"Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) is still blocked due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at several places. People are advised to avoid journey on NH-44 till the weather improves and the road is clear," the officials said.

TRAIN SERVICES

At least six train services were cancelled today due to the inclement weather conditions.

Officials in the Railway told KNO that six trains were cancelled today while many others got delayed due to bad weather conditions.

EXAMS POSTPONED

In wake of the prevailing weather conditions, the authorities in the University of Kashmir postponed all examinations scheduled for tomorrow.

"It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates that due to inclement weather conditions, all examinations of University of Kashmir which are scheduled to be held on 21st of February 2024 stand postponed. Fresh dates shall be issued soon," KU officials said.

Authorities in Islamia College have also postponed the examinations scheduled for tomorrow

"In continuation to this office notification No/ICS/Exam: 563/D2-20 dated 06.02.2023 the examination of UG 6th Semester (batch 2020 backlog) scheduled on 21.02.2024 (Wednesday) is postponed and shall now be held on 24.02.2024 (Saturday)," the official handout said.

Besides, all the internal/practical/Continuous assessment examination scheduled on 21.02.2024 stands postponed. Fresh dates shall be communicated to the students by the respective departments, it added.

FORECAST

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon and late afternoon tomorrow. There will be gradual improvement thereafter following which no significant weather activity is expected till February 27, he said.

About Jammu division, he said on February 21, intermittent light to moderate snow and rain is expected over many places till late afternoon, evening and gradual improvement thereafter following which no significant weather activity till February 27.

ADVISORY

In view of heavy to very heavy snowfall over few middle & higher reaches during the last 2 days, the travelers and tourists are advised to follow administration and traffic police advisory.

"General public over hilly areas are advised not to venture in Avalanche prone areas & sloppy areas," the local MeT said.

AVALANCHE WARNING

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) has issued an avalanche warning for 10 districts, saying that low danger level avalanches are likely to occur above 2200 metres over Anantnag & Kulgam districts in the next 24 hours.

Avalanche with Medium danger level is likely to occur above 2400 metres over Bandipora & Baramulla districts in next 24 hours.

Further, Avalanche with HIGH Danger Level is likely to occur above 2000 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Kupwara & Ganderbal districts in next 24 hours.

People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

HELPLINE NUMBER ESTABLISHED

Jammu and Kashmir Police established multiple helpline numbers in the Valley in wake of the fresh snowfall.

Officials said that Police established helpline numbers in Kulgam, Ganderbal and Awantipora. KNO

J&K beneficiary...

Project Devika, North India's first Bio-tech Park and the Aroma Mission, which triggered the gainful Agri-Start-ups are example of Prime Minister Modi's Vision and affection for the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the Shahpur Kandi Project which had been stalled for several decades and it was the personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which enabled this anomaly to be corrected and the Indus Waters Treaty which was signed by the then Prime Minister in 1960 has been truly followed in letter and spirit only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, as the major part of India's share of water from river Ravi was flowing into Pakistan.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, social justice was also accorded the highest priority by Modi Government and all sections of society like Gujjar-Bakarwal, Pahadis, women, Kashmiri Pandits all got their due rights.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the abrogation of Article 370 proved that "Modi Hai Toh MumKin Hai". Similarly,

ABRSM J&K demands extension of winter vacations for teachers of winter Zones of Jammu Division

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh J&K has urged from Director School Education Jammu Sh Ashok Kumar Sharma for extension of the winter vacations in the winter Zones of Jammu division due to the inclement weather.

Pertinent to mention that all the Schools of winter Zones are supposed to reopen for Teachers on 21-02-2024, however for the students the schools are likely to reopen on 01-03-2024 but from last two days it has been heavily snowing in upper reaches of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban besides the extreme to moderate rainfalls in the districts of plain areas.

So keeping in view the inclement weather conditions ABRSM State President, Sh Rattan Sharma has sought feedback from several District/Zonal units of ABRSM particularly in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban and a common suggestion to extend the vacations till the weather is absolutely normal as a precautionary measure has been adopted and the same has been conveyed to DSE Jammu so as to get an official communication in this regard.

Moreover, ABRSM has further made it very clear that the Schools shall reopen for the students on the due date as per the already shared schedule i.e on 01-03-2024. This request is purely a precautionary measure to avoid any kind of mishappening.

Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to IIT Jagti, Nagrota will remain affected on February 21 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Satwari, Belicharana, Nai Basti, JIC, Part of Ashok Nagar, Part of Shastri Nagar, M.H, Jawahar Nagar, Industry Estate Digiana, Jeevan Nagar, Babliana, Raina Colony, Parts of Gangyal, Military Hospital, Military Cantt., Narwal, Ashok Nagar, Shastri Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Part of Talab Tillo, Kabir Colony, Basant Vihar, Manorma Vihar, Hazuri Bagh, Col. Colony, Poonch House, Priya-Drashani Lane, Top Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Patoli, Shiv Nagar, Subash Nagar Govt. Quarter Sarwal, Shanti Nagar, Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Police rescues Pregnant women amidst heavy snowfall in Sopore

J I NEWS SERVICE
SOPORE, FEB 20

In a commendable display of swift action, Police in Sopore rescued a pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall today morning from Zethan to PHC Dangiawacha.

Sopore Police received a distress call from Shamsad Ahmad Mir resident of Zethan Dangiawacha, requesting for urgent rescue and medical evacuation of his pregnant wife who was in critical condition. Due to heavy snowfall from last two days, the road was completely blocked and the movement of vehicle was very difficult.

Upon receiving the distress call, a police party led by SHO PS Dangiawacha, quickly reached the location. Despite the difficult conditions, including treacherous roads, the rescue team evacuated the pregnant woman in the official vehicle to PHC Dangiawacha for immediate medical treatment.

The locals, particularly the family members of the pregnant woman, expressed gratitude and admiration for the prompt response and timely assistance provided by Police during this critical situation.

Aryans Group of Colleges to organize JK job Fest on 22nd Feb

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, 20TH FEBRUARY

Giving golden opportunity to the job aspirants of Jammu & Kashmir, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh is going to conduct a recruitment drive at two locations to be held on 22nd February in Adams apple, opposite Hotel Sheeza Abi Guzar, Central Market Lane, Lal Chowk Srinagar & Govt. Woman College, Anantnag. The aspiring freshers/ experienced can visit Aryans Website i.e. www.aryans.edu.in or send their CVs on careers@aryans.edu.in for Registration.

after a wait of 500 years, people got a chance to visit Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. The Minister reiterated that "Modi's Guarantee is pure Guarantee".

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in December, 2013, in a Public Rally at the same Maulana Azad Stadium, Shri Narendra Modi promised to open the doors of higher education to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and the dream has been realized under his rule since May, 2014.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the "Sankalp se Siddhi" and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, a Vikshit Jammu and Kashmir all are equal partners and when the country will celebrate the 100 years of its Independence in 2047, Prime Minister Modi's vision of the Jammu and Kashmir will shine like a crown in Bharat Mata's head.

Sarbananda Sonowal launches major projects for devp of waterways, unveils projects worth Rs 308 crs for North East India

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched major push for the development of waterways with unveiling projects worth of Rs 308 crores for North East region here today. The event was simultaneously held at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh, Badarpur in Karimganj, IWAI port in Dhubri as well as Sonamura in Tripura.

The Union Minister was joined by the Minister of Transport, Fisheries & Excise, Assam, Parimal Suklabaidya; the Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Information Technology, Assam, Keshab Mahanta; the MP (Lok Sabha) for Guwahati, Queen Oja while the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour Employment, Govt of India, Rameshwar Teli joined in the programme from Dibrugarh. In Sonamura, the event was attended by the Minister of Transport, Tourism, & Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Tripura, Sushanta Chowdhury among other dignitaries. At Pandu, the event was also graced by the MLA of Guwahati East, Siddhartha Bhattachayya, the Mayor of Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), Mrigen Sarania; the Deputy Mayor of Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), Smita Roy, the Chairman, IWAI, Vijay Kumar; the Vice Chairman of IWAI, Sunil Kumar Singh, along with prominent social worker Tapan Das among other dignitaries. In Dibrugarh, the event was also graced by the Chairman, All Assam Industrial Corporation (AIC), Dibrugarh, Prasanta Phukan; the MLA of Moran, Chakradhar Gogoi as well as the MLA of Chabua, Ponakan Baruah.

inaugurated Passenger-cum-Cargo terminal at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh, Inland Water Transport Terminal at Sonamura in Tripura and upgraded terminals at Karimganj & Badarpur in Assam here today. This terminal will play a pivotal role in rejuvenating IWT in the region for both cargo and passenger movement, paving the way for growth of trade & commerce.

The Ports, Shipping & Waterways Minister also laid foundation stones for construction of Custom Immigration Office in Dhubri as well as construction of the compound wall for IWAI Jogighopa terminal. The newly inaugurated Bogibeel terminal is being built with an investment of nearly Rs 50 crores. This project includes cargo & passenger berths, approach & other internal roads, transit shed, open storage area, truck parking area, passenger waiting area. It will also lead to increase in eco-tourism as well as improve the economies of scale for existing major trade like tea, polymer, coal, fertiliser among others. The length of this terminal will be extended to 100 metres and the construction will start immediately. An integrated officer for Immigration, Customs & IWAI at Bogibeel is also being constructed at a cost of Rs 18 Crores. A project for bank protection and Extension of jetty at Bogibeel Terminal at a cost of Rs 12 Cr would also be initiated immediately.

The IWT terminal at Sonamura is developed with an investment of Rs 6.91 crores. The upgraded terminals at Karimganj and Badarpur was completed with an investment of Rs 6.40 crores. The IWT Terminal at Sonamura has the potential to attract transboundary trade including commodities like bagged cement, horticulture, consumer products and other local goods transported



via road between India and Bangladesh. This jetty is also being developed as a multi-purpose jetty to support movement of passengers on ferries between the two countries. The renovated and upgraded terminals at Karimganj and Badarpur will further ease and increase the export activities & commodities. The projects have major influence in districts of Cachar, Karimganj & Hailakandi in Assam and adjoining states of Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya due to the presence of cement industry, stone crushers, coal deposits, food processing units, tea estates, etc. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, our rich and complex web of waterways are being developed with major projects launched here today. Modi Ki Guarantee is powering the waterways of the North East towards Viksit Bharat. The terminals at Bogibeel will act as a catalyst of economic development for the region, further amplifying trade opportunities for upper Assam as well as Arunachal Pradesh. The Sonamura terminal in Tripura will further transboundary trade between India and Bangladesh. The Karimganj and Badarpur terminals will also power trade opportunities. All

these projects will go a long way towards realising the vision of Narendra Modi ji towards the North east acting as the powerhouse of India's growth towards becoming Viksit Bharat."

The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also laid foundation stones for construction of Customs Immigration Office in Dhubri with an investment of Rs 7.5 crores. The construction of boundary wall will also start at Jogighopa terminal in Goalpara, Assam. The wall for IWAI Jogighopa terminal, which is being built at a cost of Rs 18 Crore, will secure the terminal. 6 Tourist jetties in NER at a cost of Rs 8.45 Cr. at Jogighopa, Teipur, Bishwanathghat, Neamati, Sadiya, Bindakota would also be constructed. Three of these has already been provided and rest of the three will be provided soon. This project is introduced to upgrade the existing infrastructure along NW-2 and recognising the huge potential for cargo, passenger transportation, riverine tourism.

Two Electric Catamarans at Guwahati will be deployed in Guwahati by August, 2024. The Electric Catamarans, developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited at a cost of Rs 36 Crores, will enhance communication facilities for the people of Guwahati. The 50 pax Electric Hybrid Catamaran will be used

for cross river ferry and pilgrim tourism at Guwahati. It will improve the economies of scale for existing major trade like coal, stone chips, polymer, fertiliser etc through waterways and also encourage employment & economic growth. 19 passenger vessels for NW-2 & NW-16 would be provided and two Pontoon Terminals on NW-2 would be constructed at a cost of Rs 25 crores.

Announcing new major initiatives for the development of waterways in the region, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal, said, "It gives me immense pleasure to share with all of you that we have decided to deploy 6 tourist jetties on the National Waterways 2; i.e. River Brahmaputra. We have also decided to deploy 2 Electric Hybrid Catamaran at Guwahati which will ease passenger to commute between the two banks along Brahmaputra. Towards achieving Modiji's vision of a powerful North East region, I am happy to share that Dredging Corporation of India will commence dredging operations in the North East region. These initiatives will power our waterways towards transforming North East to become the powerhouse of India's growth story towards becoming a Viksit Bharat, a vision of Narendra Modiji. These trans-

formative projects, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, will mark a new era of connectivity and prosperity for the North-east region, furthering the 'Act East' policy of Modi government. These initiatives reflect Modiji's unwavering commitment to drive inclusive growth and development in the region, delivering on the vision of Modi ji 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'."

