VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

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NEWSPAPER NEWS MAGAZINES PRINTING FLYERS, POSTERS, BUSINESS CARDS, BROCHURES, FORMS LETTERHEADS, INVOICES, **CALENDERS, BOOKLETS**

LAWAIPORA SRINAGAR & HUMHAMA BUDGAM

PDD laborer electrocuted to death

اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلَهُ عَلَيْنًا بِالنِّمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ، وَالسَّلاَمَةِ

وَالْإِسْلَامِ، رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ

Srinagar, April 13: A 28-year-old casual laborer of Power Development Department (PDD) was electrocuted to death while repairing an electric line in this south Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

Shabir Ahmad Khan, 28, son of Mohammad Iqbal Khan of Check Ishardas Mattan got electrocuted while repairing electric line at at Wantrag Kehribal. He was immediately shifted to Public Health Centre (PHC) Mattan where doctors declared him as brought dead.

A police official while confirming the death of the casual laborer said cognizance has been taken in the matter and further proceedings are underway.

J&K logs 12 **COVID-19** cases

Srinagar, April 13: Jammu and Kashmir reported 12 fresh COVID-19 cases on Wednesday that took the infection tally to 4,53,909, officials said.

Of the new cases, two were reported from the Jammu division while the rest were from Kashmir division, they said.

Srinagar district recorded eight new cases while Budgam registered two new infections, officials

Seventeen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report

any fresh case. There are 77 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached

4,49,082, they said. The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,750. No COVID-19 related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, officials

There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added.

Tehsildar among four injured in scuffle

Rajouri, April 13: At least four persons including Tehsildar were injured in a scuffle between the Revenue official and locals at Sunderbani area of Rajouri district on Wednesday.

Officials said a scuffle broke out between some locals of Sunderbani and Tehsildar after a verbal duel over some issue following which the Tehsildar was attacked

They said as the attack on Tehsildar led to scuffle, some locals also received injuries.

Locals on the other hand alleged that Tehsildar manhandled a local man, which turned the situation ugly.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam said the matter is under investigation.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajouri Vikas Kundal said police have started investigation into the matter while administration is also conducting a probe to ascertain the fact.

Meanwhile, the injured Tehsildar was referred to Jammu for specialized treatment.

Delimitation Commission likely to submit report by April end

HT NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 13: The Jammu and Kashmir **Delimitation Commission** is likely to submit its report to the government by the end of April, sources said on Wednesday.

They said, once the commission submits its report, the Centre may take a call elections in J&K. The sources also said

that the Centre will review all aspects including the security facets. The draft roll will be pub-

on holding the Assembly done. Centre will discuss Kathua, Samba and Kishtthe same during an all party meeting, the government sources elaborated.

The commission has proposed six new assembly constituencies in the lished, following which a Jammu region which 'door to door' verification would be carved out from of the electoral roll will be Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda,

war districts, the sources said. This will increase the number of Assembly seats from 37 to 43 in the Jammu

Similarly, one new seat has been proposed in Kashmir valley, to be carved CONT. ON PAGE 10

Police solves blind

Arrests husband,

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, April 13: With

the arrest of two persons

including the husband of a

woman (now deceased), the

Akhnoor Police of Jammu

district claimed to have

solved blind murder case

of a young woman who was

found dead in suspicious

circumstances at Bhagwa-

na Chak. Police spokesper-

CONT. ON PAGE 10

son said.

murder case:

accomplice in

wife's murder

Militants shot dead civilian in Kulgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Suspected militants killed a man in Kulgam district of south Kashmir this evening in what appeared yet another instance of targeted attack.

Satish Kumar Singh, a driver by profession, was shot in Kulgam's Kakran village. He was critically injured and shifted to a local hospital but succumbed to his injuries on the way, the police said.

Officials said he was shot in the head from a point-blank range. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

"Civilian Satesh Kumar Singh, a resident of Kulgam, succumbed to his injuries at hospital. Terrorists involved in this gruesome terror crime will be neutralized soon. Search to track the involved terrorists in progress," the Kashmir Police tweeted.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the killing.

"I unequivocally condemn the attack on Satish Kumar Singh in which he lost his life. There can never be a justification for attacks like these.

CONT. ON PAGE 10

Separatist leader among 11 booked under PSA in Bandipora

Baisakhi celebrated with

fervor in Kashmir

Srinagar, Apr 13: Police have booked at least eleven persons including a separatist leader Abdul Samad Inqlabi under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in north Kashmiri's Bandipora Chewa village, Mohammad

Officials said the accused were allegedly involved in "unlawful and subversive" activities following which they were slapped with PSA and subsequently shifted to different jails.

Those booked include Naseer Ahmad Parray, son Abdul Samad Malla alias of Bashir Ahmad Parray of Inglabi, son of Abdul Rehman Malla of Ganastan village, Kaiser Ahmad Parray, son of Nazir Ahmad Parray of Parray Mohalla, Asham, Zahoor Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar of said. нтии

PUBLIC SAFETY ACT Saleem Parray, son Mohammad Ramzan Parray of Khos Mohalla Hajin, Irfan Ahmad Lone, son of Mohd Afzal Lone of Bangar Mohalla, Hajin, Irfan Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Aziz Bhat

of Sved Mohalla, Hajin,

Kathpora Hajin and four

others "All those booked under PSA were involved in unlawful activities and shifted to different jails," an official

2 JKAS officers transferred; 10 police officers assigned additional charges

Kunzer district Baramulla

alleging therein that that his

father is the proprietor of a

manufacturing unit situated

said is being run by the

complainant with the help

upgrading the electricity

Spokesman, said however

CONT. ON PAGE 10

The unit, spokesman

at Gofbal Kunzer.

KV on Nov. 2021.

the officials Masood

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered the transfers and postings of two JKAS officers in the interest of the administration.

According to an order, Shabnam Kamili, JKAS, Mission Director, ICPS, J&K, is transferred and posted as Secretary in the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmer's

CONT. ON PAGE 10

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Anti

Corruption Bureau (ACB)

on Wednesday trapped and

arrested Junior Engineers

and Inspector of special sub

division, Kashmir Power

person of ACB Anti Cor-

ruption Bureau received a

complaint from a resident of

village Gofbal Kunzer, tehsil

bribe of Rs 2,60,000.

2 PDD JEs, inspector

arrested in bribery case

Distribution Corporation of his family since 2014

Limited, Tangmarg for who he alleged had applied

demanding and accepting before AEE Tangmarg for

ment said per the spokes- from presently 63 KV to 250

A spokesman in a state- consumption/sanction load

Govt orders transfers, postings of ARTOs

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered the transfers and postings of five transport officials.

As per an order, Basharat Mehmood has been posted as ARTO Poonch. He was earlier posted as ARTO Gan-Wajahat Qayoom, who was I/C ARTO BOI Srinagar,

has been posted as I/C ARTO Ganderbal. Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad, who was awaiting orders of

adjustment in the office of Transport **CONT. ON PAGE 10**

Stepping up premier institutes like IIT, IIM, AIIMS: Kansal

Heat wave continues in Jmu,

imum temperature at 38.5 mir region where Srinagar

degrees Celsius and mini- recorded a high of near

light rains lash Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu. April 13: Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented era of positive developments with setting up of premier education institutes like IIT, IIM, AIIMS, Central and Cluster Universities among other avenues of education.

The remarks were made by Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal while addressing students of Central University Jammu. He was chairing

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, April 13: Heat

wave conditions continued

to prevail over the Jammu

region on Wednesday,

while light rains in Kash-

mir brought down the day

temperature to normal after

almost a month, an IMD offi-

Jammu recorded the max-

mum at 24.8 degrees Celsius.

While the day temperature

is 6.4 degrees above season's

average, the night tempera-

the valedictory function of a 3-day Mobile Film Making workshop.

The workshop was organized by the Mass Communication and New Media Department of Central University of Jammu. The participants have been trained by Ritesh Taksande from Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal Secretary said, 'In the fast changing and fast developing world

CONT. ON PAGE 10

ture is also 5.6 notches above

normal, the India Meteoro-

logical Department (IMD)

for the pilgrims visiting

Mata Vaishno Devi shrine,

recorded a high of 34.6

degrees Celsius and a low of

hand, was pleasant in Kash-

normal 20.6 degrees Celsius

and a low of 11.8 degrees Cel-

CONT. ON PAGE 10

The weather, on the other

22.8 degrees Celsius.

sius, which was 4.2

Katra, the base camp

official said.

Srinagar, April 13: Baisakhi was celebrated across valley on Wednesday with great zeal and enthusiasm as several religious programs were organized in collaboration with Ragi Pracharakhs along with the entire Sikh Sangat as well as various

While delivering the sermon on Baisahki festival, Sangat, S. Baldev Singh Raina, the Chairman of Peaks Group of Companies and United Kashmiri Sikh Progressive Forum (UKSPF) said that on this day in year 1699, the 10th Sikh Guru ,Guru Govind Singh Ji, laid down the foundation of

HT NEWS NETWORK

Sikh organizations.

CONT. ON PAGE 10

Farooq, Mehbooba, **Omar greet people** on Baisakhi

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah on Wednesday greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi

In their message the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Faroog Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah

CONT. ON PAGE 10

Change of guard, internal matter of Pak; Army's job to keep LoC infiltration free: GoC 16 Corps



HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, April 13: The army in Jammu Wednesday said that the change of guard in Pakistan will not affect the security situation along the Line of Control

(LoC) in J&K as the troops were in full control to ensure no infiltration attempt suc-Talking to reporters on

the sidelines of Rajouri Day-also marked CONT. ON PAGE 10

SIA to probe hawala money case involving former J&K minister

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, April 13: Jammu and Kashmir's State Investigation Agency will probe the high profile hawala money case in which former minister Jatinder Singh alias 'Babu Singh' is the main accused, officials said on Wednesday.

Singh, the main accused in the case related to the recent recovery of hawala money meant for subversive activities, was arrested from Kathua district on April 9, a police officer said.

He was at large since March 31 after the police busted the hawala racket here and issued a lookout notice for him on April 6. "The State Investigation

Agency (SIA) will be investigating the case," a senior officer told PTI.

Singh was a minister in the PDP-Congress government in 2002-2005 and now is the chairman of an organisation 'Nature-Mankind Friendly Global Party'.

Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, was arrested with the hawala money on March 31 from the Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu and his questioning revealed that he was tasked by Singh, a resident of Kathua district, to collect the money from Srinagar.

Three persons -- Sidhant Sharma of Kathua and S Gurdev Singh and **CONT. ON PAGE 10**

BCI recognizes integrated five-year BA LLB **Program of CUK** HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Bar Council of India (BCI) has recognized the integrated five-vear BA-LLB Program of the Central University of Kashmir, a spokesperson of the University said.

The BCI conducted a live virtual inspection of the School of Legal Studies (SLS) on March 11 in which judges, academicians, lawyers and administrators were present. They took keen interest in physically verifying all the parameters of the department required for recognition of the program. The Committee submitted its report to the

CONT. ON PAGE 10

LG interacts with members of J&K's 1st Women Cycling Club



HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, April 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday interacted with members of women cycling club, 'Women Do Ride' of J&K, at the Raj Bhavan.

The Lt Governor congratulated the members

of the first women cycling club led by Ms Payal Jain. He appreciated the efforts of first women cyclist group of J&K in inspiring positivity in society, gender equality and women empowerment, skill-sharing & invaluable

contribution to social **CONT. ON PAGE 10**

The discovery is expect-

The World Health Orga-

ed to lead to therapies that

prevent Rift Valley Fever or

nization lists Rift Valley

reduce its severity.

J&K figures at bottom in NITI Aayog's energy & climate index

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory figures at the bottom in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI), which was released on

report titled- State Energy placed at 32nd spot among ers," reads the report. states and UTs.

In the category of UTs, tion that the states the report reveals that J&K



figures at 6th rank. "Among Union Territories Chandi garh, Delhi and Daman & Diu/Darda & Nagar A cursory look at the Haveli(both combined) are the top three performers, and Climate Index- reveals and Andaman & Nicobar, that with an overall score of J&K and Lakshadweep are 29.3, Jammu & Kashmir is the bottom three perform

It is worthwhile to men **CONT. ON PAGE 10**

its personnel to use bicycle within official complex

BSF Kashmir Frontiers asks

HT NEWS NETWORK

Taking initiatives for a clean environment, the Border Security Force (BSF) has asked its personnel to use bicycles to come to office from their residences in the Kashmir Frontier and **Subsidiary Training Centre**

(STC) in the campus. The BSF Kashmir Frontier and STC have its offices and residential quarters located in the same campus

According to an official order, the BSF personnel New Delhi, April 13: are commuting from their quarters to office by vehicles such as personal motorcycles/ cars, which causes unnecessary air & sound pollution in the campus, 'which not only is detrimental to health of family members living in campus but its utter foolishness to burn unnecessary fuel as we all know that we got limited

hydrocarbon reserves. **CONT. ON PAGE 10**

Kashmiri virologist discovers outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in human cells

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, April 13: Kashmir based virologist has discovered the latest outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) virus in human cells, accord ing to media reports.

in the US found that the RVF virus, spread by mosquitoes, enters human cells through a protein.

Dr Safder Ganaie, based

was recently published in the journal Cell. Dr Ganaie magazine published from and his team found that Srinagar reported.



spread by mosquitoes, enters human cells through a protein normally involved in mopping up low-density "The discovery by Dr lipoproteins - the carriers

Ganaie and his colleagues of so-called 'bad cholesterol' — from the blood," a news

Fever as a prioritized disease likely to cause epidemics in the near future. The virus is spread by mosquitoes among domesticated animals, which then pass it on to people. The study was conducted

in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto.

CONT. ON PAGE 10

GOC White Knight Corps greets Awaam on "Rajouri Day"

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, GOC White Knight Corps, accompanied by Maj Gen Rajeev Puri, GOC, Ace of Spades Division, dignitaries from civil administration and the people of Rajouri paid tributes to the Heroes of Rajouri on the occasion of "Rajouri Day". Brig N V Nanjundeshwara, Station Commander, Rajouri, D S Sandhu, DIG BSF, Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri as well as other civil and military officials also paid tributes to the bravehearts. In early 1947, the Pakistani Intruders captured the vital town of Rajouri. On April 12 1948, troops of 1 Kumaon along with Tanks of Central India Horse (CIH) and 5 and 30 Mountain Batteries advanced from Chingus for liberation of Rajouri. On Apr 13, 1948, Rajouri was liberated from the intruders by the heroic action of our armed forces assisted by the brave citi-

zens of Rajouri. Rajouri Day is celebrated every year to pay homage to the military and civilian bravehearts who laid down their lives for liberation of

On this day, homage is paid to the heroism of 2nd Lt RR Rane of 37 Assault Field Company who



with paying homage to the

bravehearts and the brave

citizens of Rajouri who laid

down their lives for its lib-

eration from Pakistani raid-

The event progressed with

an all religions prayer meet,

affirming the bond of uni-

ty in India, followed by a

cultural programme which

consisted of a colourful dis-

play of ethnic kaleidoscope

by the children of various

schools. The mesmerizing

performances by budding

young children were appre-

ciated by the gathering with

loud cheers and tumultu-

ous clapping. The young

performers were felicitated

by Reema Puri, Convenor

FWO, Ace of Spades Divi-

sion. The splendid perfor-

mances by the renowned

and reputed Army Sympho-

ny, Police, BSF Bands kept

از نیابت کریری کانتر دیاا جلاس اللسانت مسین منان تاب تحصیلدار کریری کانتر و

عنوان درخواست: منجانب سيدتاكيده والدار دختر / زوجه: سيداشرفدساكن كريري

معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر ميس كاغذات كدورغواست سائله سيروتا كيدو وختر

لبذا تمام عوام خاص و عام کو بذر بعداشتبار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے۔ کداگر کسی کو

ر تکلیف نگالنے میں کوئی عزر یاامتراض ہوتوایک ہفتہ کے اندرائے اعتراضات دفتر

PUBLIC NOTICE

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if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the

publication of this notice after that no objection will be

enertained

بذا میں ویش کریں۔معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض یا مذر کا بل قبول نیس ہوگا۔

سيداشرفدساكن كريري بمراد عطائي اي . ذيليوسائيس EWS بغرض تحقيقات بالوليين

حوے۔ ربورٹ پٹواری سے عیان حوا کہ سائلہ کا کتبہ افراد پر شمتل ہے۔ اور

گنہ کی ماباند آ مدنی مملغ تک ہے۔سائل کے افراد خاند مندرجہ ویل ہے۔

ers in the year 1948.

was bravely responsible for clearing the road from Naushera to Rajouri.

Inauguration of Rajouri Day Festivities 'Garv Ka Parv' started from April 7 onwards to include a series of events like an Ex-serviceman Rally & Veer Nari Sammelan, Sarpanch Conclave, Visit to Hall of Fame for the students of Rajouri, Painting Competition, Bike rally over 1000 kms, 'Run for Rajouri' Mini Marathon, Equipment Display, Women Empowerment Conclave, Kite festival, Musical evening and so much more were organized by the Indian Army, with support from the District administration and the citizens of Rajouri.

The pitch was raised to a patriotic fervour on 13th April, which commenced The performers were felicitated by Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, GOC White Knight

The day's event also included display of Martial Arts, Equipment display, Equestrian show, a para motor show and a grand Military Dog Show. This historic event will be etched in the memories of the natives of Rajouri forever.

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, addressed the gathering and motivated all to join hands for a meaningful contribution in the overall development in the region. He fully assured of maintaining peace and tranquility in the region and extending all possible cooperation to the Awaam at all times.

Meanwhile, a Cultural program "Rajouri Day" (Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav) was organized by the Cultural Wing of Information Department Jammu in collaboration with the Indian Army at Rajouri.

Lt. General Manjider Singh YSM, VSM, GOC WhiteKnight_IA was Chief guest on the occasion.

The Artists who performed in the program were Vijay Anand, Surjit Singh, Vikram Charbathia, Balbir Singh, Mohinder Kumar, Amit Kumar and Harpal

بمرادمطائي اي۔ ذبليو۔ ايس 126/294 بحق

JKPCC Jammu organises "Save Tawi Campaign" on eve of "Holy Sakh Visrajan"

JAMMU, APRIL 13: To create awareness among people about scientific waste management and mitigate River water pollution due to waste littering during puja ceremonies / rituals, a "Save Tawi Campaign" was organised by J&K Pollution Control Committee, Jammu.

The event coincided with "Holy Sakh Visarjan" which was held in collaboration with DISHA organization, Live For Others-Being helpful foundation & Climate Front Jammu. Around 150 students from GGM Science College, GCW Parade, MAM College, commerce college, Jammu University (Department of Environmental Sciences & Sociology), staff of J&K Pollution Control Committee, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Rural & Urban Development Agency (RUDA) participated. Awareness cum waste collection camps were setup at two main Visarjan Ghats, viz., Har ki Paudi and Bikram Chowk by the J&K Pollution Control committee in order to reach out to the devotees at the spot of Sakh Visarjan, to interact with them and sensitize them to not immerse any other puja material apart from holy Sakh to prevent pollution of Holy River.During the "Save Tawi Campaign", segregated waste collection was done directly from devotees, followed by secondary segregation of waste with help of workers engaged by Jammu Municipal Corporation and all segregated waste including plastic was collected by Rural and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) for further recycling and scientific disposal.Mata Chunri shall be sent to NGO Goonj, based in Delhi for making dresses for needy children. Coconuts were distributed as Prasad among devotees and local people. Flower waste was collected by JMC for further composting at Bandu Rakh. Clay pots used for growing Sakh shall be used by people for feeding water to birds, food to stray animals etc. Neelu Gera, Chairperson, JKPCC appreciated the initiative taken by JKPCC, Jammu to raise awareness among people and stressed upon the need to prevent littering and dumping of non-biodegradable items including plastics and polybags not immerse any other puja material apart from holy Sakh non-biodegradable items including plastics and polybags etc. She also pointed out that Cleanliness is Godliness and urged all citizens to come forward to ensure Rivers rejuvenation / conservation and pledge for preservation of water bodies for our future generations.