The tourist jetties will enhance the existing infrastructure along Brahmaputra (NW2) further bolstering the promising tourism industry of the state. These jetties are being built an investment of Rs 8.45 crores. The Electric Hybrid Catamarans, which are being deployed in Guwahati with an investment of Rs 36 crores, will introduce Green energy in inland waterways. The Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), India's premier institution dedicated towards dredging operations, will commence operations on rivers Brahmaputra (NW 2) and Barak (NW 16). The dredging operations in NER in the Dhubri-Jogighopa stretch of NW-2, Dhubri-Hatsingimari, North Guwahati-South Guwahati, Neamati-Kamlabari and Lakhimpur-Bhanga on NW-16 will be done at a cost of Rs 124 crores. This project will help maintain constant and adequate draft and help seamless movement of cargo and passengers in the National Waterways of North-East.

Elaborating the scope of work proposed to be done for furthering the strength of waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Our Cabinet under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister recently approved the signing of the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation. This Agreement in the spirit of our Neighborhood First

Policy will herald seamless movement of water-borne cargo amongst the seven BIMSTEC countries. This Agreement will result in enhanced trade and commerce, reduced logistic costs as a result of removal of administrative and procedural delays, increase in manufacturing and enhanced employment opportunities. We have also adopted a Roadmap for River Cruise Tourism for developing multiple other routes for cruise tourism on other National Waterways. Rs 45,000 Crores would be spent for development of River Cruise Tourism in the coming years. This shows the immense potential that rests in the 20,000 kilometers long and vibrant inland waterways of our country. IWT sector is also witnessing environment friendly green initiatives viz. development of electric catamarans, Hydrogen Powered Catamaran Pax Vessels etc. The initial target is to support transition of 1,000 Vessels, ferries and boats over the next 10 years and eventually achieving the target of all Green Vessels by 2047. This stand as a resounding testament to the critical role of these waterways in propelling economic growth and prosperity. There has been a 700% increase in operational national waterways, from only 3 in 2014 to 24 Operational National Waterways today, a phenomenal rise of 56% in multimodal terminals and a 200% increase in investments in National Waterways. The IWT sector is experiencing an unprecedented surge in terms of trade and transport since 2014. During the last 10 years under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we have made remarkable efforts to develop and explore the full potential of our 20,000 kilometers long Inland Waterways

sector." The strategic significance is underscored by a substantial investment of over Rs 1,000 crore in the past couple of years dedicated to advancement of these waterways in the North-East. Projects such as Comprehensive development of NW-2, Ship repair facility at Pandu (Rs 208 Cr.), last mile connectivity to Pandu port through alternative road from Pandu Port to NH-27 (Rs 180 Cr.) are some of the projects that are already underway. IWAI has endeavoured to develop NW-1, passing through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, as a reliable cargo logistics route under Rs 5,000 crores under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). From 2013-14 onwards, the cargo movement has increased in the last decade from a mere 6.89 Million Ton in 2014 to 126.15 Million tonnes in 2022-23, showing a mammoth growth of 1,700%.

Under the Sagarmala program, aimed at the development of the North-Eastern states, projects exceeding Rs 1,000 crores have been initiated, with a particular focus on enhancing inland waterways in Assam, where projects exceeding Rs 760 crores are underway. The Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) prioritizes the expansion of port infrastructure, including the development of six mega ports with capacities exceeding 300 and 500 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Additionally, MoPSW aims to boost the share of Inland Water Transport (IWT) to 5% by 2030 as part of the Maritime India Vision (MIV), signaling a comprehensive effort towards fostering maritime sector growth and connectivity enhancement.

People of Joura Kalan Pyt appeal Modi, Dr. Jatinder, LG JKUT to resume work on Suringa Morh-Jai link road

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Sarpanch Panchyat Joura Kalan, Tehsil Kahara, District Doda, Mr. Anil Kumar & Panch Joura Kalan, Mr. Ashok Kumar in a joint statement issued here have appealed the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Modiji, Hon'ble, MOS in PMO's office, local Member Parliament & the Lt. Governor, of J&K-UT, Sh. Manoj Sinha, to instruct the concerned for according of forest clearance and taking up the suspended work on Suringa Morh-Jai link road immediately. They said that on Suringa Morh-Jai link road (14 Kms), earth cutting work is already complete from Suringa Mor to revenue village Joura Kalan - a distance of 4 Kms (Non forest area) & the work from Joura Kalan to Jai (10 Kms) stands suspended for want of forest clearance. They said that out of these 10 Kms, a stretch of one & half Kms i.e from revenue village Joura Kalan to Revenue village Lower-Shamdain is tree-less

though it falls in forest area; work on this stretch can be executed without any loss to forest & without any legal hindrance even before forest clearance for the whole.

They have also appealed to Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha & Chief Engineer, R&B, Jammu Province to kindly accord forest clearance at the earliest and simultaneously issue orders of execution of work on this tree-less stretch of one & half kms from Joura Kalan to Lower Shamdain, so that justice to the poor inhabitants of the village Lower Shamdain & ST village Kunthal will be denied. The letter of Indent regarding compensation etc has already been sent to the office of Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Jammu by the concerned Executive Engineer PWD (R&B spl. Sub-Division) Gandoh (Bhalesa), No:- EE/PWD/SSDG/203-05, dated:- 19-04-2019, through Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Doda, but there is no action till date.

Live Streaming of launch of (PM-USHA) Scheme by PM at SMVD University



JINNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEB 20

Under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme by Ministry of Education Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India has approved Grants to strengthen Universities and accordingly under the scheme Grant has been approved in favour of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to the tune of Rs. 20 crores. A digital launch of the multi-projects including PM-USHA by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi was organized by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India through video conferencing on 20-02-2024 from MA Stadium

Jammu. More than 700 participants including Faculty, Staff and Students witnessed the Live Streaming of the event at the Matrika Auditorium of SMVD University. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVD University, Prof. Pragati Kumar in his address announced the news of sanction of the grants under PM-USHA Scheme with emphasis on the principles of utilization for development of university and expansion of programs. The Dean Academic Affairs of SMVD University, Prof. Balbir Singh, highlighted the PM-USHA features for strengthening the university on the basis of NEP implementation at SMVDU.

PM Modi's Jammu visit proved underwhelming with no new packages, promises: Rattan Lal

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC on Tuesday said that people of Jammu region have expressed great resentment over PM Narendra Modi's Jammu visit as it has proved to be a underwhelming due to the absence of any new packages, promises, or announcements for the aspiring people of the region.

In a statement issued to the media persons, the NC stalwart said that the much awaited visit of PM Modi has shattered the dreams of the people who were expecting a lot from their Prime Minister as there are still many promises unfulfilled with refugees awaiting the pending compensation amount, unemployment making the educated youths restless, statehood, Assembly polls and so many other issues confronting the population with local administration remaining clueless on almost all these problems. He said that except being an election rally there was nothing substantial for the people of Jammu or for that matter the entire UT as the projects launched by the PM could have been launched from any part of the country as everything was accomplished virtu-



ally. Rattan Lal categorically criticized the visit by the PM, highlighting the missed opportunity to address key issues and provide much-needed relief to the people of the UT. He pointed out that while the Prime Minister inaugurated several projects, the visit failed to deliver any significant benefits or new initiatives for the people of the region as most of them left the venue disappointed. The NC senior functionary emphasized on the need for concrete measures to address pressing issues such as unemployment, economic slowdown, restoration of political process and return of statehood besides continuing the process of ensuring governance as started by the NC Government during

the tenure of Omar Abdullah because till date the helmsmen in J&K have not done anything significant in this direction except rhetoric for which the party in power is famous for. He mentioned that several industrial estates and industrial towns which were established during the NC regime are on verge of closure today. The people of Jammu are decrying for regular supply of water and power supply but the incumbent government seems to be busy in selling power to the other state, he added.

Rattan Lal Gupta also took a dig at the Prime Minister's Modi wave, suggesting that it was losing steam as the government's policies and actions fell short of expectations. He called for a more proactive approach from the government in addressing the concerns of the UT and its people, urging the Prime Minister to prioritize the welfare of the citizens above political rhetoric. He said that the government's approach towards governance and development is quite sluggish as it seems that those helming the affairs are relying on something else to showcase during the run up to upcoming Lok Sabha polls, which is something that the electorate should understand before casting their votes.

Bhalla congratulates Sonia Gandhi on being elected unopposed to RS from Rajasthan

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today congratulated former AICC President Sonia Gandhi on being elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. In a congratulatory message, he said Sonia Gandhi's courageous and dignified contribution towards the country and the party is inspiring for everyone. We all wish for her good health and long life. "A relentless advocate of the rights of the marginalized, she (Gandhi) has been a symbol of utmost grace while battling adversity with courage, grit and selfless sacrifice, added Bhalla." Bhalla further said that she embodies the highest virtues of integrity, compassion and courage. She's a pillar of strength who, making great sacrifice, has dedicated her life to public service. Gandhi didn't just lead the Congress from the front but ushered in revolutionary rights for all Indians. Laws such as MGN-REGA, Right to Education Act, National Food Security Act and the Right to Information Act empowered the people and made government's accountable.

EDITORIAL

Farmers' protest:
Need to expose
political conspiracy

The farmers from Punjab who have been protesting for a week to demand guaranteed crop prices have rejected the government's offer to purchase pulses at the minimum support price for five years and say they will continue their march to New Delhi. The panel of Union ministers proposed the purchase of pulses (tur, urad and masoor), maize and cotton crops by government agencies at the MSP after agreeing with farmers. The offer was made during the fourth round of talks between the Centre's representatives and farmer leaders, who have rejected it as they want a legal guarantee for procurement at the MSP for various crops. It is being projected that the government offer was not in the interest of the farmers but there seems to be an ulterior motive in the whole game plan. The farmers' efforts to reach New Delhi have been blocked by authorities, who used tear gas and heavily barricaded entry points into New Delhi to avoid a repeat of the 2021 protests when farmers camped on the outskirts for more than a year. The government has tried in vain to soothe the frayed nerves with the farmers upping the ante in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. A section of farmers' representatives believe the proposal betrays the ground reality: the MSP regime and assured procurement have largely remained confined to wheat and paddy. Year after year, the government has been upwardly revising the MSP for over 20 crops – including wheat, paddy, pulses, maize and cotton – based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. However, farm unions have repeatedly rejected the 'paltry' hike, even as farmers suffer losses whenever their produce fetches prices below the MSP. The participation of the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as a facilitator of talks has brought a lot of suspicion in the minds of the people as the gullible farmers are being used as a political tool to score political gains ahead of Lok Sabha polls. There are no protests in any other part of the country where the farmers too have certain concerns but the incitement of Punjab farmers at this crucial juncture is fraught with serious political ramifications. About eight years ago, the Shanta Kumar-led High-Level Committee on Restructuring of FCI had urged the government to revisit the MSP policy. The panel had said: 'Effectively, price support operates primarily in wheat and paddy and that too in selected states. This creates highly skewed incentive structures in favour of wheat and paddy.' The committee had noted that wheat-paddy procurement did not directly benefit more than 6 percent of India's agricultural households. Indeed, this lopsided system continues to hamper crop diversification, leaving most of the nation's farmers at the mercy of unscrupulous market forces. The government's MSP plan for five crops was a non-starter without a robust system for guaranteed nationwide procurement. The larger objectives of enhancing food security, increasing farmers' income, and reducing dependence on imports can be achieved if the glaring anomalies in the MSP regime are removed. At the same time, there is a need to expose the political conspiracy being hatched by BJP's opponents while using innocent farmers in the name of agitation. Farmers should also remain cautious to ensure that no political party can exploit them for its gains.

Remembering Sant Shiromani Acharya Shri 108
Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji: A Tribute to a Guiding Light

NARENDRA MODI

Sant Shiromani Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji attained Samadhi and left us all saddened. His life is a spiritually rich epoch graced with profound wisdom, boundless compassion and an unwavering commitment to uplift humanity. I have had the honour of receiving his blessings on numerous occasions. Thus, I feel a deep sense of loss, akin to losing a guiding light that has illuminated the path for countless souls, including myself. His warmth, affection and blessings were not just gestures of goodwill but profound transmissions of spiritual energy, empowering and inspiring all those fortunate enough to have come in contact with him.

Pujya Acharya Ji will always be remembered as a Triveni of wisdom, compassion and service. He was a true Tapasvi, whose life epitomised the ideals of Bhagwan Mahavir. His life exemplified the core principles of Jainism, embodying its ideals through his own actions

and teachings. His care towards all living beings mirrored Jainism's profound respect for life. He lived a life of truthfulness, reflecting Jainism's emphasis on honesty in thought, word, and deed. He also led a very simple lifestyle. It is due to stalwarts like him that the world continues to be inspired by Jainism and the life of Bhagwan Mahavir. He stood tall among the Jain community but his impact and influence were not limited to only one community. People across faiths, regions and cultures came to him and he worked tirelessly towards spiritual awakening, particularly among the youth.

Education was an area very close to his heart. His journey from Vidhyadhar (his childhood name) to Vidhyasagar was one of deep commitment to acquiring and imparting knowledge. It was his firm belief that education is the cornerstone of a just and enlightened society. He championed the cause of knowledge as a means to empower individuals, enabling them to lead lives of purpose and contribution. His teachings emphasised the importance of self-study and self-awareness as the pathways to true wisdom, urging his followers to engage in lifelong learning and spiritual growth.

At the same time, Sant



Shiromani Acharya Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji wanted our youngsters to get an education that is also rooted in our cultural ethos. He often said that it was because we drifted away from the learnings of the past that we were not able to find solutions to key challenges like water scarcity. He also believed that a holistic education is one that focusses on skilling and innovating. He took immense pride in India's linguistic diversity and encouraged youngsters to learn Indian languages.

Pujya Acharya Ji himself wrote extensively in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Hindi. The heights he reached as a saint, and how grounded he was on the earth, is seen clearly in his iconic work Mookmati. Through his works, he gave a voice to the downtrodden.

In the domain of healthcare too, Pujya Acharya Ji's contributions were transformative. He was associated with several efforts, especially in underserved areas. His approach to healthcare was holistic, integrating physical well-being with spiritual wellness, thereby addressing the needs of the person as a whole.

I would especially urge the coming generations to study extensively about Sant Shiromani Acharya Shri Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji's commitment to nation building. He would always urge people to rise above any partisan considerations and instead focus on national interest. He was one of the strongest votaries of voting because he saw it as an expression of participation in democratic processes. He advocated healthy as well as

clean politics, even saying that policy making has to be about people's welfare, not self interest (Lokneeti is about Loksangrah not Lobhsangrah).

He believed that a strong nation is built on the foundation of its citizens' commitment to their duties—towards themselves, their families, society, and the country. He encouraged individuals to cultivate virtues such as honesty, integrity and self-reliance, which he saw as essential for the creation of a just, compassionate, and thriving society. This emphasis on duties is of great importance as we work towards building a Viksit Bharat.

In an era where environmental degradation is rampant world over, Pujya Acharya Ji called for a way of life which would minimise the harm being inflicted on nature. Likewise, he saw a paramount role for agriculture in our economy, also stressing on making agriculture modern as well as sustainable. His work towards reforming jail inmates was also noteworthy.

The beauty of our land is that for thousands of years, our soil has produced greats who have shown light to others and made our society better. Pujya Acharya Ji stands as a towering figure in this illustrious lineage of saints and social reformers. Whatever he did, he

did not just for the present but also the future. In November last year, I had the opportunity to visit the Chandragiri Jain Mandir in Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh. Little did I know that this visit would be my last meeting with Pujya Acharya Ji. Those moments were very special. He spoke to me for a long time, blessing me for my efforts in serving the nation. He expressed joy on the direction our nation is taking and the respect India is getting on the world stage. He was filled with enthusiasm while talking about the work he was doing. Then and always, his gentle gaze and serene smile were enough to instill a sense of peace and purpose. His blessings felt like a soothing balm on the soul, a reminder of the divine presence within and around us.

Sant Shiromani Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji's void is deeply felt by all who knew him and were touched by his teachings and his life. However, he lives on in the hearts and minds of those he inspired. In honouring his memory, we commit to embodying the values he espoused. In this way, we not only pay tribute to a great soul but also take forward his mission for our country and people.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

Exploitation of visa seekers by agents is rampant

JASWINDER SINGH
KAINAUR

When the Internet era started in the 20th century in the world, the people of the world were very happy that with the advent of the Internet era, development would be faster because the work would be done quickly with the facility of computers and the Internet. It was understood that the Internet would prove to be a boon to the entire world. It is understood that everything has two aspects (one positive and the other negative). Keeping this fact in front, the internet facility also has two aspects.

The first thing is that all these worldly people are not yet fully educated about the Internet. That is why they have to depend on other consultants

and agents. Then those agents charge exorbitant amounts of money to get the job done. The second thing is that the employees of the concerned company/department are arbitrarily collecting thousands of rupees from the people through agents under the guise of the Internet. Even in this free facility provided by the government, the agents succeeded in getting a thief-hole. Even when governments run such facilities, they are not thoroughly checked later. Through this article, I want to draw the attention of the Governments of India and Italy that if Indians want to go to Italy with any type of Italian visa (tourist visa, work visa, or family visa etc.) after the sponsor papers issued by the Italian government, An appoint-

ment has to be taken to deposit papers and pay the visa fee etc. at the Italian Embassy. Earlier the appointments were getting over the phone from Mumbai Centre. Thereafter, it was shifted to email. But these days, it is being taken from the website (<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/ita/book-an-appointment>).

The work of visa paper collection & fee etc. has been awarded to VFS Global Services Pvt. Ltd Company by the Italian Embassy. On checking this website repeatedly, it shows that no slots are available at this moment; please keep checking the site regularly. Hence, educated men like us also cannot get appointments through this site and the validity of the sponsor papers is lost. If one contacts an agent/con-

sultant during the validity of the papers, they charge a hefty amount (Rs. Twenty-five thousand to Eighty thousand) and provide the appointment. Many agents are roaming around near the VFS centres located in Elante Mall Chandigarh and Shivaji Stadium New Delhi, who demand a huge amount from the people to provide the appointments. Such agents have opened their shops in all the cities of India.

It is worth considering that a computer and internet-literate person on repeated visits to the above website finds that no slot (appointment time) is available, and keeps checking the site continuously. But, the agents are succeeding. It is important to mention here that under the rules of Italy, there is also a facil-

ity if the validity of one's sponsor papers is going to expire in 15 days, then at the (VFS Italy) centre in Delhi. You can go and deposit your papers and visa fees etc. directly without any appointment. But, it is not that easy as a visa application form is also filled along with other documents, which not everyone can fill.

The help of an agent is also required to fill that form. Agents demand 5000 to 9000 rupees just for filling out a one-page form.

If someone goes to their centre in Delhi with their complete documents in the last 15 days, they ask for other documents from them which are not required according to the rules. In this way, the papers submitted directly in the last 15 days do not get a visa. It is written in

the reply letter that the visa has been refused due to the non-attachment of necessary documents. Then one has to take advice from an agent and then they say that the visa is denied only if the appointment does not get through them.

Finally, I would like to write that if the Italian Government wants to continue the process of making appointments on the Internet site instead of phone or email, then it should also give appointments to the common people so that the additional burden of the agent's money does not fall on the people. The governments of India and Italy need to pay attention to this issue.

The writer is a renowned author and broadcaster; views are personal

The implications of the Supreme Court ruling

KALYANI SHANKAR

Indian elections are intricate and complex events that involve millions of voters and multiple political parties. These parties rely heavily on contributions from individuals and corporations to finance their campaigns, as funding is crucial. A lot of black money also circulates during elections. When Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India in 2014, he promised to prevent using illegal money in politics. Three years later, in 2017, he introduced Electoral Bonds that he claimed would increase transparency in political funding. However, some people challenged the secrecy clause and violation of fundamental rights in Court. Recently, the Supreme Court declared anonymous political donations to be invalid. This decision could make it difficult for their campaigns before the 2024 elections.

The Apex Court ruled that "Electoral Bonds" vio-

late citizens' right to access Government information and violate Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. "Information about the funding of political parties is essential for effectively exercising the choice of voting," Chief Justice Chandrachud stressed, emphasising the importance of open governance. The Government-owned State Bank of India has been ordered to stop issuing these bonds and provide details to the Election Commission of India. A group of five judges made this decision.

This is not good news for most parties, particularly the ruling BJP. Besides the BJP, some other political parties also benefited from the bonds. Judges examined whether the Electoral Bond scheme broke constitutional rules, stopped voters from getting vital information, allowed secret donations while protecting donors' privacy, and threatened democratic processes. Previously, political parties were required to disclose the

identities of donors who contributed more than 20,000 rupees. However, electoral bonds allow political parties to report the money received without revealing the donors' identities. These bonds have a range of 1,000 to 10 million rupees.

People must know if political funding is transparent or not. One of the main criticisms is that it's hard to trace where the money comes from when buying these bonds, making it challenging to identify the source of the funds. According to recent ADR data, from 2017 and 2022, the total amount donated by corporations during this period was ₹3,299.85 crore. The BJP received the most significant share of this amount, with a total of ₹3,299.85. The Congress party received ₹406.45 crore, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) received ₹109.5 crore, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) received ₹29.1 crore, and the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) received

₹49.7 crore through Electoral Bonds.

ADR's report claims that withholding information about political contributions is unreasonable. Taxpayers should know where political parties get their funding. The lack of transparency raises accountability questions. Taxpayers' money is spent printing bonds, and SBI profits from their sales.

It claims that taxpayers have the right to know where political parties get their funding. The need for more transparency raises doubts about accountability. Taxpayers' money is used to print bonds, and SBI profits from their sale are deemed unfair. The public and opposition parties must be aware of the source of these donations, although the Government can access donor details from SBI. In Parliament, the Government disregarded warnings from major central agencies and opposition Members of Parliament and launched the Electoral Bond Scheme. The Bonds bill

was passed as a money bill.

Earlier, the Ministry of Law emphasised that the bond scheme should comply with the Representation of Peoples Act 1951. The ECI also opposed it. The Election Commission has registered 2,858 political parties, but only a tiny percentage, just 2.17%, are currently recognised.

Some parties may never participate in elections, while others may be involved in money laundering activities. During the 2019 elections, political parties received a record-breaking amount of ₹2,760.20 crore in anonymous donations through Electoral Bonds. This was the highest amount received in 2017-18 and 2018-19. From 2017-18 to 2020-21, 19 political parties redeemed Electoral Bonds worth approximately ₹6.5 thousand crores. The spending on the last six Lok Sabha elections increased almost six-fold, from ₹9,000 to over ₹55,000 crore in 2019. From 2018 to March 2022, the BJP received 57% of donations,

while Congress only got 10%.

It is expected that the Government would honour the highest Court's ruling, unlike on earlier occasions. The Court has delivered its verdict, and now it must be put into action.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has reservations about donor confidentiality and retrospective disclosure. They claim that the court order will not affect their chances in the upcoming April-May elections as they aim to secure a third term for PM Modi. To prevent the influence of money in elections in the future, we need regulations for donations, spending limits, public funding, and disclosure. The Government is exploring options for Electoral reform. We have many reports that can help us make better decisions, so we need to look at them again. We must make changes to improve the election system.

The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal

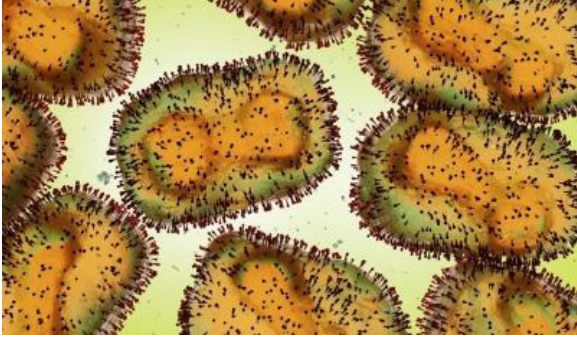
Study decodes how mpox virus infiltrates brain cells

AGENCIES
TORONTO

Mpox (Monkeypox) virus may be infiltrating cells responsible for normal brain functioning causing neurological symptoms in people affected by the virus, finds a study.

Mpox virus is transmitted primarily through close physical contact and causes a disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although less severe. In May of 2022, the virus saw a major outbreak, spreading to more than 100 countries and causing over 86,900 infections across the world. Between January 1, 2022 and November 30, 2023, a total of 92,783 laboratory-confirmed cases of mpox, including 171 deaths, have been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from 116 countries.

Researchers from the University of Alberta used laboratory experiments to infect human brain cells with the mpox virus.



In a newly published research in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team found mpox virus infiltrated the astrocytes -- a type of cell responsible for normal brain function -- triggering an extreme immune response.

"Astrocytes are the most abundant neural cells in the brain," said first author Hajar Miranzadeh Mahabadi, a postdoctoral fellow in medicine from the varsity.

"We found that monkeypox virus can efficiently infect these cells and can induce a kind of brain cell death we call pyroptosis."

The virus is transmitted by skin or sexual contact or respiratory droplets, and this outbreak has mainly affected men who have sex with men.

Common symptoms include a rash, fever and aching muscles, but neurological symptoms such as headache, mental confusion and seizures have increasingly been observed, suggesting inflammation of brain tissue.

"The extent of monkeypox virus cases, particularly those associated with neurological complications, highlighted the urgent need to understand the potential effect of monkeypox virus in the central nervous system," Mahabadi said, noting this is the first study to examine brain cells exposed to mpox virus.

The research team identified a potential avenue for treatment when they were able to reduce cell death in mpox virus-infected cells by treating them with dimethyl fumarate, a compound approved in Europe for psoriasis and used to treat multiple sclerosis in the United States and Canada.

The researchers noted there are now two antiviral treatments approved for mpox disease and there is also a vaccine available in Canada for preventing disease in vulnerable populations.

The team plans to continue research on mpox and the brain, and to examine why mpox disease seems to be more severe and has a higher mortality rate among people who also have HIV.

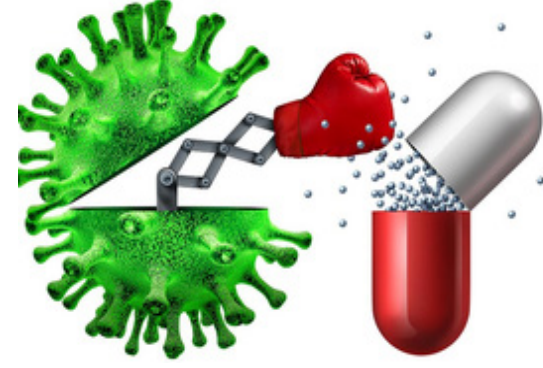
Urgent need for global action against antimicrobial resistance: Report

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Even as nearly 5 million deaths are associated with Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) every year worldwide, a new report has called for urgent need for global action.