PASSPORT LOST

My Fathers name and my Mothers name wrongly mentioned in my Passport under passport no N5407808 as my Fathers name Syed Tareq Ahmad Bukhari instead of Syed Tariq Bukhari and my mothers name as Zeerina Akhter instead of Zareena Bukhari .Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

SYED MEHVISH BUKHARI D/O SYED TARIQ BUKHARI







SITE VISIT, BUILDING PLANS, INTERIOR DESIGN, 3D VIEWS, SUPERVISION, RENOVATION LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT, RATE PER SQ FT NEAR HANIFA JAMIA MASJIÓ KUNZER 190404







PUBLIC NOTICE

CSC DIGITAL SEVA CENTRE

DAR GANIE GUND TRAL

8082080256

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GHULAM MOHAMMAD PARRAY S/O GH QADIR PARRAY R/O DUNGDARA KREERI BLOCK WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for D Class Contractor registration card if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be enertained. BASHIR AHMAD WANI

S/O GH AHMAD WANI R/O CHINAD KHUSHALPORA SANGRAMA **BLOCK SANGRAMA**

PASSPORT LOST

I have lost my passport under passport number T0878184 applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Passport Office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ALTAF AHMAD MAGRAY S/O GH RASOOL MAGRAY R/O KAKOTHAL KREERI BARAMULLA





J8 TECHNO SERVICES KREERI

Mega Block Diwas held at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, APRIL 13: As part of the week-ly Block Diwas initiative launched by the Government of J&K, the District Development Commission-er (DDC) Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna today conducted interaction programme with the Sarpanches of all blocks of the district at Conference Hall Mini Secretariat, here.During the interaction programme, Sarpanches apprised the DDC about various issues related to augmentation of water supply and electricity, macadamization of roads, desilting of irrigation canals, dearth of staff in schools, community hall and Public Park in Kangan and other demands of public importance. The DDC patiently listened to all the issues and demands put forth by the PRIs and



directed the concerned officers to prepare a list of issues/grievances raised pertaining to their departments that should be resolved at an earliest. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the purpose of hold-ing Block Diwas is to have firsthand appraisal about the issues and demands being faced by the people and to provide on spot redressal

of possible grievances. She also urged the officers to work with zeal and close coordination of PRIs to achieve targets on time.

The education department was directed to share the details about student teacher ratio in all government schools.Regarding macadamization, the DDC directed the executive Engineer R&B to prioritize those

macadamized for a long time in the district and other main roads.Interacting with the Sarpanches, the DDC urged them to play their active role in checking feasibility of the works that are put in District CAPEX plan 2022-23 so that plan is finalized and approved at an earliest. She urged the Sarpanches of Kangan and Gund blocks that works of higher reaches in these blocks should be taken on priority so that these works could be completed on time

once the plan is approved.
Among others, Block Diwas was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, ADDC, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, ADC, Farooq Ahmad Baba, Ex. Engineers of various wings, ACP, Dy. CEO, BDOs and other con-

DC B'la presides over Block Diwas at Bijhama; listens to public issues, demands

BARAMULLA, APRIL 13: Continuing the process of special Public Outreach Programme under the ongoing Gram Swaraj Month across the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Govt Higher Secondary

School Bijhama, here. SDM Uri, Harvinder Singh, DDC Member, various concerned officers besides different stakeholders including PRIs, civil society members, among other prominent citizens of the area were present on the occasion.

During the grievance redressal camp, locals and the PRI members called upon the DC and raised various demands of public



The delegations from different areas put forth their issues and grievances which include macadamization of roads, improvement in water supply and augmentation of electricity. They also demanded a tower installation in the said area adding that the students suffer as there remain the network problems and students do not have access to the inter-

The DC gave a patient hearing of all the demands and grievances and assured that all issues shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their timely redressal.

While interacting with the public, the DC urged upon them to play an active part so that inclusive and public oriented projects and schemes are framed in larger public interest.
He said that their role will

prove pivotal in identifying priority projects.
The DC also assured PRIs

and others that the issues and demands they have put forth and registered will be seriously looked into.

Moreover, the DC also gave on spot directions for redressal of many issues.

Earlier. DC inspected various stalls installed by line departments including Animal Husbandry, Rural Development Department and NRLM at the venue depicting and demonstrating various kinds of services, products and schemes meant for public

Mega Block Diwas held at Kulgam

trict Administration Kulgam today organized Mega Block Diwas in three blocks of the district to take appraisal of the public issues,

D. H. Pora blocks of the district. Officers and officials from line departments listened to issues, grievances and demands of the public for timely redressal at all the three

Meanwhile, to take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat remained available at Kulgam block of the district where he listened to grievances and issues of people for redressal. PRI members and officers from District administration were also The delegations from Palnoo,



person, PRIs, officers and people in large numbers participated in the pro-

The PRIs projected various issues of day to day nature which the ADC

Handwara heard patiently

and resolved various is-

Meanwhile, as part of iconic week celebration,

Gram Sabhas were held in 72 panchayats of block

Nutnussa, Mawar, Drug-

mulla, Kupwara, Kala-

roose, Handwara, Kral-

pora, Trehgam, Machill,

Sogam, Ramhal, Tarath-

pora, Wavoora, Langate,

Magam, Raiwar, Keran.

Reddi Chowkibal, Hirri

Oadirabad, Meelyal, Hy-

hama, Tangdar, Qaziabad

The Gram Sabhas were

conducted under the su-

pervision of officers and

field functionaries of Ru-

ral Development in which

PRIs. frontline workers.

local youth and public in

large participated and dis-cussed various issues of

Rural development includ-

ing cleanliness, sanitation,

better education, good

health facilities, augmen-

tation of power and water supply and other develop-

mental issues as per Government's 100 point pro-

gramme.pment including

cleanliness, sanitation, bet-

and Teetwal.

gramme.

sues on spot.

population from Brinal Lamad demanded reduction of the monthly

A youth delegation from Brazloo Jageer demanded removal of en-

Mega Block Diwas, Gram Sabhas

held across Kupwara district

chayati Raj institutions to

realise the vision of Gram

Swarai viz a viz demo-

cratic decentralization and

saturation of 100 points programme targeted by the

On the occasion, DC and

the officers present in the

Gram Sabha replied to the

queries raised by the PRIs

and the people.

Encouraging the general masses, the DC informed

people that time has gone

when administration were

making plans for the wel-

fare of the people adding

that it is now the public who by means of Jan-

bhagidari, propose devel-

opmental plans themselves

The mega block diwas/

Gram sabha was held at

Tarathpora Vilgam under

for their development.

Government.

water to the people besides Protection bund at critical spots at Badi Khul and desilting of Lakt Khul. Delegation from Halan Lamad demanded augmentation of water supply and extension of health fa-

Scores of other delegations from other areas also raised their issues and grievances for redressal during the public outreach programme.

The DC after giving patient hearing to the public addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on the spot and issues required to be redressed at higher level, were also noted.

Dr Bilal on the occasion said that Block Diwas is an initiative for improving the delivery of services and to ensure on spot redressal of issues of immediate nature in the most efficient manner.

Meanwhile, grievances redressal camps were also organised at Block D.H.Pora and block Devsar where ADDC and SDM listened to issues and grievances of people for redressal.

FCS&CA Kashmir recovers Rs 2 lac fine from erring Shopkeepers during Ramadan

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir today sealed three establishments during market checking at Lal Chowk, Ali Kadal and Rawalpora in Srinagar for violation of the Essential Commodities Act.

As per an official handout, it was informed that the enforcement team of the department has also recovered more than two lac rupees fine from the traders during the month of Ramdan and in all 33 shops sealed which include Mutton shops, Chicken shops, vegetable and Bakery shops who were selling the items at very high rates other than fixed by the government. Besides three FIRs were lodged against the violators

The market checking drives has been started following complaints pouring in from different sections of the society regarding illegal enhancement of rates by the shopkeepers dealing with different consumable items.

The Assistant Director Enforcement, Kashmir further reiterated that the drive will continue and strict action under law shall follow against the violators.

ATHWAAS: Controller General (Accounts), ICAS initiate cleanliness drive of Dal Lake on 5th day

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: The cleanliness drive of Dal Lake continued on the fifth day today under the ATHWAAS initiative of the government.

Today the drive was started by Dharitri Panda, Controller General of Accounts and Shakeel Maqbool ICAS by removing the weed from the Lake.

Besides, 25 students from Amar Singh College also participated in the said drive. Forest Officer Trainees from Telangana Forest Academy Hyderabad who were imparting training for one day of LCMA activities have also participated in the cleanliness drive with

Speaking on the occasion, Dharitri Panda congratulated the LCMA for initiating this drive and impressed upon all the stakeholders and people in general to give their full support for cleaning of our liquid heart.

Meanwhile Officer Trainees from Telangana also appreciated the working of LCMA and said that this session and also this drive of cleanliness will prove fruitful.

Dist Admin Shopian holds Block Diwas at Mini-Secretariat

SHOPIAN, APRIL 13: The District Administration Shopian today organised Weekly Block Diwas at Mini Secretariat Arhama, here to listen to the grievances of the people of

Shopian and Keller Blocks in order to take prompt resolutions of the issues.

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya presid-

ed over the Block Diwas programme.

During the programme, the Public representatives and locals of the area put forth their grievances and demands regarding provisions of drinking water, electricity, ration, road connectivity and houses under PMAY etc.

The DDC gave a patient hearing and directed the concerned officers to resolve their issues in a time bound manner. Many grievances were redressed on the spot, while DDC assured

that the rest of them would be redressed on the priority basis.

The Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Hussain; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Chief Planning Officer, Khursheed Ahmad Khatana; DDC, Members, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Assistant Director, Planning and Block level

officers were present on the occasion. **DC Bandipora reviews Flood Preparedness Plan**

BANDIPORA, APRIL 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad today chaired a meeting to review flood preparedness in the district besides discussing the Flood Management Action Plan of the district.

The meeting discussed the Flood Management Action Plan in detail. All the departments

put forward their suggestions and informed the meeting about their preparedness.

Dr Owais reviewed the availability of logistics of all concerned departments and asked the officers to conduct audit and identification of shelter locations for all vulnerable areas. He urged the departments for early submission of requisitions for required items and also directed for procurement of 10 dewatering pumps and augmentation of other items. He also called for establishment of round the clock functional control rooms at Sub Divi-

sion level that should be represented by all concerned departments for better coordination and action to grievances.Dr Owais directed departments to gear up for conduct of mock drills and other activities on a regular basis.

He directed the officers to strictly follow the Action Plan while dealing with any situa-

tion and stressed on maintaining close coordination between various departments for better results. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Parvaiz Rahim, SDM Sumbal Dr Bashir Ahmad, SDM Gurez, Dr Mudasir, CMO Bandipora, CEO Bandipora, Ex. Engineers of Irrigation Flood Control Bandipora and sumbal, MID Shadipora, R&B Bandipora and Sumbal, PHE Bandipora and Sumbal, SSD Gurez besides Tehsildars, Dy. SP DAR, AEEs of PDD and other senior officials of the district.

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 13: The Disgrievances and demands.

During the programme functions were held at Devsar, Kulgam and venues.

present during this block Diwas. Zaban, demanded alignment of the HT line through the road side while another delegation of ST

croachments from identified playfield and members from Frisal Tehsil Welfare Committee demanded development and preservation of Sheikpal spring. They also flagged the demand of a Filtration plant in the area to provide safe drinking

Gram Swaraj Campaign/ Block Diwas: DC B'pora holds public outreach programme



BANDIPORA, APRIL 13: Continuing its efforts to bring administration at the door steps of people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad today held public outreach programme as part of Gram Swaraj and weekly Block Diwas at Block office Bandipora and listened to the public for their issues, grievances, and de-

Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development Ab.Rashid Das, Tehsildar Bandipora, BDO Bandipora Ex. Engineers of R&B and PHE, PRIs besides the general public participated in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Owais said Block Diwas is an initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir where government functionaries reach out to the people, interact with them, and obtain feedback from them.

He said the Government has established a free fair and corruption free system, and every individual is free to meet district administration regarding any grievance.

The DC said the ongoing Gram Swaraj Month is meant for empowerment of Panchayats and various institutions working on panchayat level and urged people to enthusiastically participate in Gram Sabhas for plan formulations. He appreciated the efforts of PRIs and urged PRIs to formulate Community oriented plans and ensure the development of at-least one water body in every Panchayat.

Several delegations and PRIs put forth grievances related to water supply, Health Sector, electric infrastructure and Road infrastructure besides others.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the PRI members, delegations, and individuals and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for early redressal of their genuine grievances. He assured that the highlighted issues of public

April as Gram Swaraj the chairmanship of ADC ter education, good health Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir where BDC Chair-Abhiyan month with an facilities, augmentation of importance will be taken up with higher authorities besides aim to strengthen the Panpower and water supply. all the pendency shall be reviewed thoroughly. Div Com Kashmir presides over Block Diwas at Kokernag

ANANTNAG, APRIL 13: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today presided over the Block Di-

KUPWARA.

13: In continuation to

the celebration of Gram

Swaraj Abhiyan, District Administration Kupwara

today conducted special Mega Block Diwas/ Gram

Sabhas at Sogam Lolab

The Deputy Commission-

er (DC) Kupwara, Imam

Din chaired the block di-

was at Sogam. BDC Chair-

person, PRIs and con-

cerned officers and a large

number of public partici-

Addressing the people, the DC said that the mass

participation in Gram Sabhas shows the strength

of Panchayati Raj System

which is a good omen for the larger development of

rural people. He said the

Government has declared

pated in the programme.

and Tarathpora Vilgam.

APRIL

nag, here. The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag Dr Piyush Singla; DDC Member, Sagam Constituency, M Sal-eem Parray; BDC Larnoo, BDC Breng and senior officials from district administration.

was programme at Koker-

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said that all the issues put forth today have been noted by concerned officers and efforts will be made to redress the grievances in a time bound manner. He said that accountability and transparency has been bred into the system through the Block Diwas mechanism and he is hopeful that people will confinue to utilise the platform for putting forth genuine griev-

Pole said that issues crop up with new developments, but the spirit of Block Diwas is to provide a platform to people to communicate these issues to the concerned officials so that governance becomes more efficient.

The DC Anantnag said that Block Diwas is a forum of reducing the gap between PRIs, administrative officials and people. He said that 4000 works under district CAPEX works were completed with cooperation

He said that the plan under formulation for the present fiscal should be formulated as per local needs. He said that works should be discussed and included in the plans after discussion with all stakeholders. He said he is hopeful that visit by Div Com Kashmir will act as a

beacon for further development of Kokernag.
DDC Member, M Saleem

Parray said that Kokernag Gate was a demand of PRIs in a recent Block Diwas programme and the promptness with which the project has been taken up is worth appreciating. He said that the Lisser Grid should be augmented for better power supply. He said that the quota of PMAY should be enhanced so that more people can be provided affordable housing.

The DDC member said that the Kokernag Master plan imposes certain restrictions on construction activities and these should be reviewed. He said that beautification of Bringi Nallah should be taken up. He said a library cum reading room to facilitate aspirants of competitive exams should be set up. Talking about staff avail-

at Bamdoora and Hiller PHCs, the DDC member said that while staff has been deputed at the centers but needs to be augmented in view of the area being covered.

BDC Larnoo Mumtaz Ali said that a single bank caters to the entire area and banking facilities need to be augmented in the area. He said that the quota under PMAY will be enhanced in the area.

Breng Parveena

Akhter and MC President Kokernag Sheikh Prince put forth local issues on the occasion. President MC said that X Ray and CT

Scan facilities should be available at SDH. He said that land should be identified for development of a sports stadium. He also said that innovative water harvesting measures must be taken to reduce the burden on natural sources of

Haroon Khatana said that

enhancement of infrastructure to attract tourists is necessary. He said that mobile connectivity issues in some far flung areas should also be taken up on priori-

Several delegations including Sarpanches put forth various issues regarding panchayat ghars, enhancement of public transport, settlement of land acquisition cases, Gondola project for Daksum, availability of timber, water supply issues, development under FC grants, technical deletions in PMAY and enhancement

of AAY quota. The Div Com gave a patient hearing to all the grievances and assured time bound redressal. He directed the officials present to ensure that all grievances received at Block Diwas are redressed in a time bound manner. Pole also inaugurated

several projects in Kokernag including 3 modern bus ports constructed at a cost of Rs 22 lakhs and a shopping complex with 18 shops, 2 halls and a restaurant constructed at a cost of Rs 1.7 crores. He also laid the foundation stone of Kokernag entry gate being developed under CSR/ He felicitated the eco guards and distributed appreciation certificates. Golden Cards were also distributed among beneficiaries on the occasion.

Prior to this, the Div Com visited Achabal. He participated in an urban sanitation drive organized by Municipal Council Achabal. He also interacted with officials from Municipal Council Achabal.

He was accompanied by Director ULB, ADDC Anantnag, BDC, Councillors and various sectoral formed about various works taken up in Achabal under FC Grants, My Town My Pride and other schemes. He said that a vending zone has been created and 69 vendors have been provided installments under PM SVANidhi. He said a town beautification plan is being prepared and will be taken up this year.

The Div Com felicitated various Eco Guards on the occasion and lauded their social contribution.

PRIs present on the occasion said that Achabal Chattabal Development Authority should be set up for focused development of Achabal and making it a prominent part of the

Anantnag tourist circuit. Appreciating the keen efforts being taken by the council for development of the area, he lauded the council for the cleanliness.

DC B'pora chairs meeting for formulation of Capex Budget 2022-23

BANDIPORA, APRIL 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to discuss the formulation of District Capex Plan 2022-23.

The meeting held threadbare discussion with regard to the formulation of District Capex Plan 2022-23 and the audience was informed about the methodology and priority areas.Officers informed about the way forward for District Development Plan formulation as per circular instructions of the Government under 3 tiers planning system and revealed the Uniform templates devised for the purpose of propagation and consolidation through Gram Sabhas.

On the occasion, DC asked the officers to formulate the plan in due consultation with PRIs, BDCs and DDCs of the district and urged the PRI members to prioritize works as per needs and larger public interest. He said that key issues and critical infrastructure gaps will be incorporated at each level to push development in the district to the next level.

He urged officers to focus on completion of halted/incomplete buildings and improvement in existing buildings, Smart classrooms in the Education Sector and hospital upgradation, especially the completion of halted/incomplete buildings in the Health Sector.

He also instructed them to focus on introducing Solar Lighting Systems, development/preservation of Ponds, development of Parks, development of Playfields and sports equipment besides laying a special focus on Waste Management in rural areas.

The DC said District and Sectoral officers concerned with the District Development Plan shall earmark sufficient allocation for completion of all ongoing schemes



in due consultation with all concerned PR institutions and repre-

He directed officers to have onspot visits in the field to see feasibility of each work besides proper estimation within given timelines. He also asked officers to formulate a comprehensive schedule and Calendar for all 151 panchayats,

phase wise where besides organizing Gram Sabhas all concerned and representatives of departments who are scheduled to be present along with other PRIs represen-

during the ensuing month. The DC asked officers to saturate the 100 points activity plan of Beneficiary Oriented Schemes with the active participation of PRIs.Dr Owais urged that while formulating any plan each work be identified with reason and justification and requirement status to ensure equitable regional development. Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan, Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development Abdul Rashid Dass, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Syed Altaf Hussain Mosavi, Superintending Engineer R&B

Sajad Naquib, BDOs and other

senior officers of the district were

present on the occasion.

tatives in order to facilitate the preparation of action plan for the

concerned panchayat Halqas.

He also called for prioritizing
Gram Swaraj Abhiyan activities

DC Kulgam reviews implementation/ progress under Youth initiative programmes

KULGAM, APRIL 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr.Bi-lal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here to review the imple-mentation and progress made under various Youth initiative programmes.

At the outset of the meeting, Assistant Director (AD) Employment gave a detailed presentation regarding various schemes related to Youth.

He informed the chair that 175 applications have been approved under Mumkin scheme, out of which 155 stand sponsored to banks for sanction of loan cases and so-far under Mumkin scheme, 97 vehicles stand distributed and the standard of the uted among beneficiaries.

He also added that under Tejeswini scheme, 59 applications have been approved by DLIC out of which 20 applicants have completed the training. Besides, under Spurring Scheme 127 applications have been received and

interviewed by DLIC for selection.
The AD Employment also highlighted the achievements of all others various schemes like SEI, Rise Together

The Assistant Director (AD) Handicrafts & Handloom apprised the chair that 114 cases under credit card



scheme for artisans and weavers have been sponsored while as the department under weavers MUDRA scheme has sponsored 120 Cases.
Addressing the meeting, the DC

said that Young people should be respected, valued and listened to and be supported and encouraged in order to develop their innate abilities and talents for the benefit of themselves and

He asked the heads of ITIs, polytechnic to conduct meetings at least fortnightly and discuss the placement opportunities for pass out youth.

Meeting was attended by CPO, ACR GM-DIC among others.

Later DC chaired a separate meeting of officers and reviewed Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, status of road macadamisation and progress of PMGSY schemes.

Pr. Secy I&FC reviews progress of ongoing works at Hokersar wetland

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), Ashok Kumar Parmar today visited Hokersar wetland and took stock of ongoing works being carried out there for the restoration of the wetland. The Principal Secretary

was accompanied by Chief Engineer, I&FC, Kashmir, Naresh Kumar, S.E Hydraulic Circle, Budgam, Executive Engineer, Narbal, and other senior officers of the department.

During the visit, the Prin-

cipal Secretary highlighted that the wetlands are biological hot spots and play vital role in the conservation as well as ecological balance of nature. He remarked that Hokersar wetland needs to be developed as a tourist destination as it attracts beautiful migratory birds and Aves from Siberia and other cold places giving breathtaking sight to visitors.

Interacting with officers during the visit, the Prin-



cipal Secretary sought information about the sta-tus of the proposed gates at the entry and exit of Hokarsar wetland besides other technicalities of the works being carried out at the wetland.

The Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir informed the Principal Secretary that the department is going to construct two gates at the entry and exit of Hokarsar wetland. He added that

the width of the gates is 80m each and the height is 3m each. The purpose of the gates is to ensure all season inundation of the Hokarsar so that the wetland provides a safe habitat to the migratory birds par-ticularly during the winter season.

The Chief Engineer also apprised the Principal Secretary that the gates are automatically controlled with all the digital control

system and having sufficient provision for energy backup. He added that the gates are being constructed by the I&FC department to comply with the NGT guidelines with respect to the wetlands.

Meanwhile, the Principal Secretary also visited the site of Flood Spill Chan-nel at Shareef Abad bridge and reviewed the progress on restoring of Flood Spill Channel there.

CC Committee Kupwara convenes meeting

KUPWARA, APRIL 13: Court Coordination Committee (CCC) Kupwara today convened its meeting under the chairmanship of Principal, District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Kupwara, Tasleem

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din and the Ju-dicial Officers were also present in the meeting, besides, Secretary DLSA, Muzamil Ahmad Wani; SSP Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, ASP Handwara, Superintendent District Jail and other concerned Officers attended the meeting.

The meeting was convened by Chief Judicial Magistrate Kupwara who is also Secretary of the Coordination Committee, with the objective to review various modalities for greater coordination between Judiciary and civil departments. On the occasion, the Principal, District & Sessions Judge emphasized the role of Judiciary and courts for prioritizing the hearing of Government litigations. He urged for greater cooperation between court, civil administration and law enforcing agencies for delivery of justice to all.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara also spoke in the meeting and assured full support from the District Administration.

Iconic Week celebration: Activities held across Anantnag

ANANTNAG, APRIL 13: As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative of government, celebrating 75 years of India's Independence and celebration of Iconic Week, various activities were held across the Panchayats of the district to spread awareness and strengthen participation of local people.

A number of resolutions were adopted for saturation of 100 point programme indicators identified by the LG administration for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and for adoption of one of the SDG as Sankalp (Mission) and set a timeline for its achievement.Gram Swaraj Month is being observed to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions to realize the vision of Gram Swaraj. The Iconic Week celebrations are being held across the district and Gram Sabhas, Swachta drives, cleaning of Water bodies are being taken up in the district.

Weekly Block Diwas

DC Srinagar holds Public Grievance Redressal camp at Shalteng SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: In order to bring Administration at sal Camp, PRI representatives, the door steps of people for an Public delegations and scores on spot resolution of their developmental issues, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today held a Public Grievance Redres-

was programme. The programme was held within the premises of SDM/Tehsil Office Shalteng and witnessed large participation of people from Maloora, Mujgund, Ranbir Garh Khushi Pora Panzinara. Garh, Khushi Pora Panzinara-A, Panzinara-B, Zainakote, HMT, Tengpora Batamaloo and other adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of Srinagar.

sal Camp at Bemina in Shalteng Tehsil under weekly Block Di-

of individuals projected various issues and demands before the chair particularly the long pending issue arising out of jurisdic-tional overlap with Baramulla and Bandipora districts. Besides, PRI representatives, in-

dividuals and other delegations, also demanded for macadamization of roads, augmentation of water and power supply, repairs of drainage system, upgradation of schools, providing electric poles, development of playground, commissioning of ITI Zainakote, development of Parimpora Fruit Mandi and General Bus Stand and other issues.



After giving patient hearing ine demands and issues projected to the grievances and demands by them will be taken up with of the public, the DC sought on the spot response from the con-cerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.He also assured the people of Shalteng Tehsil that all genu- The DC also gave on the spot also asked the R&B authorities

concerned authorities on priority. He said that the issue regarding iurisdictional issues has already been taken up with higher authorities and will be resolved soon.

cers for time bound redressal of the public issuesOn the occasion, the DC asked the educated unemployed youth to come forward and take benefit from different Government self-employment schemes to earn a dignified livelihood for themselves and their family.Later, the DC inspected several developmental works including progress of work on construction of Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Zainakote being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 4.38 crore. On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned to expedite the work on construction of boundary wall around the premises of the Institute. He

tion of a Community Facilitation Center in the area so that people of the area are benefited.

The DC also directed the Tehsildar and other concerned to speed up the process of transfer of additional land to the Government Boys Higher Secondary School and Middle School to augment the upgraded facilities for both the schools. Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, General Manager DIC, Ha-meeda Akhtar, Deputy Director Employment, Rouf-ul-Rehman, SDM West, Pimroze Bashir, Tehsildar, Shalteng, Younis Ahmad, besides other senior officers and Engineers of the District Administration were present.

Market checking conducted at kreeri Baramulla, Four Mutton **Shops Sealed**



Aashiq Hussain

Kreeri,13 April Tehsildar kreeri Mubashir Amin accompanied by SHO Kreeri Arif Hamid, tehsil supply officer of food department and other officers of revenue department conducted market checking at main market kreeri. The checking team was aimed to ensure the quality and price control and keep vigil on erring traders during the inspection the team realised fine of RS 1900 and sealed four mutton shops at main market kreeri.

Meanwhile an Anti encroachment drive was also launched at various areas of kreeri during which several foot paths were cleared for ensuring hassle free movement of commuters.speaking on the occassion the tehsildar Kreeri Mubashir Amin said that such drives will be conducted on routine basis so that quality of commodities is ensured .he also warned the vendors against encroaching foot paths falling which strict action as per the law shall be taken against the violators.

Panches, Sarpanchs join National Youth Party Will provide free electricity, water to people if we come to power: Abdullah

districts on Wednesday joined National Youth Party at the Party office Rajbagh, Śrinagar. The joining ceremony took place in presence of party president Moham-mad Abdullah Chatwal, General Secretary , State Secretary and District President Budgam were present on the occasion. Abdullah welcomed the new entrants into the party fold and urged them to highlight and resolve the issues in their respective Panchayat zones. He said that resolving grievances of the people are the prime concerns of an elected Panchayat member.

"National Youth Party is

determined to solve the

problems faced by the

people at large. They have

been hoodwinked for so

many years by various

political parties promis-

ing them the moon at first

Srinagar, April 13: Dozens of Panches abd

Sarpanchs from different

and then yielding nothing on ground. However, National Youth Party does not believe in emotive sloganeering; instead we focus on realistic issues that affect day-today lives of the common people," Abdullah said. The new entrants thanked the Party leadership for providing them with such a platform and avowed to strengthen the party at grass root level. At the end Abdullah said

that we will participate in upcoming elections & if we will come in power we will provide free electricity & water to the people & generate employment to the youths.(KNT)



Culture-Heritage-Tradition The music of the mountains is absolutely soothing, pleasant to hear and that is one that takes you into a world where being in trance is the most obsessive thing

By: M S Nazki

Mendhar: Music has ancient roots in Jammu and Kashmir. The music of Jammu and Kashmir signifies cultural glory and not just mere ornamentation or entertainment, but as an intrinsic part of heritage. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir holds a history of traditional musical instruments which became the soul of the music here.'

-'In your most desperate moments where you crawl on the ground like worms, sometimes you suddenly hear the voice of a savior, the voice of the music which immediately carries you away to the

-'The ideal backdrop of the Pir Panjals provides the ideal natural stage for the music from the mountains to flourish and flow! It's very different to the music with the ear jamming notes. This is soft, a lullaby that can put a restless soul to peace'!

-' I have an incident to quote here, 'Those were the days when a singer from across the LOC had taken the Northern region of India by storm. The name Ataullah Khan Esakhalvi as he churned out numbers that were for broken hearts and broken arrows that could not pierce the hearts of their lady love's! The rustic heavy voice backed by music composed on an array of instruments was quite pleasant. The lyrics and tunes were melancholic and they went with the mood prevailing in the mountainous tracts of Rajouri and Poonch! Once I was descending down to Gambhir Brahmana and I met three youngsters playing the music through a black blow pipe. The music was shrilling but did tend to get into the print to make the common of the print get into the right corners of my brain. I distinctly remember he was playing Attaullah's rustic melancholy ridden number 'Dil Tod Kar Mera' which had been reproduced by the T-series cassette industry! The boy I thought was playing it beautifully. I asked him his name and he told me that his name was Jehangir. We were comparatively new to the area, so I did not get into an elaborate conversation because it usually took 45 minutes to reach Gambhir Brahmana from Chorgali! But the music bythe long haired boy was produc-



ing was magical! Once I called three to the company headquarters and made them sit in the visitors hut! It was here I came to know the other two were Izhaar (teacher as he introduced himself to be) and Hamid who was in the Forest Department (again this was told by him). We given!' offered them Rum and after two tots I asked Jehangir if he would play what he was playing that day when we first met! He played it! I asked him if he would play another

' Jenaaab Ko Pakistani Mausiki Pasand hai'. I replied 'what is wrong in this, every music is the same!' It was time to pack up and also for the shadow patrols to shadow them'! Music was Jehangir's forte but his one question got the doubt settled in my brain and it was the musical word, Mausiki that got it ticking! My doubts were correct. All three were from JKLF. Encounter was not required, three bottles of Rum they had asked from me after fourteen days I met them for the first time drowned them!' That is what I would say as talent wasted as they landed in jail as they proved to be overground workers working as guides!'

Ataullah Khan Number.

He smiled, 'I watched

him closely and he said,

-'The picture with the story took me back to the days when we used to do hill hopping during the maddening chases and the insurgency had grown up from infancy with mehmaan mujahideen getting

into the circuit with de vious deviousness! The first thing to die in those circumstances had to be music especially so in the mountainous terrain of Rajouri and Poonch andsome wasted their natural talent. An example I have

(The first four introductory paragraphs are from my friend's diary)

-The Pahari, the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes, mainly residing in Raiouri and Poonch play some weird but traditional musical instruments since times immemorial to create certain specific sounds of music. Some instruments associated with them are part of their nomadic practices and some were adopted by them from other communities to add to their musical tradition.

-'And it's a well known fact that if music is a Place, then Jazz is the city, folk is the wilderness, rock is the road and classical is a Temple. But would we call the music from the mountains which is melodious as well symbolic to the environment? I will call it music from the land of dreams be-cause one good song with a message can bring a point more deeply to more people than a thousand rallies.'! This is the truth and everyone acknowledges that!'

-'Back in the early nineties of the last century music in the mountains was dying and the people were wanting to say that our land had been troubled by men who loved to hate.

They twisted away our songs like shopia, maahifreedom, and they twisted ya, jangbaaz, besides the away our fate. Fear was traditional tribal tunes on their weapon, and treason this instrument. was their cry. We could -Adding to this is specially flavored Bisili, a not stop them and neither

the onslaught of terror

The instruments that re-

mained in gunny bags for

such a long time includ-

- Alghojo which is a type of flute made from a sin-

gle hollow shaft of mainly

wild-bamboo called 'Na-

gal' in Gojri with six or

seven finger holes. Since

this instrument is mainly associated with pastoral

nomads and cowherds,

you will feel the same

chords as the music touch-

- Jodhi /Do naal is anoth-

er one meaning two flutes

(Aloghozas) which when

played jointly are called

Jodhi. The tune of the

Jodhi instruments resem-

bles that of flute. Playing

of Jodhi is still popular in

nomadic Gujjar, Bakerwal andPahari society. It is made of hilly bamboo by

cutting small reeds. Folk

-Yet another one is Banjli,

a flute which varies in size

from less than 12inches to

nearly 30. Every nomad

is fond of Banili. They

keep this in side-pock-

ets of their upper wear.

They play the tune of folk

tunes are played on it.

es your ears!

was the prime time aim!'

did we try. But what they typical folk instrument used by people from the mountains. It is trianguwere wanting to say they could have never as a Kalashnikov stared at them lar /trilateral in shape. from everywhere and The instrument has a holduring midnight it was low belly with a hole at hell freezing over! The the centre and two holes musical instruments had on either side, besides a to be dumped into gunny mouth pipe. bags as survival against

-Yaktaro is a one-stringinstrument is also popular among the people of Ra-jouri and Poonch! These are the music producing instruments but the percussion ones are different like, Dhol (drum) to get

the bass effect going! -Sharnai is the instrument that usually accompanies the Dhol. Sharnai is largely known as a wind instrument and it goes well with the Dhol!

-The list of instruments is long and that includes a kitchen tool (tong in English) mainly used to grip and lift objects. But music can be innovated using it!
- Ghadhoo/ Ghodholi:

Ghara is an earthen pot / pitcher which is also used as musical Instruments by artists. They are a super-duper hit in marriages.-Sargi (Tota) is slightly different to 'Sarangi- a string instrument used in Indian classical and other folk music.

- The Instruments of mountains are very rich in terms of their inheritance. Other communities residing in the areas of the tribesmen area also share the same culture. During that too rapidly. And this should not happen because the traditions will not survive because this music is different, in fact very different! The music from the land of dreams! Now with peace and love in the air the musical instruments are out of the gunny bags and in hands of those who consider themselves as specialists on the instruments mentioned above! And instead has been stuffed inside the same gunny bags perhaps forever!

The Indian army has

has been observed that a number of folk instru-

ments which were in use

in the past are on the verge of extinction and

played a massive role in Rajouri and Poonch to get folk and mountain music back to the center stage by organizing musical evenings and live con-certs. Because the Indian Army knows the value of customs and traditions and how to promote the talent that has a potential. Traditional music is the foundation of what the folk music revival was about songs of unknown authorship handed down through the generations. They touch your heart, and for anyone trying to write new and original songs and composing original music, they stand as an unspoken challenge: make something as good and as timeless as this and you will have won the heart of your listener. You also will have added something to the story of humankind. Traditional songs and music didn't just spring from the earth, of course. Somebody somewhere came up with a melody through which to tell a story, and that story-song-music got passed along. These songs and music survive in the memory of a culture because they tell stories of universal emotion and experience of love, heartbreak, mourning, abandonment, victory, and defeat and because they are so very adaptable to so many times, to so many people. And this is not the end because the musical story has just again re-started! Finally I will just say one thing, It is sublimely mysterious and immeasurably powerful is the impact that the sounds of music can have over us and if it is played in the backdrop of mountains the effect it

has on us is awesome!

مُرسلن پیشوارسول کریم مُرسلن چیثوا رسول کریم فاهم الانبیاء رسول کریم حق مُوّ مِل مُدرَّ بي_و طد سورة وافضحی رسول کریم پز جھے ٹی عیدونہ لَسُٹُ لَھا أسه رَفَن دَر پناه رسول كريمٌ آسان وزين ية لوح قلم عالمن بند بنا رسول كريم وأتى تم يرعوش كؤ زكه عراج عرش وشيه كؤو بدا رمول كريم يي چھُ آمُت قُر آنِ پاکس منز مومئن مِقتهاه رسول كريمٌ ب كسن فم زُدَن يه مسكين والهد جهد اوان بدارسول كريمً وْرِيْش بِأُوِيْرَى بِإِكْ دَائَن راحب اولياء رسول كريمٌ چشس بِمُكَنِّ كريم فَمَن هاُدِي أنتك سر براه رسول كريم



مالس عوب از بهال نجي اراه بخت مجواز وصال نجي المس عوب از بهال نجي المالس و جهر بها في المس و جهر بها في المس و جهر المحلولان مجورة شائد المسروايوان تيمر و مري يهم المالس في المسروايوان تيمر و مري يهم المالس في المسروايوان تيمر و مري المسروايوان تيمر و مري المالس في المسروايوان تيم و المالس في المسروايوان تيم و المالس في المسروايوان تيم و المالس في المسروايوان تيم المالس في المالس في المسروايوان تيم به مال في المسروايون كر بوسة خدا والمسروايوان تيم به مال في المسروايون كر بوسة خدا والمسروايوان تيم به مال في المسروايون كر بوسة خدا والمسروايون كر بوسة كر بوسة خدا والمسروايون كر بوسة خد

اے حسنین کے نانا

یا نبی نظر کرم فرمانا اسے حسنین کے نانا زبرہ یاک کے صدقے ہم کوطیب میں بلانا

سے گئی ہے میلاد کی محفل کیا ہے خوب نظارہ كيف ومستى ميں ڈوباہے ديکھوعالم سارا ومونده رسى ب آب كى رحمت بخشش كابيانا

بے سایہ ہیں لیکن دو جگ پر ہے آ پکا سایہ عرش مُعلَى بنا محله ديد كورب نے بلايا حشرتلك نه ہوگاكسى كاايسا آنا جانا

آ کے کے درکامی بھاری آپ بیں میرے داتا سارے رشتوں ناتوں سے ہے بیاراا پناناتا آب توبیں، آتا ہے جنیں سب کی لاج نبعانا

نسبت كافينان ب ويحموخادم خوث جلى مول كرتاست محدر ناززمانه مين اوصاف على بيون

Jaffar Ali Asar is no more

.HT NEWS NETWORK

Jaffar Ali Asar a well known poet of Deli-Baramulla and former Administrative officer passes away . The deceased was maternal uncle of Taseer Afzal. Various literary organisations have condoled the sad demise. Chief Patron of Headlines Today S Sad ud din Saidi has also

expressed solidarity with



the bereaved family and prayed for the departed



LG Grievance Cell, IMPARD organize training programmes for nodal officers

Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD) in collaboration with Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell, organized a series of orientation cum training programmes for nodal officers of Udham-pur, Samba, Kathua and Reasi districts of Jammu division.

The series of training programmes were held under the guidance of Di-rector General, IMPARD, Bhagat and Saurabh Commissioner Secretary, Public Grievances, Rehana Batool.Rehana Batool emphasized that these trainings shall greatly help all participating officers to deeply understand the grievance redressal mech-She said these

trainings shall be held for all the districts of the UT. Director Training J&K IMPARD, Jammu, Dr. Reva Sharma, highlighted linkage between good gov-ernance and grievance re-dressal during her lecture

on the subject.
Additional Project Director, Public Grievances, Mustaq Ahmad, emphasized the need for quality disposal of public griev-ances in the light of recent directions from Lieutenant Governor. He discussed the reports of committees constituted to study dis-

posal of grievances by the districts in J&K. Under Secretary, Pub-lic Grievances, Azeeta Qureshi, gave a presentation on J&K Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JKI-GRAMS), working of the

web portal besides LG's Mulaquat initiatives.

The Officers also presented short audio visusented short audio visual clip demonstration on the working and process of Grievance Redressal mechanism. Ajaz Ahmed interacted on work flow on JKIGRAMS web portal besides elaborating about handling of grievances and handling of grievances and usage of different options on web interfaces to Nodal Officers of the district.

During the training, all the important dimensions of the work related to Grievances Redressal were covered in different sessions.

The programme was organized under the supervision of Dr. Reva Sharma and was coordinated by Manju Kapoor, Assistant Professor, J&K IMPARD, Jammu. The course coordinator briefed the participants

about the proceedings of the training programme and its importance. Additional Project Director, Ahmad, emphasized the need for quality disposal of public grievances in the light of recent directions from Lieutenant Governor. He discussed the reports of committees constituted to committees constituted to study disposal of grievances by the districts in J&K.
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Grievance Redressal.