The 2024 AMR Preparedness Index Progress Report, released by the Global Coalition on Aging and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), shows that while large global economies have made some progress in their efforts to address AMR, they need to do more to reduce the health and financial impact.

The report assesses how the 11 largest global economies -- Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and the US -- have advanced on calls to action laid out in the



2021 AMR Preparedness Index.

The 2021 Index examined over 100 metrics to evaluate and rank countries' performance against AMR and establish benchmarks for policy action and leadership.

"Each year, nearly 5 million deaths are associated with AMR, with a disproportionate impact on low and middle-income countries. Without the creation of innovative and novel antimicrobials, growing

resistance to our existing drugs threatens our ability to perform even routine medical care," the report said.

"AMR is a significant barrier to health system sustainability and public health, including healthy ageing. It is also an economic challenge -- without correcting course on AMR, the World Bank estimates that AMR could cost the global economy as much as \$3.4 trillion annually by 2023," it added.

The report showed that the UK maintained its position as the global leader in the fight against AMR, and many of the countries showed promising progress in many areas, but there is still greater action and targeted investment needed across all countries evaluated, particularly to revive the floundering pipeline of novel antibiotics.

"AMR is no longer just a public health threat -- it is already here," said Michael Hodin, CEO of GCOA, in a statement. "It's imperative that global leaders leverage their power -- both separately and collaboratively -- to commit and implement concrete actions in the face of growing drug resistance. Without such action, we risk losing antibiotics, and with them, our ability to enjoy the longevity that we do currently."

Covid infection may not be responsible for memory problems & fatigue: Study

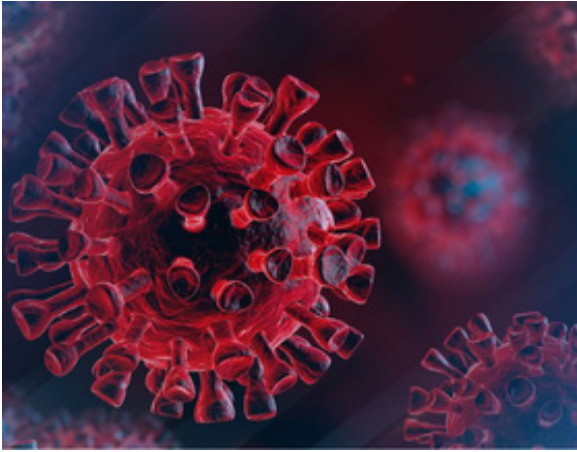
AGENCIES
LONDON

Headaches, memory problems, and fatigue -- commonly known to continue post a Covid-19 infection -- may be a result of inflammation in the rest of the body and not because SARS-CoV-2 infects the brain, claims a new research.

Early on in the pandemic, researchers surmised that direct infection of the brain could be the cause behind these neurological symptoms. Many studies have also proposed the effect of Covid virus on the brain symptoms. But a study by researchers at the Charite-Universitätsmedizin Berlin in Germany has now produced evidence to support the new theory.

"We took that as our hypothesis at the start, too. But so far, there has been no clear evidence that the coronavirus can persist in the brain, let alone proliferate," said Dr Helena Radbruch, head of the Chronic Neuroinflammation working group at the Department of Neuro-pathology at Charite.

"For that, we would have needed to find evidence of intact virus particles in the brain, for example. Instead, the indications that the coro-



navirus could infect the brain come from indirect testing methods, so they aren't entirely conclusive," Radbruch added.

According to a second hypothesis, the neurological symptoms would instead be a kind of side effect of the strong immune response the body deploys to defend against the virus. For the study, the team of researchers analysed various areas of the brain in 21 people who died in hospital settings, typically in an ICU, due to severe coronavirus infection. For comparison, the researchers studied nine patients who died of other causes after treatment in intensive care. First, they looked to see whether the tissue showed any visible changes and hunted for any indication of coronavi-

rus. Then they conducted a detailed analysis of genes and proteins to identify the specific processes that had taken place inside individual cells.

Like other teams of researchers before them, the Charite scientists found coronavirus genetic material in the brain in some cases.

"But we didn't find neurons infected with SARS-CoV-2," Radbruch noted. "We assume that immune cells absorbed the virus in the body and then travelled to the brain. They're still carrying the virus, but it doesn't infect cells of the brain. So coronavirus has invaded other cells in the body, but not the brain itself."

Still, the researchers did note striking changes in molecular processes in

some cells of the brain in those infected with Covid-19: For example, the cells ramped up the interferon signalling pathway, which is typically activated in the course of a viral infection.

"Some neurons evidently react to the inflammation in the rest of the body," said Prof. Christian Conrad, head of the Intelligent Imaging working group at the Berlin Institute of Health at Charite (BIH) and one of the principal investigators in the study.

"This molecular reaction could be a good explanation for the neurological symptoms we see in Covid-19 patients. For example, neurotransmitters emitted by these cells in the brainstem could cause fatigue. That's because the brainstem is home to groups of cells that control drive, motivation, and mood."

Further, the team found that the neurons' reaction to the inflammation is temporary, as shown by a comparison of people who died during an acute coronavirus infection with those who died at least two weeks afterward. The molecular changes are most evident during the acute infection phase, but they do normalise again afterward -- at least in the vast majority of cases.

Use of anabolic steroids can raise heart disease risk: Study

AGENCIES
LONDON

People who use anabolic steroids, that mimic testosterone's effects in the human body, may increase underlying risk of a heart condition called atrial fibrillation, a new study has found.

The new research, published in the Journal of Physiology, found that male sex hormones, such as testosterone, also called androgenic anabolic steroids (AAS), are misused for muscle building particularly among young men.

This can increase the risk of atrial fibrillation in individuals genetically predisposed to heart diseases.

"Our study can significantly contribute to understanding the impact on the heart health of young men who misuse anabolic steroids to increase muscle mass," said lead author Dr Laura Sommerfeld, postdoctoral researcher from the University of Birmingham, UK.

"Recent reports have shown that young men in particular are being targeted on social media such as TikTok being sold testosterone products, but we have shown how the misuse of steroids carries a specific risk that many people will not be aware of," she added.

The scientists examined potential effects on a condition called arrhyth-



mogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), which is genetically determined and primarily attributed to disruptions in the formation of cell connections critical for heart muscle stability.

"Heart muscle diseases like ARVC affect young, athletic individuals and can lead to life-threatening heart rhythm disturbances. Atrial fibrillation is a common condition in the

general population. Elevated testosterone levels can result in an earlier onset of these diseases," said Professor Larissa Fabritz, from the varsity.

The scientists initially confirmed, based on clinical patient data, that ARVC occurs more frequently and severely in men than in women.

In laboratory experiments, they discovered that six weeks of AAS intake, combined with impaired cell connections, could lead to reduced sodium channel function in heart tissue and a slowing of signal conduction within the atria.

"This work implies that young male individuals with key inherited genetic changes have a greater risk of developing electrical problems in the heart in response to anabolic steroid abuse," said Dr. Andrew Holmes, co-author and Assistant Professor in the Institute of Clinical Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

Herpes virus may double dementia risk: Study

AGENCIES
LONDON

People who have had the herpes virus at some point in their lives are twice as likely to develop dementia compared to those who have never been infected, warned a study.

The study from Uppsala University in Sweden, based on 1,000 people aged 70 over and followed for 15 years, confirms previous research on whether herpes can be a possible risk factor for dementia.

The results, now published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, found that people who had been infected with the herpes simplex virus at some point in their lives were twice as likely to develop dementia, compared to those who



had never been infected. The herpes simplex virus is very common, and the infection is lifelong. But the symptoms can come and go over different periods of life. Many people never get any symptoms linked to their infection.

"It is exciting that the results confirm previous studies. More and more evidence is emerging from studies that -- like our findings -- point to the herpes simplex virus as a risk

factor for dementia," said Erika Vestin, a medical student at Uppsala University.

"What's special about this particular study is that the participants are roughly the same age, which makes the results even more reliable since age differences, which are otherwise linked to the development of dementia, cannot confuse the results," Vestin added.

Worldwide, 55 million people are affected by

dementia. Advanced age and carrying the apolipoprotein E4 risk gene are already known risk factors. Research has previously been conducted to investigate whether the herpes simplex virus could also be a possible risk factor for dementia, something now confirmed in this study.

The study calls the need to further investigate whether already known drugs against the herpes simplex virus can reduce the risk of dementia and the possibility of developing new vaccines.

"The results may drive dementia research further towards treating the illness at an early stage using common anti-herpes virus drugs, or preventing the disease before it occurs," Vestin said.

Gargling may help ward off 'bad' bacteria in diabetes patients

AGENCIES
TOKYO

Gargling with an antiseptic mouthwash may help Type 2 diabetes patients to reduce the numbers of periodontitis-related bacteria, suggests a study.

There is growing evidence that ongoing inflammation in the mouth, such as that seen in gum disease, in addition to causing bad breath is associated with serious diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease or Type 2 diabetes.

Researchers from the Osaka University in Japan showed gargling may be a solution. In addition, some patients with reduced bacteria also achieved much better control of their blood sugar, hinting at promising future clinical applications, they noted in the study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

"There are three highly virulent bacterial species that are linked to periodontitis, or diseases of the tissues surrounding the teeth," said lead author Saaya Matayoshi from the varsity.



"We decided to see if we could reduce these three species -- Porphyromonas gingivalis, Treponema denticola, and Tannerella forsythia -- in patients with Type 2 diabetes using a mouthwash containing the antiseptic chlorhexidine gluconate," Saaya added.

To see whether gargling itself was effective for reducing bacteria, or whether mouthwash was more effective, the study participants first gargled with water for six months, and then with the antiseptic mouthwash for the next six months.

"We were unsurprised to see that gargling with water had no effects on bacterial species or HbA1c levels," explained Kazuhiko Nakano, from the varsity.

"However, there was an overall reduction in bacterial species when the patients switched to mouthwash, as long as they were gargling at least twice a day," Nakano added.

While the results

showed no overall changes in HbA1c levels, when patients gargled with the antiseptic mouthwash, there appeared to be large variations in individual responses.

For example, when they split the group into younger and older patients, younger patients had greater reductions in bacterial species and significantly better blood-sugar control with the mouthwash compared with water.

Given that poor oral health is linked to serious disease, simple methods to improve oral hygiene have important ramifications.

This easy-to-use treatment may also improve the lives of people with periodontitis-linked diseases such as diabetes, dementia, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory tract infections, said the team.

Workshop on advanced entrepreneurship, skill development program on 3D printing begins at NIT Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

A weeklong workshop on 'Advanced Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program (A-ESDP) on 3D printing "Hands-on Training" started at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday.

The workshop is organized by the Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC) and is sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India under the ESDP scheme.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath is the patron of the workshop. He commended the organizers for their efforts in hosting this workshop and conveyed his best wishes to all the participants.

The event was presided over by Former Principal REC Srinagar; Prof. Ali Mohammed Bhat, who was Chief Guest in the event.

Dean Faculty Welfare Prof. G.A. Harmain, Dean Alumni and International Affairs Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, Dean Planning & Development Dr. Yash-

want Mehta, Head, IIED Centre Dr. Saad Parvez and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran is the Nodal Officer & Convenor whereas Dr. Noor Zaman Khan, Dr. Deepak Kumar Naik, and Dr. Sandeep Ratee from the Mechanical Engineering Department are the Coordinators of the workshop. The workshop is being attended by more than 25 participants from different parts of the country.

In his key speech, Prof. Bhat highlighted the importance of caution and strategy in obtaining financial support for entrepreneurial ventures.

"Self entrepreneurs once you take up their setup units, you will require finance from financial institutions. In my experience, all entrepreneurs must exercise caution when choosing their financing sources. While bank loans may be readily accessible, it is imperative to manage these loans judiciously to prevent any defaults," he said.

Prof. Bhat advised young entrepreneurs to only take the loans they

truly need. There is the importance of generating your own money and not relying too much on loans to run a business. The mishandling of finances has led to the collapse of many companies in India and other parts of the world, he added.

On the occasion, Prof. G.A. Harmain extended congratulations to Prof. Saad and Dr. Dinesh for organizing the weeklong workshop on a theme. He acknowledged the seamless continuity of events, linking the past, present, and future.

Reflecting on the lectures delivered by Prof. Bhat during the then REC era, Prof. Harmain highlighted their impact, noting that since those lectures, Prof. Bhat has achieved great heights and become a source of inspiration for everyone.

Prof. Harmain commended Prof. Bhat's tenure as a principal, the challenges faced during a difficult and demanding period. Amidst the exploration of new technologies, it is crucial not to lose sight of the overarching goal of contributing to humanity as a whole, he added.



Prof. Harmain said basic action will not change and we should not get lost by new things but learn from our past generations. He expressed his wishes for the success of the program, foreseeing positive outcomes from the collective endeavor.