Special Gram Sabhas held across different Panchayats of Ramban

Special Gram Sabhas were today organised in various panchayats of Ramban district by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj as part of the activities based on the 100 points agenda of Gram Swaraj Month.
Child Friendly Day was

also celebrated in Block Batote under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, besides distributing notebooks distributing among children.

The officers, officials, PRIs and general public participated in Panchayat Level Gram Sabhas and other activities conducted by the RDD and other departments.

Threadbare discussion was also held on various developmental activities going on in their areas



besides highlighting their requirements pertaining to overall development of society. The officers also asked the people to focus on sustainable development while conducting door to door campaign about Swach Gram Mission to ensure cleanliness

and sanitation in their localities.

Meanwhile, the Rural Development Department conducts cleanliness drives under Swachh Bharat programme in various educational institutions besides taking pledge followed by conducting anti polythene

drives during the gram swaraj programme. During the Celebration of Gram Swaraj month in block Ukhral the young volunteers participated in great enthusiasm, with dedication to ensure their contribution in Panchayat level activities. A camp was also held at Partmula block Gool focused on sat-uration of JOB cards.

They were also asked to sensitize the people about Swach Gram and adoption of sustainable development goals indicators for this year. Meanwhile, the Rural Development Department conducts cleanliness drives under Swachh Bharat programme in various educational institutions besides taking pledge followed by conducting anti polythene.

Rajouri: Tehsildar Sunderbani Among 4 persons injured, police file 2 cases

Jammu, April 13 Police have registered two FIRs after Tehsildar Sunderbani and some employees were injured amid a scuffle in Rajouri.

Official sources told HT that some persons entered the office of the Tehsildar and had heated argument with officers/ officials there. Subsequently there was scuffle in which at least four persons including the Tehsildar were injured. They were subsequently hospitalized, they said.

SDPO Noweshra Tausif Ahmed told Ht that Police have registered two separate FIRs against all accused persons involved in the two separate incidents in Police Station

"First Case FIR No. 20/2022 was registered against Chandar Mohan and Anil Lakhanpal both R/O Sundarbani under section 452/353/323 IPC," he said, adding, "Second Case FIR No. 21/2022 was registered against Devinder Kumar Sudan and 03 others under section 147,452 336 323 IPC. He said that the investigation of both cases have began and arrests are likely to be executed.

Apni Party leader Jeelani Kumar resigns from district secretary Srinagar post

Srinagar, Apr 13, KNT: Jammu Kashmir Apni Party leader Jeelani Kumar has resigned from the post of District Secretary Srinagar.

Jeelani Kumar in a statement said that though he has resigned from the party post, but he will continue to work

for the Apni Party.

"I have not resigned from the party but from the post of district secretary Srinagar only," he said adding that he will try his best to project the Apni Party in Haba Kadal Constituency. (KNT)

ADC Ramban listens to people's issues at Neel

RAMBAN, APRIL 13: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Harbans Sharma today visited several Panchayats or Neel area including Neel-A, Neel-B, Neel-C, Neel-D, Gagoni, Changloo, Prahndar of Neel area in Sub-division Ramsoo and interacted with the locals besides conducting a public outreach program as a part of weekly Block Diwas. The ADC patiently listened to the issues of the people and resolved various issues by passing on spot instructions to concerned officers,

The ADC also sensitized the people about different youth and job oriented schemes besides social and financial security schemes launched by the different departments for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

The ADC also took firsthand appraisal about status of essential services and supplies in the area and directed the concerned officers to take up their issues especially relating to basic amenities on priority basis. He also assured them that their genuine issues will be discussed with higher authorities to resolve the same in the larger interest of Gen-

The weekly Block Diwas meetings were also organized in other designated blocks of the district by the District Administration to address the public issues at their door-

At Ukhral Block Diwas meeting was attended by the PRIs and officers and officials of line departments. Domicile, Character certificate and other revenue extracts were also distributed among the applicants during block diwas

District Admin, SMDA celebrates Baisakhi festival at Mansar

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13:-To promote Tourism in general and local folk culture and heritage-Tourism in particular, the Surinsar - Mansar Development Authority, in collaboration with Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and District Administration Udhampur today celebrated Baisakhi Festival here at Mansar.

The main features of the festival were Punjabi Bhangra, Gojri, Pahari Dances, Kashmiri, Dogri dances, Punjabi Songs and Punjabi Folk by the Artists of J&K Academy of Art, Cultural and languages. Rinkoo, a local Folk Singer also sang the typical folk songs.

The Exhibition cum sale counters were also installed by Handloom and Handicraft Department, Tourism Publicity Counter and local Ethnic Food Stalls etc.

Inauguration of the function by lightning of the traditional lamp by Sunita Devi Sarpanch, Mansar who was the Chief Guest on the occasion in presence of Dr. Gurvinderjeet Singh CEO,SMDA and other officers of different departments and Panches of the Mansar. The Cultural Programme was witnessed by tourists of different states, domestic tourists of the state and local visitors.

Madan Gopal Samyal, AEE Nodal Officer Baisakhi festival presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

Forest Deptt conducts forest fire mock drill at control room Chanesargala RAJOURI, APRIL 13: Sunderbani Forest Range ON

Wednesday conducted a forest fire mock drill at Control Room Chanesargala. All the staff members, daily wagers, fire watchers partici-

pated in the event. During the event, the experts spoke and shared their ex-

periences and knowledge about prevention of forest fire

They also maintained that the forest Deptt is taking all possible steps to prevent forest fires and the need of an hour

to step up the efforts to control such incidents in time. Fire equipment, their use and proper handling was also

Baisakhi Heritage Festival held at Bhimgarh Fort Reasi

Tourism, Jammu today organized a mega one day Jammu Baisakhi Festival at Bhimgarh Fort, Reasi. The event was a confluence of local Dogri art, ethnic cuisines, cultural performances, local craft, live pottery making, ethnic dress display and many fun activities to engage the visiting tourists and showcase indigenous culture with other engaging activities during the Baisakhi Celebrations.DDC Chairman Reasi, Saraf Singh Nag, along with Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakhwal, inaugurated the Jammu Heritage Festival at Bhimgarh Fort, Reasi. SSP Reasi Amit Gupta was also present. The festival started with the tribute paying to the great General Zorawar Singh followed by Heritage Walk, Nukkad Natak by Vomedh, Heritage Exhibition, Dogri Folk Dances, Tagline Competition, Local Celebrity Performances, Food and Departmental stalls amongst other engaging performances by local artists. The main attraction of the inaugural day was the musical evening along with Singing performance by Varsha Jamwal, Standup Comedy, Bangra Dance, and Performance by Saptak Band which was appreciated by all the tourists. The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with District Adthe tourists visiting the darbar of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi in Trikuta hills, during the said event and have a wholesome experience of Music, Dance, Fun Activities and Adventure indulgences. Many activities have been planned and put in place for engagement of tourists of all age groups. The festival is a major attraction for the tourists who visit Katra Shivkhori Circuit throughout the year and enjoy the scenic beauty of the region with Dance-Music-Adventure fest.The Inauguration Ceremony was attended by Deputy Director Tourism Publicity, Jammu, Naresh Kumar, ADT Katra, Ambika Bali amongst other officers/officials of the Tourism Department, Jammu and District Administration, Reasi.

A large number of tourists from all over India especially U.P, Gujarat, Kolkata, Punjab, Karnataka thronged the main venue at Bhimgarh Fort and enjoyed all the activities during the said event.

The tourists appreciated the efforts of the Tourism Department for re-starting the tourism activities in the region and making elaborate arrangements for celebration of the Heritage Festival at Bhimgarh Fort. There was a huge rush of tourists at Katra Shivkhori Circuit and tourist footfall is in-



ing days. However, the said event is being managed by the Tourism Department while

observing and following all the protocols

DDC Rajouri chairs District Skill Committee meeting



APRIL 13: RAJOURI, Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District Skill Committee to discuss the modalities for promoting skill development among the unemployed youth of the district. Speaking at the meeting, the DDC said that there was no dearth of opportunities for skilled people and the need of an hour is to motivate the unemployed and educated youth of the district to gain skill to increase their employability. Laying special focus on up-skilling of the youth, the DDC asked the concerned officers to explore new modalities to hone the ability of the talented youth by taking skill development to grassroots level.A proposed Skill development plan under SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) was also discussed in depth. The concerned apprised that Rajouri being the border district has been selected under the plan and the total cost of the project is Rs 2 crore

and the targeted groups are mainly the ST/SC population, women and marginalized social groups.

It was further informed that SANKALP aims to improve short-term skill development planning and implementation by employing decentralisation as a strategy, monitoring skilling activities and promoting convergence.

Various aspects of the plan, including capacity building, quality and market relevance and inclusion were also discussed threadbare during the meeting.

Block Divas: ADC Basohli holds Public Outreach Programme at Sananghat

KATHUA APRIL 13: To listen and redress the grievances of common masses, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tilak Raj Thapa today convened a Public Outreach Camp here at Sananghat, Basohli.

SDPO Basholi Shazia Mir, XEN PWD Bharat Gupta, Tehsildar Aman Anand, AEE PMGSY Deepak Kohli, Officers of various departments ,panches ,sarpanches and a large number of people attended the

During the camp, the PRIs projected the issues of public importance and sought immediate redress of the same.

The People complained about the slow pace of construction work on Zero Morh to Dhar Mahanpur road link by the contractor and demanded processing of fresh tender for early completion of the road.

People from Dhar Jankhar Panchayat demanded construction of a road from Sananghat to Kharana.

The people complained that funds to the tune of Rs.185.23 under SMAGRA were allotted for construction of additional rooms at Govt. Higher Secondary School Sananghat but no work has been started till date. They demanded immediate starting of the construction work.

The people further demanded coverage of eligible left out families under the PMAY

Sarpanch Dhar Jankhar Madan Lal informed that most of the Bowlies in the area have been renovated and demanded coverage of left out water bodies to improve water availability in the hilly and Kandi

ADC Thapa asked PRI members to get the rest of the Bawalies renovated so that there was no problem of water in the area. He asked the owners whose land has been acquired for construction of Kholi talai - Smoond road link to complete the documents to get the compensation.

The people further demanded Jammu and Kashmir bank branch at Sananghat as they have to cover a long distance to avail the banking facilities.

A deputation of people of Draman Panchayat submitted a memorandum of demands seeking compensation for the land acquired for construction of Tikri to Jamna road.

A number of demands and complaints of the people were resolved on the spot while directions were passed to the concerned officers for redressal of rest of the issues raised during the meeting.

Later ADC Tilak Raj Thapa inspected Patwarkhana building and Govt. Higher secondary school sananghat.

Similar meeting was chaired by Tehsildar Billawar Pankaj Kumar Sharma at PWD Rest House Billawar.

The officers of various departments. Panches, Sarpanches and a large number of people attended the meeting. A deputation of people of Draman Panchayat submitted a memorandum of demands seeking compensation for the land acquired for construction of Tikri to Jamna road.

A number of demands and complaints of the people were resolved on the spot while directions were passed to the concerned officers for redressal of rest of the issues raised during the meeting.

Block Diwas/ Gram Swaraj Month DDC Doda listens to issues of people in Marmat area

DODA, APRIL 13: District Development Commissioner Doda Vikas Sharma today visited the far off area of Marmat wherein the DDC presided over the Block Diwas program and ongoing awareness of 100 points under Gram Swaraj Month.

He listened to the issue pertaining to the area, besides issuing on spot directions to the concerned departments for time bound redressal of public grievances.

The local representatives and general public raised various issues pertaining to their respective area and demanded augmentation of old water supply schemes, up-gradation of educational institutions, meeting shortage of health and teaching staff, detachment of teaching and health staff, payment of pending land compensation and MGNREGA material liability, starting of the X-Ray facility in Goha, bank ATM facility at Goha, construction of the Girls hostel and Degree College, removal of encroachments, extension of national highway up-to Dranga, job opportunities for the local youth in the ongoing project, improvement of link roads, completion of pending projects, besides other important public issues were also discussed during the program for which the DDC paid patient hearing and assured timely disposal by the concerned departments.

Responding to the patient care facilities, the DDC directed the CMO to send the ambulance sanctioned for the area from Doda to Goha headquarter within one week, besides, he directed BMO to ensure installation of the X-Ray machine at Goha headquarter.

With regard to the shortage of teaching staff in schools, the DDC informed the locals that a district level Committee headed by ADDC Doda with Joint Director and ČEO as its members have been constituted to ensure the rationalisation of the staff in educational institutions.

While responding to the issue of erratic distribution of ration, the DDC directed the Tehsildar to enquire into the matter and submit the report so that strict action was endorsed against the individual/official. Besides, he asked the Tehsildar to start the anti-encroachments drive across the tehsil,

especially from the road sides.

Expressing concern over erratic water supply, the DDC directed the Tehsildar and Ex En to resolve the issue in a week's time. He further asked them to display all the JJM DPRs of this area at prominent places for the awareness of the general public. In addition to this, he also asked the PMGSY to display the projects proposed for phase 3rd for the information of the locals.

While responding to the demand of ATM facility, the DDC assured that the matter will be taken up with the bank authorities. He informed them that land for the Degree College has already been identified and matters shall be followed with the administrative department for the timely sanction

He further assured the locals that the issue of local employment will be taken up with the NHIDCL. DDC asked the locals to take the benefits from different self employment schemes and directed the AD Employment to organize an awareness camp on self employment schemes in the area on coming



The DDC also directed the Tehsildar to give wide publicity to the online land record Information System (AZAN) by way of organising awareness camps.

The DDC directed the Tehsildar Marmat to note down all the issues raised in the program and get the action taken report from all the concerned departments.

Panchayats across Block Kharah

Balli organize multifarious

activities under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

JAMMU, APRIL 13; As a part of month long Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, multifarious activities were conducted in Panchayats across block Kharah Balli by department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in collaboration with other line Departments, PRIs institutions and locals under the close supervision of Panchayat mentors. In various Panchayats of Dori, Kharah, Battal, Dager, Mallah massive cleanliness drives were conducted by the locals and the PRI members in collaboration with the De-

locals and the PRI members in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development.

Panchayat secretariats were setup and inaugurated at Panchayats. Gram Sabhas were held and Sthapna divas reso-

lutions were passed in all panchayats. Cleanliness pledge was observed and a rally for the green surroundings was

Water bodies were cleaned at various places in the block. Child friendly village, Healthy village, Poverty free and Enhanced livelihood water sufficient village, good governance, socially secured gram Panchayat, self sufficient infrastructure, clean and green village will be focused upon by the Panchayats concerned. A Child health and Posh-

by the Panchayats concerned. A Child health and Posh-an Awareness & Aadhar seeding camp was held at Mallah

conducted at Dori.

SKS initiative aims to identify sports talent at grassroots level: MP Jugal Kishore

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Member Parliament Jammu-Poonch Constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma today launched Sansad Khel Spardha by declaring open a multidisciplinary sports tournament here at Khel Gaon Nagrota.

The event will witness Volleyball, Kabaddi and Tug of War competitions. DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan; Deputy Commissioner Jammu Anshul Garg; DDC Member Joginder Singh; Member Rehmat Ali; ADDC Ramesh Kumar; DEO Suraj Singh; CMO JP Singh; ACD Ashok Choudhary; DYSO Sukhdev Raj besides Members of the Committee Ankush Gupta, Surjeet Singh, Puran Singh, Satish Sharma, Surinder Bhagat, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Raman

Suri, Sunil Dogra, Ankush Mahajan and other senior

officers of the concerned

departments were present

on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, the Member Parliament said that Government has taken many initiatives like 'Khelo India' to identify the sports talent at the grassroots level. He added that these sports are organised to promote sports cul-

ture among youth.

He emphasized upon to create sports champions at state, national and international level and provide best facilities to them for improving their skills.

The MP said that these kinds of sports events also encourage the youth for adopting a healthier lifestyle and channelize their energy in positive direction. He also

presented sports kits to ev-

ery Panchayat of Nagrota Block.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg highlighted the role of sports in the development of an individual. "Sports help an individual in achieving mental health much more than the physical health alone and it also helps to make the society progressive and harmonious" he said.

Later, the Jugal Kishore Sharma also chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial status of developmental works being carried out in Nagrota Panchayat under Sansad Adarsh Gram

The DDC member, BDC member, Panchs-Sarpanchs and locals present in the meeting, raised their issues/demands like irregular water and power supply, requirement of road connectivity, hand pump, community hall, bathing facility at Shamshan Ghat

The MP also took a detailed department wise review of works and schemes initiated to provide facilities and benefits to the people of the Nagrota Panchayat.

Array of activities under 100 point programme held across Kathua

KATHUA, APRIL 13: Under the ongoing Iconic Week being celebrated as part of Gram Swaraj Month, the first two days were marked with a number of activities, including Establishment of Panchayat Secretariats, formulation of Panchayat Heritage plan, Sthapna Diwas declaration, GEM registration of Panchayat level Vendors, PMAY AWAS PLUS sanctions, MGNREGA job card saturation an awareness on Jan Nigrani and area officer app usage etc.

As per ACD Kathua, Kishore Singh Katoch, all 257 panchayats have successfully established Panchayat secretariats and adopted Sthapna Diwas Declaration.

Among other activities being carried out by RDD include GEM registration of Panchayat level vendors; awareness on usage of Jan Nigrani and Area Officer App. The field functionaries ensured saturation of MGNREGA job cards, PMAY AWAS PLUS sanctions and PMAY SECC house completion of all the eligible beneficiaries.

RDD Doda kick-starts Iconic Week activities

DODA, APRIL 13: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Doda on Wednesday kick started the Iconic Week (11th April to 17th April, 2022) activities to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the spirit of

To celebrate this monumental occasion in the right spirit, Gram Sabhas were held in different blocks of the district wherein a series of thematic approaches were adopted aimed at localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grassroots level.

The Gram Sabhas stressed on the need to meet the SDGs and the need to mobilise the local resources. The Gram Sabhas were held in different panchayats of blocks Bhagwah, Bhaderwah, Thathri, Kastigarh and other blocks.

A plantation drive was also carried out in block Kastigarh.
Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, Phulail Singh Bandral informed that these thematic based Gram Sabhas are being held to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to create awareness for developing community awareness and involvement.

Series of activities organized across **Panchayats of Block Satwari**

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Yoga Camp, Gram Sabha, Plantation drive, cleanliness drive activities related to women empowerment and healthy village activities were organized in various Panchayats of Block Satwari today under Gram

To promote Healthy lifestyle and well being of all and all ages, a Yoga camp was organized at Panchayat, Chatha in which all the PRI's, General Public, school students and teachers participated.

At Panchayat Chowadi, a Gram Sabha was held in presence of all the PRIs and General Public. Oath taking ceremony was held and Panchayat took the sankalap of adapting sustainable development goals with three themes viz, healthy village ,clean and green village and child friendly village besides . A Plantation and cleanliness drive was also carried out on the occasion.

Similarly, Panchayat Satwari, in coordination with Social Welfare and Agriculture Department organised activities

682 vaccinated, 1793 samples collected in Ramban

RAMBAN, APRIL 13: As per District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr, Suresh, the Health Department today administered Covid vaccine doses to 682 persons including 535 children in the 15-17 age group and 22 in 12-14

Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol, the Enforcement teams fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance.

The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs. 5200 from violators, the Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking

Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1793 samples including 510 RT-PCR and 1283 RAT samples besides administering Covid vaccine to 682 persons at various dedicated Vaccination Cen-

Free Solar Cookers distributed among residents of Palli Panchayat

SAMBA, APRIL 13: Jammu and Kashmir energy Development Agency, Science and Technology Department and District Administration Samba today organised a Block Divas meeting in Panchayat Pali.During the Block Divas celebration, JAKEDA, S & T distributed free of cost solar box type cookers and Biomass fuel efficient cook-stoves amongst all households of the Panchayat under Gram Urja Swaraj Programme.Under the Gram Urja Swaraj Programme the Government of India has committed to solargramme, the Government of India has committed to solarize 75 Panchayats across the country by August 15, 2023 and develop 100 MW Capacity solar plants by August 15, 2023 and develop 100 MW Capacity solar plants by August 15, 2025. In the UT of J&K, the Prime Minister of India has selected the Panchayat Palli of District Samba to be provided with solar energy. Under the said programme a solar power plant of 500 KW capacity is being installed in the said Panchayat. The function was attended by Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Dr. P R Dhav, Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA;

GDC Mahanpur raises J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides

KATHUA, APRIL 13: Government Degree College Mahanpur today raised a unit of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides thus becoming first College of the district to have such unit of volunteers. The brief ceremony was held at the college premises today.