On the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh said there is a need to integrate smart technologies into our processes to propel forward. The notion that adopting a strategic approach towards incorporating smartness is pivotal for us to bridge the

gap with more advanced nations, he added.

"The idea that by infusing intelligent technologies into our systems, we not only enhance efficiency but also position ourselves significantly ahead on the path of progress, aligning with the

advancements observed in modern societies across the globe," Prof. Nazir said.

Head IIEDC, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Saad Parvez said the goal is this workshop is to foster the establishment of new enterprises, enhance the capabilities of existing MSMEs, and cultivate an entrepreneurial culture within the country.

"The Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (E-SDP) is designed to elevate the awareness and knowledge of participants across various entrepreneurial dimensions, skill domains, government policies, funding opportunities, calculated risks, business prospects, and the preparation of business plans," he added.

Prof. Saad said the workshop not only aims to impart valuable insights into these aspects but also strives to instill learning regarding new skills and trades.

Convenor of the workshop and Nodal Officer, ESDP Scheme Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran said ESDP Program on "3D printing" provides a comprehensive and immersive learning experience.

"Its tailored approach aims to empower educators with the essential knowledge and skills necessary for effectively teaching and inspiring participants in the field of 3D printing," he said.

Dr. Rajendran said the program is specifically crafted to address the increasing significance of 3D printing and its transformative impact across various industries, with the overarching goal of bridging the gap between academia and industry.

He said that this initiative is designed to equip participants with the tools and expertise needed to prepare the next generation of innovators and engineers.

The first session was delivered by the Director of North Campus, University of Kashmir, Dr. Sheikh Gulam Mohammad on the Introduction to 3D printing.

It was followed by 2nd session on Engineering Drawing: 2D and 3D by Dr. Dinesh Kumar R. The third session was on Tinker CADD Introduction (Lab Session) and it was followed by Hands-on practice on Tinker CADD Software (Lab Session).

Design Your Own Degree': Need to empower students by giving them freedom of choice: V-C JKHEC

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

To assess the progress and implementation of the 'Design Your Own Degree (DYOD)' programme across various educational institutions in the region, the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Council (JKHEC) is holding a three-day review meeting here at Kashmir University (KU).

The meeting that began Monday is poised to hold orientation and awareness programmes by providing a platform for stakeholders including coordinators and mentors to exchange ideas and address challenges to further enhance the effectiveness of the programme, an official KU statement issued here read.

V-C, JKHEC, Prof. Dinesh Singh, said that students need to be empowered by giving them freedom to choose their subject of choice and henceforth a degree of their own.



"We need to first identify the drumbeat of their souls (as we all possess a special one), tap that and march ahead on the same beat for a better future," Prof. Dinesh said, reiterating that we need to change our mindset by encouraging and accepting new ideas to change our future.

VC, IUST, Prof. Shakeel A Romshoo, said that we need to strengthen each other through collaborations and knowledge

sharing as NEP (National Education Policy)-2020 also promotes an ecosystem of innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

"5 of the 11 universities in J&K are already offering the DYOD programme. The persistence, perseverance and the doubts in between enabled us to accept DYOD as the root which is soon to become mainstream," Prof. Shakil maintained.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU,

Prof. Farooq A Masoodi said that we cannot uproot all at once but the transition has to be gradual and smooth.

"If we do away with the conventional modes and methodology, we have to simultaneously anticipate the employability of our students as we still follow traditions in pedagogy," he said.

Discussing the status of the DYOD at KU, Dean, College Development Council, Prof. Khurshed Ahmad Butt, said

that the aim is to not restrict but to free students by being proactive rather than reactive in our approach.

In his presentation, Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce (ICSC), Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Khan outlined the status and preparedness of DYOD at his college.

Dean, Research, KU, Prof. M Sultan Bhat; Director, Directorate of Admissions and Competitive Examinations, KU, Prof. M Farooq Mir; Controller of Examinations, KU, Dr. Majid Zaman Baba; Director, Institute of technology, KU, Prof. Gowhar Bashir Vakil; Special Secretary to Vice Chancellor, KU, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Zari; Coordinator, DYOD, Er. Qazi Junaid Ashraf besides various mentors and KU officials also attended the meeting. The meeting was followed by an interaction with coordinators and mentors from KU and ICSC wherein they shared their feedback and reservations, it read.

Manjit demands restoration of democratic system in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, FEB 20

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister has sought restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of growing feeling of dissatisfaction with the administration and apparent collapse of the public delivery system.

"The people from all the regions have expressed anguish over the working of the administration in their respective areas, and adamant attitude of the bureaucracy that has completely dissociated people with the system of governance. Thus, the basic structure of governance does not reach at the ground level, and the schemes, and benefits become a showcase for the babus to write in the progress reports," said Manjit Singh while addressing a deputation of people in Vijaypur. The deputa-



tion had called on him to express their resentment over the delay in holding elections because the public grievances have not been addressed in their respective areas by the bureaucracy.

Addressing the deputation, he said that the Election Commission of India is holding elections in many states of the country, yet the legislative assembly elections schedule has not been issued for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The J&K has long been waiting for the assembly elections. The people in both the regions of J&K strongly believe that the Election Commission of India should hold assembly elections, and parliamentary elections together in Jammu and Kashmir to address the growing public issues," he said.

He said that "Govt officials have no understanding of ground reality. They work from the four walls of their offices, and hardly listen to what

people want in their areas. Hence, it has hampered the development as well as widened the gap between the Govt and the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

To deal with the situation, he said that it becomes imperative for the authorities to declare elections so that the democratic system can be restored.

Besides, he said that the Urban Local Body, Panchayati Raj, and Block Development Council

tenure have also expired, and the authorities have yet to take a call regarding these elections.

"There is uneasiness among the people without an elected Govt. The authorities should understand that the direct rule of babus cannot be continued for years together without an elected Govt," he said, while cautioning the authorities against the continuation of the bureaucratic rule where the people have lost their voice.

Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM takes over as Army Commander, Northern Command

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM assumed the appointment of Northern Army Commander on Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM is an alumnus of NDA, Khadakwasla. He was commissioned into ASSAM REGIMENT in June 1985. He commanded 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion (ASSAM), an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control. He commanded the highly active White Knight Corps and has held the appointments of Additional Directorate General of Military Intelligence, Directorate General of Military Intelligence, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strat) and Vice Chief of Army Staff of Indian



Army prior to taking over his current appointment. He has held various staff and instructional appointments in Infantry School, Mhow, United Nations Sector Senior Operations Officer in Cambodia, Indian Army Training Team Lesotho, Military Secretary's Branch and Brigadier General Staff

in Eastern Theatre. On assuming the charge, the General Officer conveyed his greetings to all ranks and expressed his commitment to take forward the excellent work by his predecessors and all ranks of Northern Command under the prevailing challenging conditions.

Only PM Modi can fulfill aspirations of J&K people: Adv Purnima

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K, and former Deputy Mayor, emphasized that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi possesses the vision and capabilities to fulfill the aspirations of the people of J&K. She highlighted the transformative impact of the abrogation of Article 370, which has paved the way for J&K's development and progress. With the rallying support of party workers from Shalamar area of East Constituency, Purnima Sharma led a spirited march through Indira Chowk, culminating at MA Stadium, where attendees had the privilege to listen to the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The rally served as a



platform for party workers to demonstrate their unwavering support for the Prime Minister and his vision for the region. The event witnessed a vibrant display of enthusiasm and unity, as party workers showcased their commitment to the BJP's ideology of development, inclusivity, and progress.

The senior BJP leader said that the abrogation of Article 370 was a historic decision that marked a turning point for Jammu

and Kashmir. It was a bold move by the Government of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that had been in talks for years. The abrogation of Article 370 paved the way for J&K's development and progress, unlocking new doors of opportunity and setting the stage for a transformed and prosperous future under PM Modi's leadership. The decision received widespread support from the people of J&K, who had

been yearning for peace, stability, and growth for decades, she added.

She asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was a crucial step towards enabling the region to integrate with the rest of India, and the Modi government has since implemented several initiatives to accelerate the pace of development in J&K.

"PM Modi's vision for the Union Territory encompasses inclusive growth, economic devel-

opment, and the empowerment of every citizen. The Modi government is committed to ensuring that J&K becomes a prosperous and harmonious state, and the abrogation of Article 370 was a critical first step towards achieving that goal. The transformation of J&K is underway, and PM Modi's leadership and vision will continue to guide the region towards a bright and prosperous future," she added.

Purnima Sharma expressed gratitude to the party workers for their dedication and support. She emphasized the importance of collective efforts in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed the commitment of the BJP to work tirelessly towards achieving these goals.

CUJ inaugurated FDP on Student Diversity and Inclusive Education

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20



The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at Central University of Jammu is set to host a comprehensive Faculty Development Program (FDP) from February 20-29, 2024, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof Sanjeev Jain. The program is designed to offer an in-depth orientation and sensitization on the one of the NEP thematic area on Student Diversity and Inclusive Education. The FDP aims at orienting teachers of the institutions of higher education in India to inculcate knowledge of the rich diversity amongst the learners almost all the Indian classrooms have and also to orient the teachers to use that diversity as resource to facilitate quality of learning. There are 105 participants in the programme representing almost all the regions of India. The pan-Indian participation in the

programme, in itself is a representation of rich panorama of diverse socio-cultural context of India. Prof. Sunil Dhar, the Coordinator and Nodal Officer of NEP 2020 implementation wing of Central University of Jammu, inaugurated the event. In his address, he highlighted the key points of NEP 2020 and also iterated the outcome expectations with the FDP. The FDP, spearheaded by an esteemed organizing team, aims to enrich educators with a deep understanding of the current theme of FDP vis a vis NEP 2020. Dr. Kiran, Coordinator of the FDP proposed a welcome address followed by the programme introduction and orientation by Dr. Neelika Arora, Direc-

tor of UGC-MMTTC of Central University of Jammu at the university. Dr. Akshay Kumar, Deputy Director, UGC-MMTTC shared the do's and don'ts of the participation with the registered candidates of the programme and also briefed them about the programme operationalities. Dr. Yadram, the Coordinator of the FDP proposed a formal vote of thanks. A series of deliberations from the various eminent experts from different universities and institutions of eminence have been planned to be conducted in the 8 days of the FDP to provide relevant and quality experiences to the participants. The FDP is a significant step towards realising the objectives of NEP 2020.

37th Convocation of IGNOU held across Country including RC Jammu; 12454 students from Jammu region declared successful

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Indira Gandhi National Open University organized its 37th Convocation ceremony today on the 20th of February 2024. The Convocation ceremony was organised at 39 Regional Centres across the Country concurrently including the Regional Centre Jammu. As many as Three Lakh Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Four (3,08,584) students were declared qualified to be presented with the degree/diploma/certificate in the convocation functions at IGNOU Headquarters and 39 Regional Centres across the country.

Under the Jammu region, as many as 12454 learners have been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 37th Convocation function at Jammu which includes 5698 learners of Master Degree programmes, 6235 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 416 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 105 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes. Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest on this occasion at the New Delhi HQs of IGNOU.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Distinguished Chair Professor, School of Management, MIET-Jammu and Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour and delivered



Convocation address in the 37th Convocation function of Regional Centre Jammu which was organized in the Auditorium of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The Convocation ceremony started with the Guard of Honour by NCC cadets, followed by the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries and saraswati vandana by the students of Central Sanskrit University. Alka Sharma hosted the ceremony.

The University had earlier created an online portal for the eligible students to register for the 37th Convocation. The students who registered and submitted their consent to receive the degree in person were invited as per IGNOU guidelines to confer upon the Degree in the Convocation ceremony. Those who had registered and given their consent to receive Diploma/Degree through post would be sent their

ma/Certificate through Speed Post after the Convocation ceremony.

As per the details provided by IGNOU authorities, as many as 310 qualified students had submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person in the Convocation function at Regional Centre Jammu. Prof. Ashok Aima, Guest of Honour on the occasion at Jammu, termed the 37th Convocation of IGNOU as an occasion of Celebration of IGNOU's achievements which is popularly known as the People's University accessible to all those far and wide who otherwise would have lost the opportunity to gain access to higher education, improve upon their qualification and increase the chances of employment.

Prof. Ashok Aima congratulated the students on whom the University had conferred Degree Certificates and also appreciated the efforts made by the Regional Centre for the sincere efforts to expand the spectrum of education

in the region.

Prof. Aima in his Convocation address urged the awardees that they have to translate their educational achievements to benefit the world and that they all have a collective responsibility to work for the progress of the society and the country as a whole. Prof. Aima said that Open and Distance Learning is a blessing for those who missed formal education, especially in the far flung rural areas since it is convenient, cost-effective and student-centric.

Regional Director, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, presented the Regional Centre Report. In his report Dr. Verma presented a summary of the initiatives that the University and the Regional Centre Jammu have taken to strengthen students support services network in the region. Dr. Verma stated that IGNOU is the largest Open University in the World and is widely acknowledged as a system leader offering a variety of academic, vocational, professional, liberal arts and skill based,

job-oriented programmes.

Dr. Verma in his report highlighted that in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, IGNOU has implemented Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) in which the learners would have the freedom to select their desired courses providing curriculum's interdisciplinary flexibility. He stated that Students in various fields such as sciences, computer sciences, psychology, library science, social work, sustainable development, counselling and family therapy, food and nutrition, anthropology, education, health sciences, nursing, information security, and more, are expected to actively participate in hands-on learning experiences to enhance their job prospects. Dr. Verma stated that IGNOU has become the First Open University in the Country to have been accredited with the highest A++ Grade by NAAC and the programmes are offered in compliance to NEP 2020 Guidelines and various

BSP greets Modi for giving Rs 32,000 cr package to Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta extended his warm greetings and congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for inaugurating and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects for education, railway, aviation, and road sectors, worth over Rs 32,000 crore in Jammu.

Gupta wrote on his X handle this happened only in PM Modi's tenure that Jammu gets so many

projects in one go. Otherwise Jammu was always tolerated discrimination since independence in Congress and regional parties NC, PDP etc.

Rajesh Gupta said he always do the healthy politics he never hesitates to praise for opposition party and also never missed the chance to criticize for their shortfalls.

KVK Kishtwar holds training for Extension Officers



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Krishni Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu organized one day training programme on Integrated Nutrient Management of field crops for the extension personnel of Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare Kishtwar under the guidance of Dr Amrith Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. 35 officers and extension personnel of the department from the district attended the training programme.

Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar organized the programme. Amjad Hussain Malik Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Sanjay Sharma, DAO(Extension), Khalid Zargar, Jamshed Hussain SMS DL, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar SDAO Marwah, Jatinder Singh SMS SDL and Agriculture extension officers of different zones of the District also participated in the programme.

During the programme Dr Narinder Paul deliberated upon the depleting soil fertility status of the

district due to imbalance use of fertilizers and stressed upon use of Integrated Nutrient Management practices for improving soil and plant health. He urged for created awareness and trainings among the farmers on Integrated Nutrient management of field crops. Important plant nutrients and their role in the nutrition of crops, timely identification of nutrients deficiency in crops and their proper management were also discussed.

Amjad Hussain Malik CAO Kishtwar called upon the participants to educate the farmers about Integrated Nutrient Management Practices and to ensure use of all essential plant nutrients by the farmers for increasing production and productivity besides maintaining the soil health. At the end of the technical programme an interactive session was held in which the queries of the participants were discussed. Programme ended with vote of thanks by Jatinder Singh SMS SDL, Paddar.

Team Ladakh dominates 8th National Snowshoe Championship at Sonamarg, J&K UT Won 18 Medals

J I NEWS SERVICE
LADAKH, FEB 20

In a spectacular display of talent and resilience, Team Ladakh emerged victorious in the 8th National SnowShoe Championships held at Picturesque Sonamarg UT J&K, clinching an impressive total of 18 medals.

Led by Coach Sajjad Hussain, the athletes showcased their prowess in various categories, bringing home a diverse array of accolades. Notable achievements include Zayidd Khalil and Nasrullah Elya securing Silver

and Bronze respectively in the Senior Boys Long Distance category. Gh. Ali claimed a Silver Medal in the Senior Boys Short Distance Sprint.

Nusrat Sakina displayed exceptional skill, securing Silver in the Senior Girls Long Distance, while Zareena Batool and Nusrat Sakina added to the glory with Gold and Silver respectively in the Senior Girls Short Distance.

Gh. Haider took home the Gold in the Junior Boys Long Distance, and Javed Ahmed secured Silver in the Junior Boys Short Distance Sprint. Fareeda



Batool impressed in the Junior Girls Short Distance Sprint, securing a Bronze Medal. Faizullah also contributed with a Bronze Medal in the Junior Boys Sprint category.

Team Ladakh further showcased their teamwork

in the Relay 400m events, securing an impressive 4 Gold Medals in the Senior Boys category and 4 Silver Medals in the Senior Girls category.

President Shah Nawaz Var of the SnowShoe Association Ladakh commend-

ed the team's exceptional performance and recognized Coach Sajjad Hussain's pivotal role in their success. Nasir Hussain Zaidi, the Organizing Secretary, received accolades for ensuring the seamless execution of the champi-

onship.

The athletes expressed their gratitude to the Kargil Administration for their support and dedicated their hard-earned medals to the newly formed Union Territory of Ladakh. This victory not only highlights the sporting prowess of Ladakh but also underscores the unity and determination within Team Ladakh. The SnowShoe Association Ladakh looks forward to building on this success and further promoting snowshoeing as a premier sport in the region.

Prophecy of four Shankar Acharyas showing its impact- Kissan Andolan, Electoral bonds Ban, Chandigarh Mayor selection face-off with Judiciary etc is examples: AAP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

The Senior AAP leaders, Mr. Ram Singh Chauhan & Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao in a joint statement issued here said that the comments & prophecy of four pillars of Hindu faith- the Shankar Acharyas against the un-timely opening of RAM MANDIR in Ayodhya quite pre-maturely ahead of completion & they said the temple is incomplete, so pran pratishtha at a time like this is not in line with the Vedas & Sanatana Dharma that-Kissan Andolan, murder of democracy in Chandigarh Mayor election, Face off with Apex court, Electoral bonds ban, destruction of constitution, constitutional Institutions, Election Commission, Federal system, favoring handful Industrialist friends at the cost of Indian economy & masses etc are the signs

before the world and Indian masses casting bad shadows and the days are not far when the doubts of Shankar Acharyas may not come true. The AAP leaders further pleaded that the Nation is fast heading towards dictatorship as the job of Foreign Minister, Defense Minister, Finance Minister, Works Minister etc is being done by only one person who is always & always visible on the first page of every news paper, on every channel of TV, on every Petrol Pump, Railway station, Bus stop and what not, the AAP leaders said & added that the time when general elections in the country are round the corner, the populist assertion made by PM Modi are nothing but the bundle of lies, which is known across the country. They said that none of the promises made by our PM has been fulfilled, the debt over India has risen



to three times high than it was before 2014, the rupee has fallen down tremendously as compared to US Dollar, India is lagging behind in various parameters than its neighbors' like poverty, hunger, malnutrition & promising of 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel,

Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing I model village in each constituency every year etc. Referring to grant of warding Bharat Rattan to revered Chaudhary Charan Singh & Dr. Swami Nathan, the AAP leaders termed it as an attempt to lure farmer community in view of ongoing agitation of farmers over demanding grant of MSP etc.

While referring to the height of hypocrisy in

the part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular, where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, in MP, he thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against the corrupt persons but to the astonishment of one & all, he inducted 9 cabinet Ministers in Maharashtra government by breaking NCP including Ajit Pawar against whom ED & CBI have registered cases in 70,000 crores most infamous Irrigation scam, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Mudey, Hassan Mushrif & recently ahead of Lok Sabha polls 2024, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan resigned from the Congress Party & joined BJP, to whom BJP openly accused of the Adarsh Scam, which was specifically mentioned by the PM, two days back etc, & against whom several cases are underway

but the PM, Modi crossing all limits of shamelessness gives guarantee of taking action, what a height of hypocrisy, they claimed & added that BJP has now openly declared that all the corrupt should come to its fold & get cleaned off their sin in BJP's washing powder. The release said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake corruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA & councilors purchasing spree. Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the release alleged. The release further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED & CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" & BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

Reliance Foundation athlete Gulveer Singh wins 3000m gold in dominant display at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Reliance Foundation athlete Gulveer Singh won a gold medal in 3000m at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship in Tehran (Iran) with a timing of 8:07.48.

Gulveer Singh was in top form in 2023, which was his breakthrough year at the international level. He had an impressive run during the Asian Games and followed it up at the National Games Goa, 2023. He starts his 2024 season on a high note.

Gulveer had won bronze in the 10000m at the Asian Games last year and also won bronze in the 5000m event at the Asian Athletics Championships last year.

Reliance Foundation athletes have now won



two Gold medals in this edition, with Jyothi Yarraji also winning Gold in the 60m hurdles event. This win reflects Gulveer's continued rise and improvement with this being his first gold medal on the international circuit at the Asian level.

DoE, GCW Kathua concludes workshop on Effective Communication Skills

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 20

A Five Days Workshop on Effective Communication Skills was concluded today on 20th Feb 2024 by the Department of English in Government Degree College for Women, Kathua. The Workshop was organised under the banner of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). It was commenced on 15th Feb 2024. The programme was commenced with the formal welcome address proposed by Ms Surbhi Gupta Assistant Professor of Computer Science. The workshop was held under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the College, Dr Inderjeet Kour. Speaking on the



occasion, the Principal of the college Dr. Inderjeet Kour congratulated the department of English and the whole organising committee for the smooth and effectively conducting the Workshop. She expressed that workshop was a significant milestone in the professional as well as per-

sonal development of the participants. However, she also urged the students to take part in such workshops so as to develop their invaluable insights into effective verbal and non verbal communication techniques, active listening strategies and the art of delivering impactful

presentations. Mr. Karam Chand, Assistant Professor, HOD Department of English, and Dr. Naseer Mir Lecturer Department of English remained the resource persons on the occasion. Mr. Karam Chand Assistant Professor, HOD Department of English threw light on the reflections of five days workshop, by mentioning a detailed report of the event. He also expressed his gratitude for the efforts put forth by the organising committee to make the event as a successful one. However some participants also came forward to express their feedback regarding the outcome of the workshop. Among others Ms. Navdeep Kaur, Mehnaz Akhtar and

Komal Sharma expressed their delightfulness over the benefits of the workshop. The function was compared by Ms Surbhi Gupta, Assistant Professor in Computer Application. Among other faculty members, Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr Rachna Devi, Dr Yash Paul, Dr Kamini Kapoor, Mr. Sachinjeet Singh, Dr Sonika Rajput, were present on the occasion. Dr. Naseer Mir Lect. English, second Resource Person of the event, expressed a formal vote of thanks. The workshop was organised and coordinated by the organising committee members Mr. Sachinjeet Singh, Ms. Surbhi Gupta, Dr Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Ritu Raj, Dr Sonika Rajput, and Ms Surekha Rani.

Samsung Announces Exciting Cashback Offer on Galaxy A34 5G

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Samsung, India's largest electronics brand, today announced an exciting cashback offer on Galaxy A34 5G smartphone. Galaxy A34 5G offers a premium experience with Samsung's signature Galaxy design and flagship features like Nightography, which help consumers shoot sharper images and videos in low light conditions. With best-in-class IP67 rating, Gorilla Glass 5 protection, 4 Android OS upgrades, and 5 security updates, Galaxy A34 5G is designed to provide a worry-free user experience. As a special offer, consumers can now purchase Galaxy A34 5G with an instant discount of INR 3000. Originally priced starting INR 27499 for the 8GB + 128 GB variant, consumers can now own Galaxy A34 5G at just INR 24499 and the 8GB + 256GB variant at just INR 26499. Galaxy A34 5G features a float-

ing camera setup as well as a metal camera deco which matches the device's colour. It is available in four trendy colours - Violet, Lime, Silver and Graphite. Built to last, Galaxy A34 5G has spill and splash resistance with an IP67 rating, meaning, it can withstand 1 meter of fresh water for up to 30 minutes. Additionally, this smartphone comes with Corning Gorilla Glass 5 protection for improved scratch and drop protection. The vivid display on Galaxy A34 5G features true-to-life colours with Super AMOLED technology and the 120Hz refresh rate allows for incredibly smooth scene-to-scene transitions, even in fast motion.

Galaxy A34 5G comes with 48MP OIS primary lens, 8MP ultra-wide lens, and 5MP macro lens. Galaxy A34 5G also has multiple Camera AI features namely Object Eraser, Image Remaster and Image Clipper. The Object Eraser removes unwanted objects, shadows and reflections from the images. Image Remaster makes photos look even better due to its new image processing engine and Image Clipper lets consumers make cut-outs of the subjects of their photos and use them elsewhere. Galaxy A34 5G comes with Samsung's defense-grade security platform Knox which protects users personal data in real-time. Additionally, Galaxy A34 offers consumers a host of meaningful experiential features that enrich their lives. The unique Voice Focus feature allows users to enjoy clearer voice/video calls even with popular third party apps. Galaxy A34 5G comes with Samsung Wallet which lets consumers use the Tap and Pay feature with their credit cards, and a smooth UPI payments experience. Users can also securely access their Digital IDs such as PAN, Driving License, Vaccine certificates and many more with Samsung Wallet.

J&K witnessed unprecedented devp in Modi regime: Yudhvir



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), J&K, today expressed his enthusiasm for the path of unprecedented development that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yudhvir Sethi made these remarks during a media interaction while leading a rally of party workers and general public of East Constituency from Indra Chowk area to the MA Stadium, wherein they have listened to the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Yudhvir Sethi emphasized that Prime Minister Modi has successfully fulfilled the aspirations of people from all sections of society. He highlighted the remarkable progress and development that Jammu and Kashmir has experienced in the last 10 years, which has surpassed what was achieved in the preceding 70 years.

Sethi expressed his belief that the entire Jammu and Kashmir region stands united in support of Prime Minister

Modi, and he expressed hope that this spree of development will continue after the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

"Prime Minister Modi's leadership has been instrumental in driving the remarkable development and growth in Jammu and Kashmir. The support and dedication of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will always be with him," stated Sethi confidently.