A Two day Workshop of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides Units was also held where Convener of the Scouts and Guides Committee Dr Parshotam Dass and Head of the Rovers Unit of the College, Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia convened the proceedings. The event was presided over by Principal of the College Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The programme started with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries.Dr. Parshotam Dass presented the welcome address and an overview of the programme.

Principal Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, in his address, appreciated the Scouts and Guides Unit for offering



workshops for inculcating values among the young students. He emphasized on the importance of such units for providing a platform for the intellectual, moral, social and physical education of the young aspirants.State Commissioner Rangers of Bharat Scouts and Guides Unit, J&K Dr. Renu Nanda, who was the Chief guest, gave a detailed lecture on the process, planning, history, implementation, mecha-

Bharat Scouts and Guides Unit. She also handed over the Registration Certificate of Scouts & Guide Unit to the Principal of the College. She also handed over Warrant Certificates to Dr. Parshotam Dass and Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia.A total 44 registered students participated in the Workshop. Other team members from Team members from State Commissioner Rangers of Bharat Scouts and Guides Unit, J&K includes Shri

ter Commissioner (Office) J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides, Harvinder Kour, Assistant State Organizing Commissioner, J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides and Haroon Malik, State Headquarters, Nagar, Jammu. The faculty members who were present in the programme were Dr. Balbindar Singh, Dr. Munisha Devi, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Sh. Saurabh Dutta , Dr. Sapna Devi, Dr. Neetika Verma,

Dwivedi chairs Committee meet regarding commemoration of Maharaja Hari Singhs' birthday

JAMMU, APRIL 13: The second meeting of Committee constituted to consider different aspects for commemoration of birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh and its observance in general under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, was held today under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr. Raghav Langer, Additional Secretary, General Administration Department, Rohit Sharma and representative of Culture department

participated in the meeting.

The Committee had threadbare discussion on views recorded by prominent historians and academicians regarding contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh. It decided that other related aspects and information with regard to contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh requires further delibera-tion comparing similar provisions for eminent persons with similar background in other states and Union Territories as well as abolition and declaration of holidays in Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past.

It was decided that as soon as the requisite information is compiled, the Committee shall finalize recommendations after deliberating upon all these aspects and submit the report before the government for final decision in the matter. The Committee had threadbare discussion on views recorded by prominent historians and academicians regarding contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh. It decided that other related aspects and information with regard to contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh requires further deliberation comparing similar provisions for eminent persons with similar background in other states and Union Territories as well as abolition and declaration of holidays in Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past.

It was decided that as soon as the requisite information is compiled, the Committee shall finalize recommendations after deliberating upon all these aspects and submit the report before the government for final decision in the matter.

AB-PMJAY SEHAT: Signature campaign cum awareness programme held at Purmandal

JAMMU, APRIL 13: A signature cum awareness programme was today organised at Block Development Office, Purmandal to speed up registration and apprise people about the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT scheme.

The programme was organized by Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department in consultation with district administration and concerned Block Medical Officer (BMO).

Chairman Municipal Committee Bari Brahmana, Sarpanch, Panch and Radio Jockey participated in the campaign.

The signature campaign witnessed huge participation of people, who have already registered for (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT and possessed golden cards. The participants shared their experience and asked others to avail cash less medical treatment. Speaking on the occasion, BMO, Dr



Shamim Choudhary said that the purpose of the initiative was to speed up the registration for SEHAT scheme and to mobilise the left out population so that they are entitled to the benefits of Golden Card. He added that special registration drive is going on at all BDO offices across Samba district. "People need to carry their Ration card and Aadhar card to obtain their Golden

card. People with Ayushman Bharat Golden card can get free treatment of up to Rs 5 Lakh at all government and empanelled private hospitals across India," he said.

The AB-PMJAY scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government. This scheme provides a cover of Rs 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. This ambitious health insurance scheme enables all residents of Jammu and Kashmir including employees and pensioners as well as their families to avail cashless quality health care services across public and private empanelled hospitals across India.

Panchayat Secretariats established across Bishnah block

JAMMU, APRIL 13: As a part of month-long Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, multifarious activities were conducted at various Panchayats of Block Bishnah by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the locals and the PRI members.

Massive Plantation drives were conducted by the RDD department in collaboration with the locals and the PRIs in all the Panchayats of the block.

Similarly, a series of other activities including awareness regarding Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Cleaning Water Bodies were held, besides Panchayat secretariats were set up at the designated places in each Panchayat with the aim to extend all the public services to the people at their doorstep through common platform.

The Government has launched a 100-point programme for saturation of activities under Gram Swaraj Month and establishment of Panchayat Secretariat is one of the key points of this 100-point pro-

gram.
These Panchayat Secretariats have been set up for the benefit of the general public as officials from line departments will sit in the Panchayat Secretariat and listen to the grievances of the general public. Various support activities, cleanliness drive, plantation drive as well as awareness programme were also conducted by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj along

FCS&CA Department conducts awareness programme on PMGKAY scheme at Block Khelani

DODA, APRIL 13: The department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Doda on Wednesday organised an awareness programme regarding extension of PMGKAY scheme under the aegis of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahaotsav at Block Khelani.

DDC Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh was the chief guest, while BDC Chairman Khelani, Manish Kumar, Sarpanch Khelani, Bashir Ahmed were the guests of honour on the occasion.

The programme was also attended by PRIs of the area along with Principal HSS Khelani, beneficiaries and officials of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman lauded the efforts of the department of FCS&CA in bringing transparency



and accountability in the public distribution system. He also appreciated the

contribution of officials of FCS&CA Doda in achieving the targets well in time

the concerned officials to ensure timely distribution of ration under the said scheme in addition to NFSA.Earlier, the Assistant Director FCS&-CA Doda, Rahul Sharma gave a brief introduction about the various ongoing schemes of the department. He apprised the gathering about the achievements of the department like 100% Aadhar Seeding, 100% deletion/correction of Duplication in UIDs (first district to achieve this target in J&K), implementation of Supply Chain Management and 100% ePOS

distribution of Ration.

despite shortage of man-power in the department.

The DDC Chairman said

that the Government has

extended the benefits un-der PMGKAY upto Sep-tember 2022 for eligible beneficiaries and asked

Editorial

Urbanization and its razor impact on ecology

eforestation is the purposeful clearing of forested land. Throughout history and into modern times, forests have been razed to make space for agriculture and animal grazing, and to obtain wood for fuel, manufacturing, and construction.

Agricultural activities, illegal logging, Urbanization, desertification of Land, mining, forest fires, livestock ranching and paper are the significant factors affecting deforestation. Deforestation is very bad news for the environment and for the climate.

But the science is increasingly certain that deforestation is bad for agriculture too. It causes increases in temperatures as well as changes in rainfall patterns which generally create a drier climate.

It is having another worrisome effect which is an increase in the spread of life-threatening diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. For a host of ecological reasons, the loss of forest can act as an incubator for insect-borne and other infectious diseases that afflict humans.

The process can directly lead to biodiversity loss when animal species that live in the trees no longer have their habitat, cannot relocate, and therefore become extinct. Deforestation can lead certain tree species to permanently disappear, which affects biodiversity of plant species in an environment.

It affects the people and animals where trees are cut, as well as the wider world. Some 250 million people living in forest and savannah areas depend on them for subsistence and income, many of them among the world's rural poor.

The disadvantages to deforestation are an increased amount of carbon dioxide emissions and soil erosion as well as the destruction of forest habitat and the loss of biological diversity of both plants

If we don't stop deforestation. more than half of our plant and animal species will be extinct. It is the oldest ecosystem on Earth and they are impossible to replace. It took millions of years for rainforests to develop... How can we replenish fast enough to cope with the rate of deforestation?

INDIA'S HEALTHCARE POLICY NEEDS A PARADIGM SHIFT TO SERVE THE COMMONERS

DR ARUN MITRA

ealthcare today is faced with several challenges right from medical education, primary prevention of disease, delivery of healthcare, funding for healthcare, scientific inputs, drug pricing etc. In the ancient times promotion of good health was learnt through day-today experience, so developed the concept of developing resistance to diseases through healthy nutrition or through specific methods like the use of herbs or other natural products. Modern scientific medicine carried forward that knowledge through extensive research to find normal functioning of the body, the causation of disease and methods of management of the disease and promotion of good health.

In India health planning started with the formation of a committee popularly known as Bhore committee under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore in 1943 to survey the then existing position regarding health conditions and health organizations in the country. The committee in its report in 1946 recommended that "the health programme should be developed on a foundation of preventive health work and that 'if the nation's health has to be built, such activities should proceed side by side those concerned with treatment of

It was based on the principles that 'no individual should be denied to secure adequate medical care because of inability to pay; health programme must lay special emphasis on preventive work; health service should be located close to the people; medical services should be free to all without any distinction and doctor should be a social physician'. The committee also observed that 'health and development are inter-dependent and improvement in other sectors like water supply, sanitation, nutrition, employment led to improvement in health status'. Interestingly this is also the period when the British government introduced National Health Services in England. The Soviet Union had already introduced the concept of state's responsibility of healthcare to all

In the first few decades after independence, direction of the healthcare in our country was based on these principles which gave priority to public health. During that period much of the health care was developed in state sector with a special emphasis on the need for basic healthcare services. As a follow up India signed Alma-Ata Declaration in 1978 which identified primary healthcare as the key to the attainment of the goal of Health for all and conceptualized 'health as the core function of development, encompassing the securities of life, livelihood, and basic services including food, health, education, housing, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, and transportation'.

In 1980s when neo-liberal economic policies were adopted there occurred a policy shift towards health that treats health as 'techno-dependent and amenable to commodification'. Even the World Health Organisation (WHO) started working under the influence of international monopoly corporates and took position to increase privatization and partnership with multinational companies. In our country we find that the public sector is now responsible for the preventive services while the private sector on the other hand is investing heavily in secondary and tertiary care with a profit motive making the advanced care out of reach of low and even middle income group population.

There has been a paradigm shift in the approach from the first National Health Policy - 1983 which emphasized on promotive, preventive curative and rehabilitative services. The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 however made a leap forward to corporate centric and insurance based healthcare system. As a result public funds are being diverted to the private insurance and health care sector. This is a period following World Trade Organisation which was founded on 1st January 1995.

Presently 75% of healthcare expenditure comes from the pockets of households – 80% for OPD care and 60% for Indoor care. This



important cause of impoverishment which further adds to poor health. No wonder the government recognises the fact that every year 6.3 crore people are pushed below poverty line because of out of

pocket expenditure on health. India has roughly 20 health workers per 10,000 population. Total doctor-population ratio including the doctors of modern medicine and AYUSH as told by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union minister of health and family welfare in the Rajya Sabha April 5, 2022, is 1:834. It is to be noted that Govt. doctor-population ratio is 1:11,926 in contrast to the desired 1:1,000. This is a major cause of inequality in healthcare to the marginalized sections who are dependent solely on state healthcare system. WHO recommends minimum of 5% of the GDP as expenditure on health, while in contrast our public health spending is hovering around 1.1% of GDP.

That out of a population of 100000in our country 32 persons die due to Tuberculosis every year, is a matter of grave concern and shame. Similar is the condition of other communicable and non - communicable diseases. Because of poor planning the diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cardiac illnesses, Diabetes, Cancers etc. got ignored during the COVID Pandemic. Despite all the above happenings, the Constitution of India does not expressly guarantee a fundamental right to health.

There is need to set up Primary Health Centre at every 30000 population, with 24-hour service, a Health Sub-Centre at every 5000 catastrophic healthcare cost is an population and a fully staffed

Community Health Centre with and affordability of drugs includall facilities at every 100000 population. Establish round-the-clock ambulance service at every 30000 population. Post women medical and paramedical personnel in all health centres and hospitals in adequate numbers. All Government health facilities should adhere to Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms.

Medical education too is on the same lines. In the last few decades there has been shift from opening the medical colleges in the state sector to the private sector. According to the website of the

National Medical Commission (NMC) presently India has 605 medical colleges with 90825 seats for the under graduate course. Out of this 306 colleges with 45035 seats are in the state sector. The number of colleges in private sector is 289 with 43965 seats and others 10 colleges with 1825 seats. The tuition fee in the private colleges ranges from 60 Lakh to over one crore rupees. This is far beyond the capacity of even the middle classes. Therefore the students look for relatively cost effective institutions. For study in the colleges abroad total cost including the travel and stay is around 30 Lakh rupees. This is pushing the students to study abroad. We have seen how the students in Ukraine had to suffer during the on-going war with Russia.

Since nutrition is the key to good health, it is imperative that Malnutrition is eliminated by implementing National Food Security Act 2013 which aims to provide subsidised food grains to approximately two thirds of India's people and ensures maternity entitlements to all pregnant women. Set up Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre at each block to address the issue of severely malnourished children.

Even though expenditure on drugs forms nearly 63% of the out of pocket expenditure on health, till date we lack a Rational Drug Policy that allows drugs to be sold only under their generic names. The drugs pricing policy is faulty that lets the pharmaceutical companies fix up prices at their own will. There is need to ensure

ing vaccines and sera in the public health system through quality conscious pooled procurement systems and promotion of manufacture of essential medicines. Drugs prices should be calculated based on their cost of production. Recommendations of the report of 'Committee on High Trade Margins in Sale of Drugs' submitted on 9th December 2015 need to be implemented. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority should be strengthened further.

It is disgusting that unscientific non evidence based methods of treatment are being spread in health care. Promotion of Cow urine, Cow dung and Ramdev's Coronil as treatment of various diseases including the COVID-19 has been done by the higher ups in the government including the union health minister Dr Harshvardhan, who himself is an ENT Surgeon. Latest decision of the NMC to introduce Charak Shapath instead of a scientific oath by the doctors of modern medicine is totally unscientific. The Charak Samhita written 300 BC says that a physician has to live a life of celibacy and grow beard. He has not to see a patient who is not liked by the king. This means women cannot be doctors.

Some colleges have made it compulsory for the internes of modern medicine to get raining in the AYUSH. It may be understood that there is conceptual difference about causation and treatment of disease not only between modern medicine and AYUSH but also between various constituents of AYUSH. The National Medical Commission (NMC) has also decided that the medical students of modern medicine should undergo training of Yoga under a yoga teacher and observe 21st June as oga day

There has to be a concerted effort to develop a healthy India through scientific outlook, otherwise health of vast majority of our poor population will continue to be exploited through false beliefs and myths in healthcare and exorbitant charging. State has to come forward to take responsibility for health to all and for that declare improved availability, accessibility health as a fundamental right.

BASAVRAJ BOMMAI IS AN UNUSUAL CHIEF MINISTER IN KARNATAKA WITH SOCIALIST PAST

PROFILE

HARIHAR SWARUP

or an. unlikely Chief Minor an. unlikely Chief Minister, Basavraj Bommai, 61, got off to a good start. In the second month of his tenure, on September 2, 2021, he got a leg up when Union Home Minister Amit Shahon his first visit to Karnataka after Bommai took over—endorsed him as the man to lead the BJP in the 2023 assembly elections in Karnataka. "Bommai has focused on small things. He has not embraced the VVIP culture—in Delhi, those who observe Karnataka closely are of the view that the BJP has strengthened itself after making Basavraj Bommai the Chief Minister," Shah

But that honeymoon period barely lasted six months with a gradual piling up of woes against Bommai—within the party, the

ernment and public at large. There have been complaints of a lack of will in tackling corruption and large-scale indecisiveness on pending new projects.

right wing to execute its agenda from a string of comments that has kept the hijab row simmering, to the issue of banning Muslims from temple festivals to the halal meat controversy.

While Bommai, eager to earn his stripes in the BJP, given his social background that he was in the JD(S) as late as 2008, was expected, to be soft on Hindutva radicals, no one expected the CM—given his socialist background -- to fall in line with fringe elements of Sangh-

and secular politics of the Janata

central leadership, the state gov- Dal can be traced to his lineage -- his father and former CM, S R Bommai was ardent follower of radical humanist movement of Leftist leader M N Roy.

Though Bommai made his foray The biggest criticism, however, into politics in 1996-97, when he is that Bommai and his leadership was appointed political secretary has given free pass to the Hindutva to the CM J H Patel of the Janata Dal, it wasn't until 2008, after his father's death in 2007, that he contested elections. This was because the Senior Bommai didn't want to use his credentials to promote his

> It's a discipline that continued in his families, with neither of his two children -- son Bharat, an industrialist and businessman, and daughter, Aditi, an architecture student -- displaying any political inclinations. His wife Chennamma is a home maker.

"Basavaraj wanted to serve Bommai's roots in the socialist people but has to wait for his time", says J H Patel's son Mahim Patel,

the JD(U) Karnataka President. Following his father's death

in October, 2007, with Bommai's political career at cross roads, he was invited to join BJP by the party's biggest face then and Lingayat leader S. Yediyurappa, Bommai for many years in the Assembly. adopted Shiggaon, a constituency Bommai has stayed away from bordering the Dharwad region, which did not have a BJP leader, trolled by Union Minister Prahlad and won the seat in 2008, and in 2013 and 2018 as well One of the hallmarks of Bom-

mai's time in the BJP, including two tenures as minister, was his ability to stay away from controversies while also emerging as a leader with knack for governance. He was the water resources minister between 2008-2013 and was most recently (2019—2021) minister for home, Law and Parliamentary affairs for Yediyurappa. "He is also hard working and has passion to become a big political leader", says Bommai's former JD(U) colleague,

Despite tracing his roots to Hubli—where he grew up before graduating with an engineering degree from Bhoomaraddi College - his father representing the region politics of the region since it is con-Joshi and former CM Jagdish Shettar, with the RSS also an important

A former Hindi Journalist describes Bommai as a "shrewd tactful politician" who is aware of his limitations within the BJP.

As Home Minister, Bommai toed the Centre's line on issues like the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Act. "He is a good listener on matters that are of interest to the BJP. If high command wants something, he is unlikely to say no", says Bommai's friends and ex-Congress MP V S Ugrappa.

Inflation eating away earnings and wages faster than expected

DR. GYAN PATHAK

he erosion of about one per cent of value of rupee in the consumer market within a month was too great a shock for people to absorb. It was felt by everyone in March 2022, and the workers, senior citizens, women and children were among the hardest hit.

The latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on March 12, though underestimated, recorded the retail inflation to have risen to 6.95 per cent in March 2022 as against 6.07 per cent in February, a rise of 0.96 per cent in a month. The rise was the highest since October 2020. As for the core inflation, excluding food and fuel, it rose to 6.53 per cent in March as against 6.22 per cent in February, which is highest since 2014. Even this level of inflation is an underestimate, since the data does not fully capture the impact of the hike in fuel prices towards March end. People might have suffered more than we expected.

and the present data reveals.

ies and predicaments are thus concealed behind the underestimated data. All these suggest only one thing - the inflation will remain elevated even in the current month April and beyond, and with it the miseries of the common people.

The greater part of hardship comes from the inflation in food and beverages that jumped from 5.93 per cent in February to 7.47 per cent in March. It was 1.54 per cent rise in just one month. With the rise in prices millions of people resorted to even reduce the quantity of nutritious foods. which impacted the women and children the most. Consumer food price has increased by 100 per cent between March 2021 and March 2022, the CPI revealed. The most disturbing trend registered in rural areas where consumer food price inflation rose to 8.04 per cent in March 2022 compared to March 2021. Even CPI for rural areas went up to 7.66 per cent from 4.61 per cent a year before.

CPI inflation in oils and fats rose to 18.79 per cent in March



to 11.64 per cent from 6.13 per cent while clothing and footwear rose to 9.40 per cent from 8.6 per cent. Beyond food and beverages, most of the commodity groups touched multi-months highs. The overall Consumer Price Index inflation reached almost 7 percent, which was about one per cent higher than in February. It resulted in shrinkage in overall consumpas against 16.4 per cent in Febrution of the person in extreme

If we look at the inflation on year on year basis, inflation in clothing, footwear, and house hold goods and services was the highest over 100 months, ie in over eight years. Heath inflation has stayed above 6 per cent for the last 15 months, and it is set to rise due to hike in costs of essential medicines from April1. 2022. Rise in fuel prices will fur-The story of untold miser- ary. Inflation for vegetables rose poverty, the poor and the middle- ther push prices of all things due their earnings by 6.95 per cent, cent, of the workforce in the \$100 per barrel on an average.

to rise in cost of transportation which would further increase

Its impact on the senior citizen, especially those who survive on interest by their lifetime deposit, was just devastating. Senior Citizen Savings Scheme give them an interest rate of only 7.4 per and in some others they are getting up to maximum 7.75 per cent. If the inflation eroded

than one per cent on their deposits. With reduced value of their are not even linked with the CPI, earning they felt themselves in too miserable a condition.

As for the workers, we can categorise them in two classes - those who are covered under Employees Provident Fund and those who are not covered. EPFO has recently lowered the interest rates on EPF deposits for 8.1 per cent. It means the formal workers of organizsed sector will be effectively earning only 1.15 per cent after the erosion of 6.95 per cent due to inflation. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had defended the interest rate cut saying that the figure is dictated by today's circumstances when interest rates on other small savings schemes are much lower.

True, interest rate on many small savings schemes for non senior citizens are even lower than the inflation rate of 6.95 per cent, which means that almost all poor and middle-class citizens will have effectively negative earning on their small deposits.

Since majority, above 90 per

they effectively earned much less country are in the informal and unorganised sector, their wages and therefore they don't get any relief from any dearness allowance linked to CPI. Most of them earn less than a little over the minimum wages. An inflation of around 7 per cent is just breaking their hopes of survival, and hence they have resorted to cost cutting on food and other essential items. One can just imagine how they are surviving after paying for rents, children, clothing, and medical expenses.

> No one has expected such a sharp rise in CPI inflation. Experts and economists were expecting it to be around 6.4 per cent. March inflation of 6.95 did not only exceed this expectation, but it also exceeded the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee's upper target for the third straight month. It should be noted that the RBI has raised its inflation protection to only 5.7 per cent for 2022-23, which was earlier set at only 4.5 per cent. The estimate was based on an assumption of international crude oil prices at

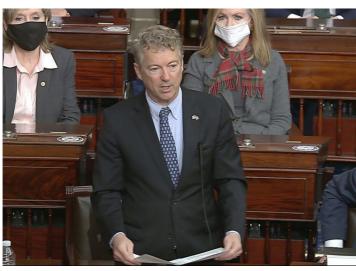
REPUBLICANS ARE MAKING FULL USE OF RELIGION DEFYING U.S. CONSTITUTION

he American constitution in its 1st amendment adheres the principle of separation of Church and the State. It says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise there off." The delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention blocked the establishment of Christianity as a national religion. The declaration that India is a secular state in Indian Constitution drafted by the Indian Constituent Assembly was a direct fallout of the 1st amendment of US constitution.

But since its inception America couldn't keep religion out of politics. In the election of 1880, Federalist clergymen of the south charged that deist Thomas Jefferson was unfit to lead a Christian nation, which was a direct challenge to the concept of the 1st amendment. (It should be mentioned in this connection that president such as Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, Abraham Lincoln we're atheists, though they publicly didn't declare it.

Christians have a overwhelming majority in America.2020 census Liberals are betraying. of American religion carried out between 2014 and 2020. It that about 65% to 70% are Christian .Protes-Christian doctrines; Roman Catholics at. 21%, Mormons at 2% and religiously unaffiliated persons at 29% .The unaffiliated also called 'Nones' (atheist, agonistics) are growing in numbers day by day.

But as Christianity's hold, in particular among millennials (those who born between 1981 and tion was stolen by the Democrats, 1996) and younger people weak- without any evidence, thousands ened, ideological intensity and of protesters, many with ties with his hand. Trump couldn't care less fragmentation have arisen. It just conservative beliefs, invaded the about religion because it suppostively and ethically to garner sup-



has now been channeled into politiforce in American public life, it is becoming easier for political movements like the GOP under Donald Trump to co-opt faith for their own purpose. Conservatives believe that they are faithful to American idea, which means American dogmatic Christian beliefs and that

Protestants, especially under Evangelist churches remain at the centre of religious intervention in tants at 40% outnumber other American politics. For 40 years, since Ronald Regan's time, conservative Christians were eager but still hesitant to directly penetrate to the pro- rich, anti- civil right political party i.e Republican Party .But that changed on Jan 20, ,2021 . On that day, on the pretence of Trump's false claim that the elec- not read Bible. He photoposed in

that what was once religious belief Capitol. Christian language and imagery were evident in that insurcal beliefs . As religion recedes as a rection . Though their attempt was unsuccessful, the incident reminds me of the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya by a group of religious bigots to achieve their political goal. Following years proved them to be successful to achieve their goal.

The alliance between Republican Party under Trump and the religious Rights has in many ways, realized the founders of the constitution's fear of religious-political coalitions to become possible.

But the religious Right's capitulations to Trumpism was always much more about the politics of race and nationalism than authentic religious faith. Trump was never a faithful Christian, he seldom went to church, he had front of a church in Washington DC holding a Bible upside down in

Most astonishingly, through constant lies and propaganda, he was able to rally most of the evangelists in his favour. He has become a 'cult' to the religious Rights. So much so that some Republican congressmen described him as an angel sent by God to wipe out the 'Devil's preachers' I.e the Democrats. That's why many conservatives find solace in conspiracy cults such as QAnon and their theories that tell a religious story of earthly corruptions redeemed by a God like force, which is Donald Trump.

Some of the evangelists were opposed to Trumpism, but could not stay in their position .Their leader Rev. Russell Moore, head of the Southern Baptist convention's Ethics and Liberty Commission was finally forced out of his post and silenced by Trump supporters.

About a quarter of Americans are Roman Catholics. In general they are anti abortion, but are not supportive of Trump as strongly as evangelists. In short, there is a dilemma among them on issues like immigration, climate, economics and peace. Moreover, Trump's moral character, his continuing lies and behavior are not liked by many Catholics.

Democrats, in general are not religiously oriented towards politics as the Republicans. President Biden is a devout catholic but it is a personal belief and does not interfere in his politics. A survey by Pew Research Centre found that about 54% adult believe the Republican Party to be friendly towards religion, 19% believe Democrats to be so. Democrats as a party didn't and couldn't use religion to achieve their political support.

That religion could be used posi-

was first shown by Rev Martin Luther King Jr, a follower of M.K. Gandhi's 'Ahimsa'(non violent) movement, in 1960s. The Civil Rights movement (1954 to 1968) was perhaps the most effective religious intervention in politics in US history. Martin Luther Jr. did not belong to any party, he was an independent .But he voted for Lyndon B Johnson, a democrat president in 1964. His experiment was a rare case. Religion at recent times is being used in America to achieve political goals by Trumpist Republicans in a heinous way. Their constant tirade against abortion rights and LGBTQ communities are examples of their intentions. They passed strict anti- abortion and anti-LGBTQ laws to satiate the religious dogma of the large populace there.

It has gone so far that many evangelists see Russia as the savior and inspiration of Christian beliefs. A significant subset of evangelists see Russian Orthodox Church as protector of faith. Russia's (under Putin) spate on anti LGTQ laws has become a model for some anti-trans and anti-gay legislation in the US. In February this year Evangelist leader Franklin Graham called on his followers to pray for Putin.

Religion, to the Republicans, has become a political tool to achieve political power. Instead of any solid economic / political agenda, they are presenting a cocktail of Religion, Racism and pseudo nationalism through relentless false propaganda and lies. In India RSS and BJP were able to use religion successfully to achieve political power .We have to wait to see whether it could happen also in America in

TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER IS POSITIONING HIMSELF FOR NATIONAL ROLE BEFORE 2024 POLLS

SUSHIL KUTTY

his time, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao chose to travel to "national capital" Delhi. The last time it was to Mumbai, India's commercial capital. Then, he sat with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to plot the ouster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi come 2024. This time he doesn't need another pair of shoulders. For all his slim frame, KCR is no lightweight in political circles.

In Telangana his clout ran supreme till a year ago. Then, because nothing is evergreen, KCR descended into complacency and the state BJP managed to steal some space from under his feet. Much to KCR's disgust, the Congress was losing significance in the opposition space and the abhorrent BJP was filling up the vacancy faster than amoeba could multiply

A couple of by-election losses and reports multiplied that KCR and his party TRS were heading for the exit door. KCR's mega-money extravaganzas couldn't be tolerated or stomached anymore. So went the spin. Modi's highly objectionable habit of targeting "dynasties" was the last straw on the camel's back.

KCR and TRS are now gunning for the Prime Minister. "Behave or you will pay" is KCR's ultimatum to Modi. And the "threat" was not made from the cool shadow of the Charminar in Hyderabad. KCR is in the lion's den—Delhi, not very far from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

First glance, and it will look to the amateur like the fight is over insignificant paddy—parboiled rice, and raw rice. But scratch, and both BJP and TRS will break out in boils. For all his lanky frame, KCR packs a lot of energy and is not somebody who throws in the towel at the first sign of a downpour. Behind his Delhi smile, KCR is steaming mad.

KCR's warning to Modi is not couched in verbosity. In fact, it is straight to the point. The Centre is refusing to buy paddy from Telangana and KCR is adamant the Modi Government modify its paddy procurement policy or there is the ever reliable Mahender Singh Tikait to rouse farmers into action.

The Telangana Chief Minister gave Modi 24 hours to mend his behaviour and follow up with action as TRS patience had an expiry date, and then it will be too late, "we will take our displeasure to all over India.'

KCR gave Modi 24 hours to buckle under pressure, and nearly 48 hours have already passed. KCR was sitting on a dharna at the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, warning Modi to not "play with farmers of the country." Apart from KCR and Tikait, the stage was occupied by Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao, who is KCR's son, other state ministers, MPs and TRS MLAs, all of them adamant that protests would be scaled up if Modi doesn't purchase Telangana paddy.

"I welcome all the farmers and our leaders who have come all the way from the state 2,000 kms away from Delhi. I want to warn PM Modi that you cannot play with Farmers in the country," KCR said from the stage set for the protests. "You are not permanent in power. The way you are behaving is not acceptable to us."

It couldn't be any more direct than that. In a 'new' to Delhi, TRS posters dot Delhi. Politics runs in the 'Rao' family and KCR's daughter K Kavitha is a familiar face in New Delhi. The "father-son-and-daughter" are the reason why Modi's dynasty jibes hit KCR where it hurts most.

The TRS posters and hoardings demand a "one paddy procurement policy" throughout India. But the BJP-led central government blatantly discriminates against Telangana, allege the protestors. The state government wants the Centre to procure paddy/parboiled rice, but the Centre insists it will buy only raw rice.

And while the Centre holds the TRS government to ransom by refusing to procure paddy, the state BJP unit is agitating to force the state government to buy paddy from the Telangana farmers. No wonder KCR is throwing tantrums at Modi and Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal, who says KCR is "enacting a drama" to divert public attention from high electricity prices.

But KCR is not mincing words. His warning that Modi would have another "all-India farmers' agitation" to deal with was not an empty boast. KCR is extremely friendly with CMs MK Stalin, Pinarayi Vijayan, and Uddhav Thackeray. Mamata Banerjee is also a friend. Add to them Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab chief ministers and the story

KCR says if Modi does not do the wise thing and buy parboiled rice, things could turn unpleasant as farmers have the "power to topple governments". As things stand, neither the TRS nor the BJP is ready to bend and even with the rhetoric, there is no way KCR can bring down the Modi Government for a bowl of rice. If no one else, 'kisan leader' Tikait knows this cold fact.

THERE ARE MANY LESSONS TO LEARN FROM SRI LANKA'S ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

ARUN KUMAR SHRIVASTAV

n Tuesday, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Aiith Nivard Cabraal announced that the country would default on international debt payments until it receives a \$3 billion bailout package it has asked for from the IMF. Sri Lanka's external borrowings amount to \$51 billion and roughly half of them are market borrowings through international sovereign bonds, one of which is worth \$1 billion maturing on July 25. There are some other urgent debt repayments due in the next few months. In all, Sri Lanka needs \$7 billion to service its debts this year while it had \$1.9 billion of

Rajapaksa became President and remain in power until 2015. By country had built several cost-Chinese debts. In 2017, it offered a majority stake in deep-sea Hambantota port to a Chinese company. Another much talked about project is Mattala Rajapaksa International Magam Ruhunupura International



It began in 2005 when Mahinda Province are cited as examples of wasteful expenditure.

The mounting debt and its the time he left office in 2015, the repayment got exacerbated during the 2-year-long Covid-induced lockintensive but futile projects with down for its tourism-dependent economy. When meeting the import bills became difficult, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa put a blanket ban on the import of chemical fertilizers in March 2021 and asked the Airport which is often referred to farmers to go fully organic. Origias the world's emptiest internation nally, the country was implemental airport. The Lotus Tower, The ing a 10-year-long slow transition to organic farming beginning 2020.

By December the country began also got impacted, leading to power cuts and disruption of industrial

What happened from December onwards has been widely reported apaksas to resign. Besides reckless debts for useless projects, Mahinda

Rajapaksa is blamed for following a "super-casual approach" to the to be the road ahead. For the Rajeconomy. For example, his government has been anti-privatization and anti-FDI. It believed in building large public enterprises. To remain popular with the people, Mahinda Rajapaksa didn't care for fiscal prudence. The interest rates were kept low and the public sector employment almost doubled to 1.5 million, eating up an enormous 70% of the state's revenue.

After coming to power in 2019, the Rajapaksa had the option to go to the IMF and seek a bailout but they didn't. They trusted their own wisdom and didn't pay heed to economists and professionals. Now, the situation is completely forex reserves at the end of March. Convention Centre, the Mahinda The sudden disruption in agriculout of control. The country is facing Prime Minister Imran Khan was By now, the story of how Sri Rajapaksa International Cricket ture proved costly and it not only a 13-hour power cut daily amid a also hassled by the rising prices Lanka got into the current finan- Stadium, and a network of high- impacted the paddy crop but also serious scarcity of food grains and of potatoes and tomatoes. He tried cial mess is known to everyone. ways, particularly, in the Southern the tea that is an important export other essentials. The Rajapaksas from this island nation of 22 milare completely helpless. Rather. lion people in the Indian Ocean. they are at the centre of intense public ire. People are blaming him facing an acute shortage of food not only for incompetence but also items and because of the lack of for questionable integrity. They forex reserves its energy imports want the Rajapaksas to be held accountable for the current situation and tried for the money they have "stolen".

The super casual approach to the economy that made the governby the media. Now, people are on ment pursue an anti-privatization, the street and asking for the Raj- anti-FDI, and anti-IMF approach is responsible for the current Sri of the fertilizers. Lankan economic crisis

An IMF bailout package seems apaksas, it'll be immensely difficult to stay in power for long, if at all. Besides Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

Bangladesh, and Nepal in India's neighbourhoods are facing serious economic problems. Recently, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attracted the attention of people even outside her country for asking people to cook "Beguni" with pumpkin. Beguni is a Bengali cuisine of brinjal or eggplant fritters. Her suggestion came in response to people in Bangladesh complaining about the high prices of brinjals during the ongoing Ramadan season.

Before losing power, Pakistan to wriggle out of the situation by claiming that he had not become prime minister to fix the prices of 'aloo-tomatar'

In India, the price of onions often becomes a headache for the government.

But instead of ignoring them, the prices of basic items need to be taken seriously as they indicate the wellness of the economy. The collapse of the Sri Lankan economy has been prompted by the failure of the crops because of unavailability

CPI(M) leadership takes cognisance of caste politics at party Congress

ARUN SRIVASTAVA

t took 58 years for the CPI(M) to change its ideological compassion to induct a dalit leader Ramchandra Dome into its politburo the highest political and ideological decision making forum of the party. Besides Dome, the party also admitted four tribal leaders into the central committee.

The sudden move to ordain a dalit in the politburo has thrown up many questions; whether the party has ideologically come to accept caste as a major polemical factor in the Indian politics which has not been properly assessed by the party before and whether the party would pursue the mandal doctrine to expand in the Hindi

Though Dome does not subscribe to the view that his induction in polit bureau was the "Historic moment" for the party and asserts that there have been "many stalwart leaders" in the party from the Dalit community. he finds him at the loss to explain that why no one from theses stalwarts were not made the PB member. This has ideological implication and orientation.

giving Dalits a place in the party's top decision-making body politburo and even central committee came to the fore.. At the Congress Prakash Karat talked about the failure to implement reservation for Scheduled Castes and atrocities but, when asked why CPM's politburo never had a dalit member, came up with the reply: "You ask me this question on April 19 when the new politburo and central committee is in place." Karat said "will check the records if there has been a Dalit in the central committee" Even for getting into CC

was not so simple and needed a proven track record. "It will be a tough exercise. We have few Dalit leaders who are doing good work," observed a senior dalit leader. Ironically the CPI(M) has been worried of the condition of Dalits and demanded from the Union government to protect them, it never strived to bring a dalit leader in the politburo. Even Dome concedes "In our party, a person becomes a leader through some movement. It is a continuous process. In our party's history, many stalwart leaders were from the Dalit community. Somehow they were not in the Polit-At the Vishakhapatnam Con- buro. Therefore, my induction



After the session got over he said "There are hundreds of comrades from the socially backward and marginalised sections in the party's central committee. Dalits. Adivasis and the working class form the party's foundation. The communist parties choose their leadership by way of a natural process and therefore, my inclupolitburo member. CPI(M) accussion in the Politburo is not an

sends across a message Nevertheless the CPI(M) gen-

eral secretary Sitaram Yechury revealed that the party could not appoint a Dalit member to its top office due to 'historical reasons'. The fact of the matter is the CPI(M), controlled and dominated by upper caste leaders had avoided selecting a dalit as the es the Congress of being a reac-

even this party accommodates the Dalits in the highest decision making bodies. Providing space to the Dalits has made it the party of poor. In the recent years, the BJP has done a big outreach to dalits and this process has been stepped up.

Recently in an interview to a Kerala daily, Sitaram Yechury has put the blame on the 'Hindu social order' for its failure in gress the abysmal record in into the Politburo is not a historic outstanding event. But it for sure tionary and bourgeoise party, but admitting Dalits to the politburo. politburo would help it to work

not appoint a Dalit member to its top office due to 'historical reasons'. His observation in fact puts a critical question on the political character of the party, which claims to be Marxist. His statement makes it clear that the leadership has failed to curb the upper caste hegemony prevalent in the party. Significantly he had said "Our society has always been very exploitative in nature. Only upper castes had the right to access knowledge and education. Naturally, they get acquainted with new ideas,

Dome has been an active member of the party for long. During the Emergency in mid 1970s, Dome became active in student politics and joined the Left Front's students' wing. In 1989, five years after he completed MBBS, he entered Parliament after winning from the Birbhum Lok Sabha constituency. He continued as an MP till 2014, winning in six consecutive Lok Sabha elec-

Notwithstanding Sitaram Yechury trying to evolve a mechanism for the resurrection of the party, the major challenge before it is to arresting the slide outside Kerala. Bringing in Dome into

He revealed that the party could out allies and alliances even based on the caste politics. None will dare to challenge the party for entering into alliance with the casteist parties. In this backdrop, Sitaram Yechury's call for "all left, secular and democratic forces to come together in order to isolate and defeat the BJP" is quite significant and important and should be taken seriously.

Yechury outlined the party line, saving that, "in order to defeat the BJP, the broadest possible front of all secular forces must be forged against Hindutva communalism". However, this may not get wide support from the powerful Kerala unit, which perceives the Congress as the main adversary. It is a known fact that the CPI(M) and the Congress in Kerala have antagonistic relations. And in 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the CPI(M) will try its best to get back seats from the Congress fold. Yechury has a standing among the opposition parties who are trying to form a joint front against the BJP. The third term general secretary of the CPI(M) has to show ingenuity and dexterity in working for a united opposition including the Congress while abiding by the lines of the political resolution of the 23rd Congress of the Party.

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Delimitation...

out from the existing Kupwara district, thus making the assembly seats to 47 from 46 in the Kashmir region. The commission is headed by the former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Desai, and comprises Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and State Election Commissioner K.K. Sharma.

The commission was established on March 6, 2020, with a one-year term to redraw the parliamentary and assembly constituencies of the J&K, six months after the reorganization of the Union Territory.