He further added, "We have witnessed unprecedented progress in various sectors, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, and tourism, among others. The tireless efforts and visionary policies of Prime Minister Modi have ushered in a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir. We believe that under his leadership, the future holds even greater potential for growth and prosperity for our region."

Sethi expressed his gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the party workers for their unwavering support and urged them to continue their backing for Prime Minister Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

PM modi dismayed people of all sections of J&K: Congress

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dismayed all people of Jammu & Kashmir during his visit here today by not uttering a word about the restoration of statehood and much delayed assembly elections besides not mentioning about other promises & hopes given to the different categories of youth, ten years ago.

Reacting to the PM speech, JKPC said that he didn't refer to the early restoration of statehood & democracy & protection of jobs & lands, the popular demand of people of J&K.

He also avoided to

mention his earlier promises and hopes given to the people and youth of different categories like large scale unemployed and thousands of daily wagers, need based and other contractual & temporary employees besides refugees and Kashmir Pandits had high hopes which were shattered.

Even though today's rally was attended by the large no of government employees and field functionaries, who were made to attend from far flung areas by boarding transport early in the morning to make the rally a success but it was no way near to 2013 Lakar rally of party, which showed

lack of enthusiasm amongst people, said media incharge of the JKPC Ravinder Sharma. Unemployment is at its peak, the resentment over agniveer scheme, failure of adequate jobs were burning issues but prime minister showed attention. He didn't referred to the dreams of Metro cities smart cities besides the vital railway project to Poonch.

The rise in terrorism in several areas and martyrdom of several senior officers and jawans and continued mischief by Pakistan & China with our borders also didn't invite a strong reply by the Prime minister.

Why are Abdullah's silent on Rana's allegations of BJP alliance: DPAP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 20

Amidst the political turbulence following the revocation of Article 370, the National Conference finds itself under scrutiny for its alleged alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Chief Spokesperson DPAP Salman Nizami has brought to light concerning revelations regarding the NC's potential alliance with the BJP, echoing the silence surrounding former Advisor of Omar Abdullah & NC's Provincial President Davinder Rana's claim that NC sought an alliance with

BJP post Article 370 revocation. Nizami referenced Farooq Abdullah's statement declaring 'our doors are open for BJP,' which adds to the ambiguity surrounding NC's political stance. The abrupt breakup of the Gupkar alliance and the decision to distance themselves from the PDP further raise questions about NC's political motivations and alliances. Nizami said, It has been said that our chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad 'begged' for a Rajya Sabha seat. We categorically deny this baseless claim.

BJP post Article 370 revocation. Nizami referenced Farooq Abdullah's statement declaring 'our doors are open for BJP,' which adds to the ambiguity surrounding NC's political stance. The abrupt breakup of the Gupkar alliance and the decision to distance themselves from the PDP further raise questions about NC's political motivations and alliances. Nizami said, It has been said that our chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad 'begged' for a Rajya Sabha seat. We categorically deny this baseless claim.

KU congratulates Arjamand Mushtaq on being awarded Saroj Chandrasekhar Memorial Award

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20

Arjamand Mushtaq, a research scholar from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI), Kashmir University (KU) has been awarded the prestigious Chandrasekhar Memorial Award, 2024 for her contributions to Biomedical Sciences.

The award recognises the scientific contributions and rewards women scientists in the areas of Biosciences and Biotechnology and is given to two women scientists annually. The award carries a cash prize of rupees 2 lakhs and a certificate. The award ceremony will be held at IIT Kanpur on 28 February 2024 (National Science Day), an official statement issued here read. Arjamand Mushtaq was enrolled for Ph D at CIRI, KU under the mentorship of Dr Altaf Bhat, Coordinator, CIRI, and has made significant contribu-



tions to the understanding of Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), one of the growing metabolic diseases how genome stability is maintained in the cells. Her work was published in the prestigious American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology journal, Journal of Biological Chemistry and American Society for Microbiology Journal, Molecular and Cellular Biology, the statement read. In her congratulatory message, KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan said that the whole university is delighted to announce that Arjamand Mushtaq won this prestigious accolade.

"This is a testament to Arjamand's outstanding scientific endeavours that her ground-breaking research has significantly enhanced our understanding of Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) and illuminated the intricate mechanisms governing genome stability within cells," Prof Khan said. She further said that this accomplishment not only brings pride to the institution but also reaffirms KU's steadfast commitment to encouraging research and empowering women in the scientific community, it read. KU's Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Farooq Ahmad Masoodi; Dean Research, Prof Mohammad Sultan Bhat; Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal besides various deans, heads, teachers, scholars and students have extended heartfelt congratulations to Arjamand Mushtaq on achieving this feat and thanked her for making the university proud, the statement added.

'If India get their noses ahead..', Graeme Smith warns England about their chances in Test series

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith has cautioned England regarding their prospects in the ongoing Test series against India, saying that if the hosts "get their noses ahead then they are tough to catch."

After winning the first match, England lost the next two matches on the trot and fell 2-1 behind in the five-game series.

While praising Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum for sticking to their preferred style of play in India, forcing their opponent to contemplate their moves, Smith, now Cricket South Africa director of cricket, cautioned that it would be challenging to catch up with India in going forward.

"There's always been a lot of talent, but they seem to have taken away the fear, provided a lot of security for people and look at the game in a really positive way. England are certainly sticking true to the way that they want to play in India by applying pressure on the opposition and making them think," Smith was quoted by Wisden.

The former Proteas batter further advised England to stay mentally fresh and within their game plan as toiling



against India, with lengthy days in the field coupled with the intense heat, can exhaust them as the series progresses.

"It's a very long tour and toiling against India like you have to, with long days in the field combined with the heat, can wear you down towards the back end of a series. Staying mentally fresh, positive, and within your gameplan is important. England have done that well so far and need to hang tough for as long as possible, because if India get their noses ahead then they'll be very difficult to chase down," he said.

No one has beaten India in a Test series in India since 2012. Out of 44 Tests at home since the begin-

ning of 2013, India have won a whopping 36 and lost just two (vs Australia in 2017 and vs England in 2021).

Smith pointed to the ability to compete away from home as being what separates the best from the rest. "Being able to win away from home is the differentiator between a good team and a great team. There's no greater challenge than travelling into someone else's backyard for a few months at a time with their crowds, their media and their conditions, and proving that you have the team and the capabilities to compete there and win over an extended period."

"That's something that we saw with the great West

Indies side of the 1970s and 80s, and the great Australia side of the 1990s and 2000s - they really did dominate around the world. The South Africa side that I captained went nine years without losing a Test series away from home, but that consistency on the road hasn't been present in the world game of late. India, Australia and now England have all had teams with plenty of ability since then, but if you want to really step up then you need to do it away from home," concluded Smith.

With India leading 2-1 in the five-match series, England will look to level it up by winning the fourth Test, commences on Friday in Ranchi.

Warner, Head confirm as Aussies' T20I openers; Smith's role less clear ahead of T20 WC

AGENCIES
WELLINGTON, FEB 20

David Warner and Travis Head seem to open the batting for Australia in the T20 World Cup after the duo was confirmed as the opening pair for the three-match series against New Zealand, beginning on Wednesday in Wellington.

Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, captain for the three-match T20I series, also confirmed he will remain in the number three role he has made his own in the 20-over format over recent years.

With Glenn Maxwell excelling at number four and Tim David consistently contributing at six, Australia's top order appears to be well-established leading up to the World Cup in June.

Furthermore, with keeper-batters Josh Inglis and Matthew Wade (who will miss the start of the NZ series due to the birth of his third child) ready to fit in, along with all-rounder Marcus Stoinis also in contention, Smith, who was rested during the West Indies series, faces uncertainty about his position in the team's lineup for the World Cup.

Despite admitting "our top order is pretty set" when asked about his



team's planning, Marsh added that few of the 15-member squad in NZ are expected to play all three matches over the coming six days.

"You'll have to find out, we'll announce our team at the toss. There will be certain guys that probably bat in different positions than they have done in the past, but ultimately we're here to win the series," Marsh said in response to a query about Maxwell and Smith's batting roles against NZ, as quoted by Cricket.com.au website.

"I've batted three for the last 18 months, so I'll be there to start with. And obviously Heady and Davey Warner have been

amazing for us over the last period of time, so I daresay that will be the top three.

"I think players like Tim (David) are a rarity, and it (number six) is probably the hardest role within T20 cricket. We're lucky to have him. He's become a phenomenal player in that role and there's no doubt he's going to play a big part for us," he added.

As Australia prepares for their final bilateral T20I series against New Zealand before the World Cup, the return of star bowlers Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc adds further strength to the team.

Marsh, who has not been formally appointed

Aaron Finch's replacement as Australia T20 captain and continues to lead on a series-by-series basis, joked about anticipating the chance to out-rank Test and ODI skipper Cummins.

"I can't wait to tell him what to do," Marsh said of the role reversal. I'm normally filling in for his press conferences when he's had enough, so I'll get him back at some stage.

"But I also feel pretty lucky to have somebody like Pat as another leader within our group to fall back on, and the experienced heads we've got that will help me in certain times throughout this series.

"I just think their experience (Cummins and Starc), certainly at this level and the three of them (with Hazlewood) work together so well.

"We're lucky to have those guys back. Over the international schedule you don't see those guys play a lot of T20 international cricket together so to have them back and building towards a World Cup is great," said Marsh.

The three-match series against New Zealand is Australia's final outing in the shorter format before the T20 World Cup in June in the United States and West Indies.

'Managed to bowl 100% in warm ups': Stokes hints at return to bowling duties in final two Tests

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

England captain Ben Stokes has hinted he may make a return to bowling duties for the remainder of the series in India as the 32-year-old said "he managed to bowl at 100 percent in one of the warm-up days."

Stokes hasn't bowled during the first three Tests on the sub-continent as he continues to recover from an operation on his knee last year and his absence as a bowler has been felt as India have won two Tests on the trot to hold a 2-1 series lead in the five-match contest.

The consecutive losses have also seen England slip to eighth on the World Test Championship standings and England need to salvage something from their final two matches in India if they are to stay in contention of reaching next year's final at Lord's.

Being able to use Stokes with the ball would allow England to select a more balanced XI for the crucial fourth Test that commences on Friday and the experienced skipper was bullish about his prospects when quizzed on the idea



following his team's 434-run loss to India during the third Test in Rajkot, ICC reports.

"I'm not saying yes, I'm not saying no. Me being me, I'm always very optimistic about most things. That will be a more detailed chat with the medical team about what workload I have done to pass me off as not being a massive risk.

"I managed to bowl at 100 percent in one of the warm-up days here which made me feel pretty good. I felt like I could have bowled in the game but that would have been stupid," said Stokes.

England coach Brendon McCullum said it was a positive sign that Stokes is considering making

a return to the bowling crease, but he doesn't expect his captain to put his hand up for lengthy spells unless thinks he's legitimately able to bowl.

"Well, it's good that he's actually getting into a state where he thinks he might bowl. But Ben is clever; he's really clever as well. He won't bowl unless he thinks he's legitimately able to bowl. The problem would be if he starts getting into a spell and then he can't get out of the spell. So we'll see what unfolds.

"If he does get that bit between his teeth, then let's see where the danger lies there and try and pull him away from it. But it's a good sign," said the head coach.

McCullum also said a decision on Stokes' bowling availability and the make-up of his final XI would not be made until the team gets the chance to monitor the conditions in Ranchi.

"We've got two really good options on the sideline as well with Ollie Robinson and Gus Atkinson. So, we've got a really good squad to pick from. We just need to work out when we get there what conditions we're going to be confronted with and see the health of the army, and then make a decision on what we go with.

"Obviously we haven't seen the conditions in Ranchi yet. I think it might spin. I guess it should spin but we'll see when we get there. But, look, we're really comfortable with what we've got and we're certainly not going to add to the squad.

"We've got a group of players here who have played some outstanding cricket so far over the last three Test matches and whatever XI we decide to go with we will fully back. Hopefully we'll be in a different situation to what we're in now," said McCullum.

Hasaranga joins elite T20I list, becomes second-fastest to 100 wickets in win over Afghanistan

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, FEB 19

Sri Lankan spin sensation Wanindu Hasaranga on Monday became just the second Sri Lankan after Lasith Malinga to take 100 T20I wickets, achieving the feat during the second match of the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan. Hasaranga became the eleventh player overall to breach the 100-wicket barrier in T20Is and the second fastest to achieve the milestone.

Wanindu Hasaranga breached the 100-wicket barrier during the second T20I against Afghanistan in Dambulla that Sri Lanka won by 72 runs. The leg-spinner, who is currently the captain of the T20I



side, now has more wickets than any other bowler in men's T20Is since his debut in 2019. Malinga is the only other Sri Lankan bowler to take more than 100 T20I wickets. While Malinga achieved the milestone in his 76th T20I, Hasaranga did so in his 63rd. This makes him the

second-fastest to 100 T20I wickets after Rashid Khan, who achieved the same in 53 matches in 2021.

On Monday, Hasaranga finished with figures of 2/19 in his four overs in Dambulla and now has 101 wickets in 63 T20Is at an average of 15.36 and an economy rate of 6.78.