The Commission was given one year extension in 2021 and again of two months by the Centre on March 6, 2022.

Militants shot...

May his soul rest in peace & may his family find strength during this difficult time" Abdullah tweeted.

Today's attack is the latest in a series of targeted attacks on migrant workers and local minorities that has been sweeping the Kashmir over the last seven months.

The targeted killings had started in October, the victims being mostly migrants from outside Jammu and Kashmir who came in search of jobs and indigenous Kashmiri Pandit's.

In October, seven civilians were killed in five days including a Kashmiri Pandit, a Sikh and two non-local

Shortly after, Sheikhpora - home to the minority Kashmiri Pandit community -- started resembling a ghost town with most families moving out.

Last week, a Kashmiri Pandit was shot at and injured in Shopian district. Earlier five non-local laborers were shot at injured by militants.

The matter had political repercussions with the opposition Congress accusing the BJP-led Centre of failing to protect the people.

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is getting worse with every passing day and both Kashmir and Kashmiriyat are in danger. No one knows where the BJP, which has been doing politics in the name of Kashmir for years, is missing nowadays," the Congress had tweeted.

2 JKAS officers...

Rachna Sharma, JKAS, Secretary in the Cooperatives Department, is transferred and posted as Mission Director, ICPS, JK, the order reads

In a separate order, the administration also assigned additional charge to 10 police officers for the period of over one month wef April 04, 2022.

According the order No: 101-Home of 2022, dated 13-04-2022, the additional charge to 10 police officers was assigned in wake of the deputation of recently inducted IPS officers to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP NPA), Hyderabad.

Sanction is hereby accorded to the assignment of additional charge to the officers as indicated against each, during the period of deputation of recently inducted IPS officers to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP NPA), Hyderabad, wef April 4th, 2022 to May 13, 2022, reads the order.

Mubassir Latifi Ameer, CO IR-15th Bn has been given an additional charge of CO SDRF 2nd Bn, Jammu while Firdous Iqbal, SSP, Div. Comdt. HG(K) will hold the additional charge of CO SDRF 1st Bn.

B Randheer Singh, SSP, SO to ADG HG to hold additional charge of Div. Comdt. HG Jammu, Monika Sagar, SSP, IR-18 Bn (Camp Commander CID Cell New Delhi) was given additional charge of SSP CID Cell New Delhi, reads the order.

According to the order, Manoj Kumar Pandit, SSP, AIG (Communication) PHQ will hold additional charge of AIG (Buildings) PHQ while Joginder Singh, SSP, Anti Corruption Bureau will hold the additional charge of

Zahoor Ahmed Wani, ASP, CIK will hold the additional charge of SSP CID, CI Kashmir while Safdar Hamid Hassan, Dy. CO IR-6th has been given additional charge

Surinder Kumar, SP, Dy. CO IR-9th and Hafizullah, ASP, PCR Jammu will hold the additional charge of as CO IR-9th Bn and SSP PCR Jammu respectively.

charge immediately after the incumbents join back on the post, the order added.

Govt orders transfers...

Commissioner, has been posted as I/C ARTO Budgam. Mubashir Jan, in charge ARTO Baramulla, has been posted as I/C ARTO BOI, Srinagar.

Jamshed Rasool, in charge ARTO Budgam, has been posted as I/C ARTO Baramulla.

Stepping up premier...

of today, it is pertinent to identify ideas and develop the wherewithal to implement them meticulously to fruition. Ideas have the potential to develop into billiondollar companies these days.

Explaining the scope of technology and its advantages, the Principal Secretary added that they have demolished barriers of time and space and provided 'level playing field' to youngsters and bright minds from all sections of society. He explained how the digital world has enabled people to collaborate across time and geographies and how distance and remoteness were no longer barriers to a bright idea. He advised the students to 'think through chaos to identify world changing opportunities

The Principal Secretary also shed light on the implementation of National Education Policy-2020. He reiterated that all educational institutions across J&K would be implementing NEP in full from the current session. He also revealed that J&K would now follow a uniform academic calendar that would be in sync with the national academic calendar. This would immensely benefit the students and also enable students from J&K to compete for admission to the best colleges and universities across India without any loss of time.

He also revealed that in order to reduce the burden of multiple examinations, a committee of Vice Chancellors was examining the mechanism of centralized test and a synchronized admission process to various UG, PG and technical courses in J&K. He also highlighted the need for increasing employability and growth through skill based courses and said that the present workshop was one such example of the introduction of skills and technical courses. He also assured all support to the Central University Jammu for the implementation of

Veteran BBC Editor and documentary film maker, Vijay Rana also spoke on the event and shared his professional experiences with the students. He urged the students to move ahead with confidence and faith and nothing could prevent them from being successful.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor Sanjeev Jain assured successful implementation of NEP-2020 in the

enhance the emphasis on employability and skill based courses and continue organising 'outcome based' practical training sessions in the university in the future also.

Three films, namely Ek Fauji, Educated Fools and Mitra were adjudged the three best films and the teams were awarded cash prizes.

Those present at the event included Registrar, Dr Yashwant Singh, Dean School of Knowledge Management and Media Studies, Prof Devanand, Head of Department MCNM, Prof Baccha Babuamong staff, students and

2 PDD JEs, inspector...

Ahmad, Junior Engineer, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, Junior Engineer and Inspector Abdul Rashid Bhat (Meter Reader) demanded huge amount as bribe for the settlement/ processing of his file for upgrading the load. They settled for Rs 2,60,000/- as demand for completing the

"On receipt of the complaint, Case FIR No. $12/2022~\mathrm{U/S}$ 7 PC Act 1988 was registered in PS ACB Baramulla and investigation taken up," he said.

He said, "During the course of investigation a trap team constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Masood Ahmad, Junior Engineer, Gh Mohd Bhat, Junior Engineer and Inspector Ab Rashid Bhat (Meter Reader) of KPDCL special sub division Tangmarg while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 2, 60,000.

"They were arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from their possession in presence of independent witnesses. The role of Junaid Ahmad Mir, Assistant Executive Engineer and Manzoor Ahmad Bukhari, Assistant Engineer of KPDCL, Special Sub Division, Tangmarg is also being investigated. Further investigations of the case are going on," he added.

Police solves blind...

"On March 26, an information was received that one un-identified female body is lying at Bhagwana Chak in suspicious circumstances.'

"Since the circumstances leading to her death were suspicious, therefore to ascertain the cause of her death an inquest proceeding u/s 174 Cr.PC was initiated at Police Post Jourian under concerned I/C PP.

"During the course of enquiry, FSL team and dog squad team were called on spot", police said, adding, "the deceased was identified as Daleep Kumari w/o Basant Shaw r/o Chhattisgarh A/P Baba Talab, Kanachak."

of experts, it come to fore that deceased had died due to strangulation. "Accordingly the inquest was converted into case FIR No. 85/2022 u/s 302 IPC at P/S Akhnoor under SHO Hilal

Police said, "Based on technical inputs and statements

Police added that further investigations and statements of relatives of woman revealed that deceased was married to one Basant Sahu S/o Punni Ram Sahu R/O Chattisgarh A/P Bawa Talab, Kanachak since 7/8 month

"However there was matrimonial dispute going on between the deceased and her husband", police said, adding, "the husband was rounded up who confessed that he alongwith his friend Dinesh Sahu S/o Bhagirath Sahu R/o Chattisgarh planned to kill his wife due to their matrimonial dispute.

"On March 25, the accused and his friend along with the deceased went to Bhagwana Chak at Jourian where they strangulated her and left the body behind.

Police said, "Duo was arrested and their statement were recorded before the magistrate besides some seizures were also made by Police corroborating the

Police added that the investigation was carried out under the supervision of SDPO Akhnoor Varun Jandial and over all guidance of SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli.

Heat wave continues...

notches above normal, the official said

The drop in the mercury in the valley was the result index is based on 2019-20 data. The officers shall stand relieved of the additional of rainfall under the influence of western disturbance which is presently active over Jammu and Kashmir, the official said, adding Srinagar recorded 5.3mm of rainfall on Wednesday

According to IMD, most parts of Kashmir valley and some places in the high altitude areas of Jammu region recorded light to moderate rains since Tuesday night.

The weather is expected to remain cloudy with light rain likely at many places in Kashmir and some places in Jammu on April 14, the official said, adding that the next spell of light to moderate rain is likely on April 20 and 21.

As per IMD, light snowfall in the upper reaches of north Kashmir, including Razdan top on Bandipora-Gurez road, was reported.

Baisakhi celebrated...

the Panth Khalsa or the Sikh Panth

He also congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on this holy day and stated that the festival provides an opportunity to the people of different communities to come closer to each other while exchanging pleasantries.

He also prayed for peace and prosperity of the people of the Union Territory and wished that New Year would be free from all worries and ailments with good health, hygiene, happiness and development of all the people

Farooq, Mehbooba...

greeted the people on the auspicious occasion and hoped the festivity will harbinger a new era of peace and prosperity in J&K, and rest of the country.

Farooq Abdullah also expressed the hope that the festival, which is being observed as New Year and also the founding day of Khalsa Panth, will be celebrated in the true spirit of J&K's composite culture.

The Peoples Democratic Party President said that the custom of observing Baisakhi with harmony and brotherhood adds color to its festivity

She called for strengthening the bonds between various sections of the society and nurturing communal Mehbooba also prayed for peace and prosperity for the

UT and the country. Omar also extended greetings to the people and prayed

for peace and tranquility.

Change of guard...

as "Rajouri Festival", General officer commanding of army's 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Maiinder Singh said "change of guard in Pakistan was an internal matter of Pakistan, "I don't think it will impact the situation on

university and assured that the Central University would LoC. Our troops are maintaining highest level of alert and our concern is to ensure no infiltration bid takes place," he said, while replying to a query that the change of guard in Pakistan where Shahbaz Shareef has taken oath as new prime minister after Imran Khan lost to vote of no confidence motion in the national assembly.

The GoC 16 Corps said that as the snow has started melting and passes are becoming open, there are chances that militants may try to sneak in to disrupt the peace. "Number of militants at the launch pads across LoC is based on the assessment. Our inputs suggest that there is just a slight variation if we compare the figures with 2020 and 2021, but the figure is not alarming," he said.

About drone activity in the Jammu region, the army officer said that drones are being largely used to drop weapons and drugs. "Majority of drone activity has taken place on the International Border, where BSF is effectively dealing with it. On the LoC, there has been no major drone activity in Jammu," GoC Singh said.

About the grenade lobbing incidents in Jammu and Rajouri areas recently, the GoC said that some misguided youth are being used for sporadic incidents of grenade lobbing. "The army along with the local population will tackle this and ensure that those misguided join the path of peace," he said, adding that the army will try to ensure that Rajouri festival is brought on the national calendar and celebrated with the participation of people

SIA to probe...

Mohd Shrief Sartaj of Jammu - have also been detained for questioning in connection with the case, police said. On April 2, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh had said the politician was absconding and would be

Shah had also disclosed names of his foreign associates, including Javed and Khatib of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Farooq Khan of Toronto (Canada), officials

BCI recognizes...

BCI Chairman who convened a meeting of the Legal Education Committee on April 11.

"The Committee, on the basis of the report submitted by the Inspection Team, found that the Department of Law, School of Legal Studies is fulfilling all the prescribed conditions and recommended recognition of its integrated five-year BA LLB Program," the spokesman

"This decision of the Legal Education Committee was approved by the Chairman BCI and later conveyed to the department. The Program stands now recognized from 2011 to 2023," he added.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah and Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar congratulated the Dean, School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir including the faculty members for their untiring efforts and students who are real beneficiaries of this accomplishment.

The Department had applied for recognition of the five-year BA LLB program to the Bar Council of India, immediately after its establishment in 2011 and a BCI team had visited the department, but the team could not submit its report to the Chairman Bar Council of India.

J&K figures at...

and UTs have been classified as larger states, smaller states and union territories for better comparison.

The data of Jammu & Kashmir UT includes Ladakh which is functioning as a separate UT from October 31, "Due to non-availability of separate data for two UTs

(J&K and Ladakh), Ladakh is not shown as a separate UT in this index. However, from the next round of the index, the data for J&K and Ladakh will be collected and shown separately," the report states. The SECI ranks states and UTs on six parameters --

discoms' performance; access affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; environmental sustainability; and new initiatives. The

BSF Kashmir Frontiers...

We can mitigate these health hazards and contribute a bit in saving precious hydrocarbons by adopting more environment friendly modes of transport like bicycle riding and on foot walking," the order said.

"No office staff will use motorised vehicles while coming to the office or moving in the campus area. They may come to office by walking on foot or may use bicycle, which will be beneficial for their health besides keeping the campus pollution free," the IG of Kashmir Frontiers

The official order also said that if anyone is found using motorcycles or cars for coming to office or moving in the campus area without any valid reasons, strict disciplinary action will be taken for violating above instructions. Many officials in the BSF have welcomed the order and

said that this will serve dual purposes such as keeping the personnel physically fit and also save the petroleum

All Central Armed Police Forces have been actively participating in taking green initiatives and have planted over crores of saplings in the last two years.

Kashmiri virologist... Harvard University, and Broad Institute of MIT and

Harvard, as per Kashmir Life. Dr Ganaie was the lead author of the study. He received

his master's degree from the University of Kashmir before moving to the United States for further studies. There, he got a doctorate in virology with honors from the University of Kansas, as per the reports.

LG interacts...

development of the country.

During the interaction, the women club members apprised the Lt Governor about various activities through which they raise awareness on a host of social causes. They also discussed concerns of women cyclists and sports enthusiasts.

The Lt Governor said the government is making proactive intervention in the building of adequate infrastructure and facilities to encourage women's participation in governance, business, and other sectors. The courage and determination of the cyclist group to succeed is scripting success stories in various other fields.

He also extended Baisakhi greetings to the group members—(KNO)

Bani Baisakhi Mela witnesses grand opening, scintillating cultural show enthralls audience

KATHUA: The annual Baisakhi mela of Bani started with a grand opening as the inaugural day events attracted scores of people from different parts of J&K besides neighbouring states of Punjab & Himachal Pradesh.

SDM, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, who was the Chief Guest inaugurated the Mela by lighting the traditional lamp. DDC Member Bani Reeta Thakur, Additional Secretary JKAACL Sanjeev Rana were also present on the occasion.

At the outset, the chief guest along with other dignitaries inspected the stalls put up by different departments besides exhibits of local art and craft were also showcased which attracted the visitors.

A scintillating cultural programme depicting local dance, folklore, culture and heritage presented by JKAACL

and local artists mesmerized the audience Dogri geetdu, Himachali songs and nukkad natak were the main attractions of the Program.

The SDM called for promoting and preserving the indigenous culture of the mountainous belt of Bani which has a distinct identity and culture. He said the mela provides a great opportunity for local artists to exhibit their talent and also offers avenues for their income by selling their artifacts besides disseminating information regarding local art, craft, culture and legacy.

Additional Secretary JKAACL Sanjeev Rana said the academy will continue to come up with similar kinds of events from time to time to promote and conserve the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Mela also nurtures the talents of local artists and provides them a platform to showcase their talent.

Mock drill organised by NDRF at District Police Lines Rajouri

RAJOURI: A mock exercise on earthquake and landslide was conducted by NDRF team here today at district Police

The event witnessed participation of several agencies including SDRF, Civil Defence, home guards and local police.

The aim of the MOCK drill was to evolve close coordina-

tion among the stakeholders to deal with disaster scenarios. Asst Commandant Javed Iqbal of 13 BN NDRF emphasized on the cooperation among all disaster mitigation agencies to deal with any disaster.

The NDRF team also gave demonstrations on life saving drills like providing Basic life support, first aid to the victims, rope rescue from high rise buildings besides displayed

At the end of the exercise a debriefing was give by Imran Rashid Kataria, ACR Rajouri.

Time to show results on ground: Advisor Bhatnagar to Engineers

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today impressed upon the engineers of Jal Shakti Department to come up with tangible results regarding implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Advisor was speaking in a meeting called to discuss the progress achieved under the Mission till date.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Jal Shakti Department, M Raju; MD, JJM, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers of the department besides other officers and officials associated with the Mission.

Out station based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing from their respective districts.

While reviewing the tendering and allotment of works under the Mission, Advisor Bhatnagar urged upon the Executing agencies to take up all the remaining works in hand in this working season only. He enjoined upon them to complete the mission target before the onset of winter season along with integration of all the components. He urged them to prioritize the works so that best outcomes are achieved in this working season.

Advisor Bhatnagar also took note of the tendering process of all the works to be done under this national mission. He stressed on the fact that no reservation would be acceptable of any sort for not meeting the renewed deadline fixed today. He maintained that every sort of liberation has been extended to the executing agencies for meeting the targets and now it is time to start delivering as there is no scope of any laxity.

The Advisor further exhorted upon the officers to maintain the quality of all the works and certify at the end about proper working of each connection provided to the households. He underscored that the PM Office is itself keenly monitoring this aspect of the mission and it has to be seriously taken care of. He also asked them to look into incentivizing works that are completed earlier. The Commissioner Jal Shakti Department gave the over-

all scenario of the Mission throughout J&K. He revealed that all the guidelines and directions from time to time have been implemented. He informed the chair that his office is acting as a facilitator in every sense for successful culmination of this prestigious mission. He provided the timeline of different activities taken up under this mission till date.

The MD, JJM informed the Advisor that there are few grey areas that needs attention. He revealed that besides augmentation of the manpower in the JJM Cells at both Srinagar and Jammu, the process of evaluation of bids needs to be accelerated. He assured that once the works are allotted the same would be ensured to be completed within their specific deadlines.

The Advisor asked the concerned Chief Engineers to hire staff through outsourcing if necessary as there is no dearth of funds under the mission. He reminded them that it is a rare opportunity for all of them to write their names in golden letters. He asked them to own this mission and its objectives as it is a one off opportunity for all of them to provide the safe drinking water to whole population, something that could only be dreamed of few years ago.

The Advisor was informed that under the mission 485680 tap water connections have been provided to households till date and more 774044 connections are being provided to cover whole population. It was said that each school, health and Anganwadi centre has already been provided a tap water connection under this mission.

It was further revealed that in order to achieve the targets of this mission some 1156 bore wells/ tube wells, 509 over head tanks, 1595 filtration plants, 7946 service reservoirs, and 86017 kms length of pipes besides other infrastructure is proposed under this mission. It was also revealed that this mission is a transformational one with abundant funding provided to the J&K.

Pertinent to mention here that the mission aims at providing safe drinking water connection to each of the rural household. J&K proposed to complete around 3053 water supply schemes under this mission with a whopping cost of around Rs 11000 crores under Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT.

Cabinet approves India-Japan cooperation in Waste Water Management

Wednesday gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Department of Water Resources Ministry of Jal Shakti and The Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the areas of Decentralized Domestic Waste Water Management.

Management Council (MC) will be formed which will be responsible for the implementation of this MoC by formulating detailed activities of collaboration and the monitoring of its progress."The collaboration with Japan through the MoC shall prove to very fruitful in areas such as Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Management and Effective



ter using Johkasou technology. The decentralized Johkasou systems towards management of wastewater can have greater implications for management of grey/ black water from settlements with coverage under Jal Jeevan Mission as well as the sustainability of sources of fresh water under lar situation under Namami Gange Program," a Cabinet

statement stated. The Memorandum of Coop eration (MoC) was signed on March 19, 2022 for promoting cooperation for Domestic Wastewater Management in public health, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit between the

The Ministry of Water Re-

sources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has been envisaging bilateral cooperation with other countries in water resources development and management through sharing of policy and technical expertise, conducting of training courses, workshops, scientific and technical symposia, exchange of experts and study tours.Keeping in view the ongoing India-Japan cooperation, it has been decided to have an agreement with Japan to exchange experience and expertise in the de-

Sale of hi-tech Vegetable seedlings kick-started at Mini Secretariat, Shopian

SHOPIAN, APRIL 13: The Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Simnani in presence of Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shahbaz Ahmed Bodha today kick-started sale of hi-tech vegetable seedlings (Tomato, Knol-khol, cucumber and Bottle Gourd) at Green-House Mini Secretariat,

The sale witnessed a huge rush of vegetable growers from Shopian and adjacent

Interacting with the growers, the ADC said that the department is committed to promote the Kitchen Garden Scheme and aims at providing quality vegetable seedlings to the growers so that surplus vegetables are exported. He said that



the department is providing quality and healthy seedlings to growers to make the vegetable growing sector a remunerative venture.