While Hasaranga claimed 2-19, Angelo Mathews (2-9), Dinura Fernando (2-18) and Matheesha Pathirana (2-22) scalped a double each as Sri Lanka bowled out Afghanistan for 115 in 17 overs in the second T20I after posting a modest 167/6 in 20 overs the visitors won the toss and elected to field first.

Sadeera Samarawickrama hammered a 42-ball 51 while Angelo Mathews blasted 42 off 22 deliveries to prop up the Sri Lanka innings after they were reduced to 86/3 in the 10th over.

Sri Lanka eventually defeated Afghanistan by 72 runs in the second T20I to take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Premier League: Onana's late header moves Everton out of relegation zone

AGENCIES
LIVERPOOL, FEB 20

Amadou Onana came off the bench to rescue a crucial point for Everton as they shared a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace and moved out of the relegation zone.

In Palace's first match since Roy Hodgson stepped down from his position as first-team manager, Jordan Ayew scored a brilliant opener before Onana came off the bench to equalise for Everton, who are without a Premier League win in their last eight fixtures, on Monday night.

Palace made an assured start and had a great chance on 12 minutes, but Edouard's left-footed drive was straight at Jordan Pickford. At the other end, Abdoulaye Doucoure flashed a first-time volley wide and Dominic Calvert-Lewin,



seeking to end a run of 18 matches without a goal, headed off target, Premier League reports.

Palace had the best chance of the half, as seven minutes before the break, a corner from Adam Wharton was met by Jean-Philippe Mateta, but his header was cleared off the line by Ashley Young.

Everton then had two great opportunities to take

the lead, first Johnstone made a good stop to keep out James Tarkowski's header, before reacting to push away Doucoure's close-range attempt.

Sam Johnstone would then play his part in Palace's opener on 66 minutes, as his direct kick was flicked on by Edouard to Mateta, who held the ball up well before laying off to Jordan Ayew to unleash a superb shot beyond Pick-

ford. Everton continued to probe for an equaliser and Johnstone was forced to turn Garner's bouncing effort behind. From the subsequent corner, Onana rose highest to head in Dwight McNeil's delivery.

A point moves Everton up to 17th on 20 points, above Luton Town on goal difference, while Palace remain in 15th on 25 points.

Norrie kicks off Rio Open title defence with a win

AGENCIES
RIO DE JANEIRO, FEB 20

Briton Cameron Norrie made a perfect start to his Rio Open title defence when he defeated Bolivian Hugo Dellien 6-3, 6-2.

The second seed saved the only break point he faced and converted three of his seven opportunities to advance to the second round of the ATP 500 after one hour and 22 minutes on Monday night, ATP reports.

Norrie will next play



Chilean Tomas Barrios Vera, who eliminated Brazilian wild card Gustavo

Heide 7-5, 6-3.

In other action, fourth seed Francisco Cerundolo

snapped a three-match losing streak with a 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 victory against fellow Argentine Francisco Comesana.

The two-time ATP Tour titlist will face Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the second round.

The former No. 17 player in the ATP Rankings, Ramos-Vinolas clawed past Peruvian Juan Pablo Varillas 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 after two hours and 44 minutes.

Snowfall aftermath; DC Srinagar undertook evening tour of City to oversee functioning of essential services

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

In wake of the snowfall, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Tuesday evening undertook a tour of various City areas to oversee the functioning of essential services and supplies. The DC also inspected the snow-clearance operations and take first hand appraisal about availability of essentials in the markets.

During the visit, the DC visited JLN Hospital, Rainawari to inspect patient care facilities available at the Hospital.

He took a round of various units of the Hospital and inspected the Emergency unit, ICU, OPD, IPD and enquired about the health facilities being provided to the patients.

On the occasion, the DC



asked the Medical Superintendent JLN to ensure all healthcare facilities to the patients and take appropriate measures to ensure patient care services are not affected at all.

He also directed the other line Departments to make sure periodical snow clearance around the hospital to ensure smooth movement of ambulances and other vehicles carrying patients. Similarly,

the DC visited Power Grid Station Bemina to take firsthand appraisal about the present status of the power supply.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that currently power supply is being fed to all City Stations/feeders as per notified schedule.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected MED Control Room Shalteng to take stock of the available

men and machinery kept ready for snow clearance in the District and tackle any situation evolved due to snowfall.

The DC asked the concerned MED authorities at the Control Room to remain in the state of rediness and monitor the weather situation periodically so that men and machinery are deployed swiftly for snow clearance. Enroute to his visit, the DC

visited several areas of the City including Lal Chowk, M.A Road, Sangermal Crossing, Munawarabad, Khanyar, Rainwari, Jehangir Chowk, Batamaloo, Bemina bypass and other adjoining areas and took stock of the ongoing snow clearance operations.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has stressed the officers of the line Departments to ensure prompt clearance of snow from all roads and inner links in rural areas of the District including Fakir Gujri, Dara, Harwan Astanmarg, Khonmoh, Kimber, Takiya Sangreshi and other remote areas.

The DC also emphasised on ensuring availability of all essential commodities in the markets of the District, besides availability of medicines and medical equipments so that patients do not face any difficulty.

Distt Admin Ba'pora organises Mega function at Mini Secretariat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 20

The District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday organised a mega function at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora to broadcast two-way interaction of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi with the beneficiaries of different schemes.

During the virtual interaction session, the Prime Minister interacted with NRLM beneficiary Shaheena, a resident of Sonarwani, Bandipora.

While interacting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shaheena highlighted her journey from poverty to a Lakhpati Didi.

During the interaction program, the Hon'ble Prime Minister appreciated the hard work and determination of the Shaheena and also congratulated her for successful entrepreneurship taking advantage of



government schemes. Shaheena expressed gratitude and thanked the Prime Minister and Lt. Governor for taking Jammu and Kashmir to the path of development.

Shaheena said that there was a time when she was struggling to meet her daily needs, and now, she is one among the Lakhpati Didis and has successfully uplifted her whole family.

The District Level function at mini secretariat Bandipora was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman

Rather; Vice Chairperson DDC, Kousar Shafeeq; DDC Members, ADDC, ADC, ACR, ACD and other District Officers and number of beneficiaries of various schemes.

The broadcasting of the live interaction program was also held at Block Headquarters and Municipal headquarters across the district.

Overwhelming participation was witnessed at all locations across the district to watch the live broadcast of Prime Minister's Program at Jammu.

DHEW hosts Seminar on 'Combating Drug Addiction' under NMBA

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 20

In a proactive effort to address the pressing issue of drug addiction within the community, the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Budgam today organized a seminar titled 'Empowering Women against Substance Abuse' under the auspices of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Narbal Budgam.

The seminar brought together stakeholders from across sectors to collectively strategize and mobilize resources towards combating substance abuse.

The seminar, attended by participants including community leaders, health professionals, Workers from Mission Poshan, served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action.



Participants engaged in constructive discussions on the root causes of drug addiction, its impact on individuals and communities, and effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Renowned experts in the field of addiction, medicine, psychology, and social work delivered informative presentations on the latest research findings, evidence-based treatment modalities, and community-based interventions.

Interactive workshops

facilitated dialogue and skill-building exercises aimed at enhancing participants' capacity to recognize early warning signs of substance abuse, provide support to affected individuals, and advocate for policy change.

Engaging testimonies from individuals in recovery, as well as interactive sessions with community members, underscored the importance of community-driven solutions and the role of collective action in addressing substance abuse.

People across Rajouri District join launch of massive developmental initiatives by PM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 20

The district administrations Rajouri today organized live streaming of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address at Maulana Azad Stadium and Inauguration of development projects, providing the people an opportunity to listen to his inspiring speech. The district administration Rajouri, showcasing its unwavering commitment and enthusiasm, hosted the live streaming of the launch of an array of development initiatives by PM in J&K. The event witnessed a substantial turnout, reflecting the keen interest and enthusiasm of the local populace in the development initia-



tives unveiled by the PM. DC Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat; ADC, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ACR, Mohammad Jhangir Khan; DMO, Naseeb Bajrang; DPO, Mohammad Nawaz Chowdhury; CAO, Sohan Singh and other district

and sectoral officers and officials participated in the event.

The event marked a historic milestone for Jammu and Kashmir, as it witnessed the unveiling of over Rs 32,000 crore developmental projects.

Distt Admin Shopian facilitates live streaming of PM's interaction from Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 20

The District Administration Shopian today facilitated live streaming of Prime Minister's interaction programme from Maulana Azad Stadium of Jammu in which Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had live interaction with beneficiaries of different public welfare schemes.

In this connection, District Administration Shopian organized an event in the meeting Hall at Mini-Secretariat, here.

The Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb; Additional District Development Com-

missioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; District Officers, beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, field functionaries and people in large number participated in the live interaction programme.

Similar functions were held in all Block Headquarters of the district which also witnessed overwhelming participation of the locals including beneficiaries of various centrally sponsored welfare schemes and field functionaries of various departments.

Ramban People thank Prime Minister for extending Railway connectivity to Sangaldan via Khari, Sumber



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 20

This Day marked a significant milestone for the people of Ramban district as they joined in virtual attendance the inaugural function where the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stone of numerous development projects in Jammu.

Under the diligent coordination of the District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the live

streaming of the Prime Minister visit to Jammu was organized across Ramban and all Block headquarters of the district.

This initiative ensured widespread participation and engagement of the local community in the momentous event.

The residents of Ramban expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the extension of the railway facility to Sangaldan, Sumber and Khari areas of Ramban District under the USBRL

Project. This critical infrastructure development will enhance connectivity, ensuring safety and convenience to the people, besides boosting economic activities in the areas.

Furthermore, the community lauded the Prime Minister for dedicating campuses of several prestigious educational institutions, including IIM Jammu to the nation which would play a pivotal role in shaping the academic landscape and fostering innovations and excellence in the education sector.

PM lauds Kathua's NRLM Beneficiary Keerti Sharma for Empowering Local Women

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with Keerti Sharma, a beneficiary of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) from Kathua, during his visit to Jammu today.

Keerti Sharma, a resilient leader of a Self Help Group (SHG) from Basohli, shared her inspiring success story with the Prime Minister, highlighting her journey towards empowerment and financial independence.

Keerti Sharma was one of the beneficiaries who had the opportunity to engage in a healthy interaction with the Prime Minister. The PM commended Keerti Sharma for her efforts and dedication in empowering local women and her dedication to the cause. Keerti Sharma shared that after joining the SHG she felt a sense of identity and purpose.

When asked about the number of members she had taken along on her transformative journey, Keerti Sharma mentioned that she was supported by her 08 fellow members.

Through continuous interventions and inclusive meetings at the cluster level, Keerti Sharma and her SHG have slowly begun to understand the



objectives of the UMEED Mission. Over time, Keerti Sharma provided assistance to mobilizers of those households who had already left, successfully bringing them into the mission (UMEED) first. Her dedication and mission promotion among women has earned her recognition as an active member.

In addition to her active participation in community mobilization, Keerti Sharma's involvement is even more effective, as she has established contacts with other major departments, which have helped women's self-help groups (SHGs), reach various schemes and benefits.

In 2019, Keerti Sharma first took a loan of Rs 1 Lac from the village organization (VO) with the inten-

tion of fulfilling the needs of her family and bought a cow. Recognizing the potential for expansion, Keerti Sharma gradually increased her Dairy capacity and included more cows in the business, involving other SHG members.

With financial support from SHGs, VOs, Community Livelihood Fund (CLF), and Bank Linkages, Keerti Sharma successfully established a dairy unit with six cows, becoming a major source of income for herself and other women.

Keerti Sharma's dedication to empowering women in the community makes her a "Pashu Sakhi," where she has ensured insurance and vaccination for members' animals, and encouraged most members to take advantage of

the IDDS scheme, resulting in the establishment of more than 20 small dairy units.

During the interaction, Kirti Sharma expressed her gratitude for the government schemes that have helped her and many others like her achieve financial stability and independence. She promised to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to create 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didi' among Self-Help Groups, emphasizing her commitment to empowering women and contributing to the nation's economic growth.

Keerti Sharma has made a significant contribution to the empowerment of women, economically securing them and their communities. She is receiving benefits under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme under the Golden Card and is also a holder of a BPL ration card. She is receiving benefits under the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana for free gas connection, farmer credit card, farmer honor, and under IHHL.

Kirti Sharma's inspiring story and her promise to support the Prime Minister's vision showcase the transformative impact of government schemes like the NRLM in empowering women and uplifting communities.

District Admin Ganderbal facilitates live Streaming of PM's Interaction, witnesses overwhelming participation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 20

In an endeavor to connect the locals of Ganderbal with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's live interaction programme from Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, the District Administration Ganderbal today organized a grand event at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

The live streaming session witnessed an enthusiastic audience comprising Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; DDC Members, District Officers, beneficiaries of various centrally sponsored welfare schemes, Anganwadi/ASHA workers, field functionaries, and a large number of people.

Similar events unfolded simultaneously at all Block Headquarters within the district, where locals and field functionaries from various departments actively participated.

The overwhelming response from the locals highlighted the success and significance of such initiatives in strengthening the bond between the government and the people, ultimately working towards the shared goal of inclusive development.