Simnani said it is the endeavor of the department to provide vegetable seedling

early distribution thus saving the time for growing such vegetable seeds in the open field.

at genuine rates, besides its

He impressed upon the officers to promote kitchen gardening in such a way that

growers get more and more benefits from the scheme at their doorsteps. He said vegetable production not only contributes to the daily consumption of the population, but it can be adopted for commercial purposes as

ADC said vegetable cultivation has a good potential of employment generation and the unemployed youth of the district with the help of modern technology and suitable agro-climatic conditions for vegetable cultivation in the Valley, can take

ti to new heights.

Besides, Chief Agriculture
Officer, Shopian, Farooq
Ahmad Reshi, other concerned officers and officials of Agriculture Department Shopian were also present on the occasion.

Bridgestone India Inaugurates first-of-its-kind Institute for **Mobility Solutions in India**

Kolkata, April 13 (UNI) Bridgestone India has in-augurated a first-of-its-kind Mobility Solutions Institute in India. Through this state-of-the-art facility, the company aims to enable their various stakeholders, employees, dealers and partners to enhance their knowledge on tyre technology and relatedmobility solutions, according to a media statement here on Wednesday.As a trusted partner to its stake-holders, Bridgestone places immense importance on the need of knowledge sharing learning and continuous self-development.This Institute will assist stakeholders in staying updated on mobility solutions and tyre technology advancements respectively. This Corporate University will also focus on educating employees and external stakeholders about mobility solutions trends

and new product features. As a result, their potential to create, sell and service the industry and the consumer will be enhanced. The centre would showcase an AR/ VR experience that allows real time solutions that can be provided for damaged tyres or any assistance for technicians at remote locations. It would also include a tyre shop in a virtual world where products, its appli-cation and advantages can be viewed."As one of the global leaders in the mobility space, we want to bring in worldwide best practices for upskilling relevant stakeholders in the business. This will help us further integrate with them through learning and knowledge sharing in tyres, related services and solutions in mobility. This one-of-its-kind concept is an attempt towards developing a comprehensive skill.

Cabinet Approves Policy To Make Non-Minable Land Economically Viable

of land which have become unsuitable for coal mining, economically viable for setting up infrastructure related to coal and energy sectors, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a policy for use of land acquired under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957.

This will unlock non-minable lands for development and lead to increasing investment and job creation in the coal sector, official

According to the policy approved by the Union Cabinet, tracts of land which can no more be mined (decoaled or unsuitable for mining), would be used for developing coal and energy-related infrastructure. Land which is no more economically viable for mining

purposes and land where



utilised under the new approved policy. State-owned Coal India Limited and its subisidiaries would continue to own these lands and under the new policy, only leasing of land for the abovementioned purposes would be allowed. Government coal entities however are allowed

case of joint ventures for setting up coal and energy sector related infrastructure, official sources said.

Infrastructure related to setting up of coal washeries, handling plants and construction of railway sidings, coal gasification plants as well as thermal and repermitted on such land<u>S.</u> According to the policy approved by the Union Cab-inet, tracts of land which can no more be mined (decoaled or unsuitable for mining), would be used for developing coal and energy-related infrastructure. Land which is no more eco-

nomically viable for mining purposes and land where no mining activity can take place any further, would be utilised under the new approved policy. State-owned Coal India Limited and its subisidiaries would continue to own these lands and under the new policy, only leasing of land for the abovementioned purposes would be allowed. Government coal entities however are allowed to deploy private funds in case of joint ventures for setting up coal and energy sector related infrastructure, official sources said.

Out of 5,050 foreign companies registered in India, 66 pc are active: Govt data

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Nearly 66% or 3,335 out of the total 5,050 foreign companies registered in India are active, data from Corporate Affairs Ministry shows.

As per Companies Act, a foreign company is defined as any company or body corporate incorporated outside India which has a place of business in India and conducts any business activity in India.

As per section 380(1) of the Act, every foreign company shall within 30 days of the establishment of its place of business (POC) ness in India, deliver to the Registrar of Companies (ROC) necessary documents for registration.

As per official data, Delhi has the highest number of foreign companies. Out of the total 1,957 companies registered in

the city-state, as many as 1,444 are active.

Maharashtra follows Delhi with the total number of foreign companies registered in the state standing at 1,346. Out of

these, 815 are active. In the state of Karnataka, there are 462 foreign companies out of which 252 are active. In Haryana, the number of foreign companies is 450 out of which 248 are active. In the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, out of 108 registrated for the populous state of the pradesh out of 108 registrated for the populous state of the pradesh out of 108 registrated for the pradesh of 108 registrated for 108 registrated for the pradesh of 108 registrated for the pradesh of 108 registrated for the pradesh of 108 registrated for 108

istered foreign companies, 78 are active. In West Bengal, 59 foreign companies are active out of 89 registered in the state. In the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, now a Union Territory, there is just one foreign company registered and it is not active.

In the coastal state of Gujarat, there are 78 foreign companies of which 52 are active. In Tamil Nadu, 335 foreign companies are registered and 217 of them are active.

In what shows the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the number of companies registered during 2020-21 fell to 78 from 124 in 2019-20 and 118 in 2018-19.

Fuel prices remain unchanged

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Petrol and diesel prices remained

unchanged on Wednesday.

According to the price notification of Indian Oil Corporation, petrol in Delhi costs Rs 105.41 per litre and diesel Rs 96.67 per litre.In Mumbai, a litre of petrol is available at Rs 120.51 per litre while diesel at Rs 104.77.

In Chennai, a litre of petrol costs Rs 110.85 while diesel Rs 100.94.In Kolkata, the price of a litre of petrol is Rs 115.12 while diesel is Rs 99.83.The fuel prices were on freeze since November 4, 2021, but thedaily revision resumed on March 22 after record 137 days gap. Today is the seventh consecutive day when the prices have remained unchanged this month. Earlier the prices were not revised on April 1.

Petrol and diesel prices were increased by 3.60 per litre in

the national capital this month. Fuel prices across the country vary depending upon local taxation and freight charges. The central government also collects excise duty from them.

Sensex drops 237.44 points

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) Extending losses for the third consecutive session on Wednesday, the BSE Sensex dipped 237.44 points to settle at 58,338.93 in a volatile trade on heavy selling in auto, bankex and realty stocks.

The Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) too fell 54.65 points at 17,475.65.

The day opened on a positive note as the BSE Sensex up by 334 points at 58,910.74. It surged 427 points at 59,003.82, the day's high. Later, it tumbled nearly 285 points at 58,291.23, the day's low before closing at 58,338.93, sliding 237.44 points from its previous close.

The Sensex registered the day's high and low at 59,003.82 and 58,291.23 points respectively.

The Nifty recorded the day's high and low at 17,663.65 and 17,457.40 respectively. Sectoral indices like auto, bankex, realty and finance kept the

market down for the third straight session. In scrips, HDFC was a major loser, down 2.01 per cent to Rs 2,377.40 followed by HDFC Bank by 1.90 per cent to Rs 1,464.85, Maruti Suzuki by 1.86 per cent to Rs 7,471.85,

Dr Reddy's Lab by 1.71 per cent to Rs 4,297.80 and Asian Paints by 1.62 per cent to Rs 3,080.90. The gainers were ITC by 1.87 per cent to do 269.50, Sun Pharma by 1.61 per cent to Rs 936, Hind Unilever by 0.99 per cent to Rs 2,152.45, SBI by 0.94 per cent to Rs 517.50

and NTPC by 0.82 per cent to Rs 153.90. The Mid Cap fell by 0.21 per cent while Small Cap rose by 0.27 per cent. In 30 scrips, 10 advanced while 20 declined. There will be no

trading in BSE and NSE on Thursday and Friday on account of Dr Ambedkar Jayanti and Good Friday respectively. A mixed trend was seen in European market as investors looked ahead to Thursday's European Central Bank meeting as the pan-European Stox 600 slipped 1.3 per cent while oil

and gas gained 1 per cent. In Asian Market, Japan's Nikkei rose 2 per cent.

Rupee falls 4 paise against USD

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) The Rupee on Tuesday eased four paise to close at 76.17 against the USD on rising demand for dollars by bankers and importers, dealers at the Foreign Exchange said.

The local unit declined four paise at 76.17 in early trade and finished at the opening level.

The Rupee was seen under pressure because of a firm dollar against other world currencies as well as a negative equity market. The Rupee registered the day's high and low at 76.14 and 76.22 respectively against the US Dollar, the dealersad-

The Forex Market will remain closed on Thursday and Friday on account of Dr Ambedkar Jayanti and Good Friday respectively. The local unit declined four paise at 76.17 in

early trade and finished at the opening level. The Rupee was seen under pressure because of a firm dollar against other world currencies as well as a negative equity market. The Rupee registered the day's high and low at 76.14 and 76.22 respectively against the US Dollar, the dealersad-

ICICI Bank signs MoU with GIFT SEZ

Mumbai, April 13 (UNI) ICICI Bank and GIFT SEZ on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Under-standing (MoU) to promote GIFT SEZ to Indian as well as global businesses including IT or ITeS and financial

Vishakha Mulye, Executive Director, ICICI Bank, and Tapan Ray, MD and Group CEO, GIFT City, signed the MoU at a virtual event.

As per the MoU, ICICI Bank and GIFT SEZ will jointly work towards attracting global investors and capital market firms to set up operations in GIFT SEZ. Further. both the organisations will promote GIFT SEZ among Indian and foreign MNCs as the preferred location for availing cross-border trade finance.GIFT SEZ and ICI-CI Bank aim to promote development of GIFT SEZ as fintech hub of India and will make concerted efforts to support start-ups and fintech

Tapan Ray, MD and Group



GIFT IFSC making giant strides in recent times. it is imperative to create synergies with leading financial institutions to take the progress forward. This MoU with ICICI Bank will stimulate participation by global financial institutions and further promote GIFT City as a preferred business destination for international financial services and products. ICICI Bank's early mover advantage in the digital space will also help in attracting fintech companies and help in the development of a fintech hub at GIFT

Vishakha Mulye, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said, "Over the years, India has emerged as a preferred destination for foreign investment. The young demographic profile, strong consumer demand and supportive Government initiatives have boosted India's outlook significantly. GIFT SEZ will play an important role and become a gateway for Indian businesses to connect with the world and global businesses to participate in fast growing Indian economy." At ICICI Bank, our strategy is to provide 360 degree banking to all our customers and their entire ecosystem. Accordingly, our branch at GIFT SEZ is an integral part of our strategy, providing foreign currency banking solutions across trade, trans-

action banking, capital mar-

kets, treasury and wealth.

Chennai, Apr 13 (UNI) Air conditioning and commercial refrigeration major Blue Star Limited today

launched its new indigenously designed range of deep freezers and augment-ed its manufacturing footprint with its new world class manufacturing facility at Wada. The new, indigenously designed and manutactured, range of deep freezers, comes with temperature controls ranging between +2°C to -24°C. Available in both, hard top and glass top options, these elegant deep freezers, offer optimum storage space with

storage capacities ranging from 300 liters to 650 liters. In addition, these are embedded with superior technologies forhighly efficient performance including technologies that provide even andoptimum cooling from four sides; and ensure greater heat transfer for efficient cooling; amongst others, B Thiagarajan, Managing Director, Blue Star Limited told reporters here. Besides, they come with 10% higher insulation leading to a longer holding timein case of a power failure, he said.He said as refrigeration is the key to preserving and arresting wastage ofperishables, the adoption of refrigeration in India is garnering significantthrust, and is expected to increase on the back of rising consumption ofperishables in general, and food and medicines, in particular. This is further expected to increase the demand for refrigeration products, which combined with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat push, will un-

Blue Star launches new deep

freezer range, doubles capacity

with new facility at Wada

fold enormous opportunities for the copany."We are very well poised to tap these, on the backdrop of our rich pedigree, deep domain knowledge, and bestin-class ranges of products and solutions, suitable for customers across the entire

cold value chain", he said, adding,the Blue Star in fact enjoys a leadership position in most of its commercial refrigeration product categories including modular cold rooms, deep freezers and storage water coolers." On the new manufacturing facility at Wada, he said it was built to cater to the production of the Company's Commercial Refrigeration products and solutions, in particular deep freezers and water coolers, is fully

equipped with the latest advanced manufacturing systems, and imbibes global best practices in its operations.Built with a

CAPEX of around Rs 130

crores, this facility is constructed on a built-up area of around 19,300 sqm and has the capacity to produce around 2,00,000 deep freezers and 1,00,000 storage water coolers per an-

Bharat Petroleum To Pump In 200 Crore To Set Up 100 Fast Electric Vehicles Charging Corridors

Mumbai: Public sector oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Wednesday said it will invest around ₹ 200 crore this fiscal to set up 100 fast electric vehicles (EVs) charging corridors having 2,000 stations along the busiest 100 national highways.

The company has recently opened its first EV charging corridor along the Chennai-Trichi-Madurai highway with one charging unit. The second corridor will come up on the Kochi-Salem section of the National Highway 47 within the next two months, BPCL executive director for retail B S Ravi said on Wednesday. Mr Ravi said in case a charging unit does not need a booster transformer, such a unit which will

be a full-fledged centre

offering rest rooms, refreshments/food court, among other amenities can be ready at a cost varying from ₹ 7-12 lakh, and if the unit needs a transformer then the cost will go up to ₹ 25 lakh.

"Given this cost variance, we have budgeted for around ₹ 200 crore investment this fiscal as we plan to set up as many as 2,000 fast charging stations across 100 corridors by March 2023," Mr Ravi informed.

He said for the longterm, the company has plans to have 7,000 fast EV charging stations by 2024-25. But he did not disclose the investment details.

He said the third corridor will most probably be the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway 4, and will have multiple units as the highway has



amongst the highest traffic. Mr Ravi said the national oil refiner and marketer, which is the second largest player with close to 30 per cent retail market in petrol and diesel, hopes that the EV ecosystem will grow faster than forecast earlier, and the

company wants to play a big role in setting up the basic infrastructure for this ambitious drive.

The government has also announced sops to push domestic manufacturing and sales of electric vehicles.

also seek some incentives from the Centre or the state government as the charging stations will not be commercially viable due to low footfalls in the initial stage.

Last week, Federation of Automobile Dealers He said his company will Association (FADA) had

said that electric vehicle retail sales zoomed over three-fold in 2021-22 to 4,29,217 units from 1,34,821 units in fis-cal 2020-21 and from 1,68,300 units in 2019-20. Electric two-wheelers especially scooters contributed to a majority of the EV sales He said the third corridor will most probably be the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway 4, and will have multiple units as the highway has amongst the highest traffic. Mr Ravi said the national oil refiner and marketer, which is the second largest player with close to 30 per cent retail market in petrol and diesel, hopes that the EV ecosystem will grow faster than forecast earlier, and the company wants to play a big role in setting up the basic infrastructure for.

India-US relationship making its weight felt in world affairs: EAM Jaishankar

Washington/New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) The In-dia-US relationship has undergone a real transformation in the past two decades and is making its weight felt in world affairs, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, adding that during the severe Delta wave of the coronavirus infection last year while a lot of countries came forward to help, the one country that stood out for its help was the US.

Participating in a conversa-tion with students, faculty, and leadership of Howard University, along with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday evening, the EAM said the 4.5 million strong Indian dias-pora in the US has helped forge relations between the two countries, and that the students, academics and researchers have contributed a lot to the progress in the bilateral ties.

Speaking on the formation of an 'India-U.S. Education and Skills Development Working Group' that was decided during the 2+2 meeting Monday, the EAM said that India's New Education Policy announced in 2020 aims to attract more foreign students to India, and the working group was aimed to address this issue. He said while the Study in India programme has been there earlier, "it is now that we are really focusing on how do we attract more international students. It is a work in progress, what has changed is the need to have international students.. we haven't scaled it up in the way many countries have, there have to be mechanisms for that. Part of the working group is to address this

problem. "We would like to see many more international students in India, which is good for our universities," he said, adding that they would encourage student exchange programmes so that there can be more American students studying in India.

To a question on the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), the EAM



said that the Covid experience has been "enormously stressful and scarring" and the silver lining has been that it "showed what friendships and relationships in the world can do".

He said three vaccines that India is producing – Novovax, Corbevax and Covovax - are a direct outcome of relations with the US.

"When everybody was busy making vaccines, and it was difficult to make the supply chains going, and at that time I reached out to Tony

On STEM, he said that Indian students come to the US to study and become part of the research community, it ends up as contributions that help people in their daily lives, including in such cri-

sis situations. Jaishankar said the very strong trust and bonding between the two nations is the human element, which comprises the 4.5 million diaspora who move back and forth between the two countries.

"We would like to see many more American students come to India, more tourists, and business people, all of it adds to the chemistry," he

Blinken said that 200,000 Indian students are enriching the American campuses, and that many US students are studying in India too. He said the new working

group on education and skill training would help develop new research programmes, "so that more of our people can learn from each other". It will help build bonds be-

tween the higher education systems of both countries. He said in Foreign Policy, the importance of people to people ties is very important. "What really matters is the bond between people, students, tourists, what

brings us together". Blinken said the US-India strategic partnership is "absolutely essential to combat the problems of the 21st century".

"We are looking across all different pursuits on how we can connect our two countries through exchange programmes and research programmes.'

He described India as the most vibrant, vital democracies in the world and added that the two sides are finding ways to further revitalise, reenergise and cary forward these programmes.

He said under Quad 500 million vaccines are being donated to the Indo Pacific region, which is a work which cannot be done without collaboration of the four partners – the US, India, Japan and Australia.

SC agrees to hear Nawab Malik's plea

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik's plea seeking to be freedom from prison in connection with

charges of money laundering. A Bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana directed that the matter be listed after hearing the arguments of senior ad-

vocate Kapil Sibal appearing for the jailed NCP leader. Sibal sought an early hearing, saying he was wrongly arrested by the Enforcement Directorate. The law under which the ED made the arrest was enforced in 2005 but the charges leveled against him pertain to trans-

actions done in 2000. Giving its nod to hear the plea on urgent basis, the Bench said: "Yes, we will list the matter."

On February 23, when Malik was arrested, he was sent to ED

custody till March 3. He has been in jail since then. The NCP spokesperson had approached the Bombay High Court seeking interim relief. The High Court rejected his plea on March 15. Thereafter, he approached the apex court.

India, EU discuss economic ties

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) The Indian government on Wednesday discussed economic ties with the European Union with a group of senior MPs from the Committee of International Trade of the EU.

The Indian side was led by Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the European delegation included Svenja Hahn, Jan Zahradil, Soren Gade, Bernd Lange and Arnaud Danjean.

"Both sides expressed commitment for advancing economic ties with the early conclusion of trade and investment agreements," Bagchi said.

The meeting also came in the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war which has affected global economy and

The EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for Euro 62.8 billion worth of goods in 2020 or 11.1 per cent of total Indian trade after China (12 per cent) and the US (11.7 per cent). The EU is the second largest destination for Indian exports (14 per cent of total) after the US.

BJP to study rape, murder in WB

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) The BJP on Wednesday nominated a five-member fact finding committee to look into the alleged rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl at Hanskhali Nadia in West Bengal on April 4.

BJP President J.P. Nadda has nominated the committee to visit the place of rape and murder of the girl, said General Secretary Arun Singh in a statement.

Nadda asked the members to submit a report at the earliest. The committee members include Rekha Verma, Baby Rani Maurya, Vanathi Srinivasan, Kushbu Sunder and Rupmitra Chaudhary. The police have arrested a Trinamool Congress

PM, VP, others pay tributes to martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and others on Wednesday paid rich tributes to the martyrs who were massacred in Jallianwala Bagh on this day in 1919.

In a tweet, the PM wrote, "Tributes to those martyred in Jallianwala Bagh on this day in 1919."

He said their unparalleled courage and sacrifice will keep

motivating the coming generations. Paying his homage to the martyrs, the VP in a tweet said, We are eternally indebted to them for their supreme sacri-

fice for the freedom of our motherland." Naidu said the best tribute we can pay to our freedom fight-

ers is building an India that they envisioned. in a tweet said "Their sac finister Amit Sh

rifices for the freedom of the country will continue to inspire the coming generations."

"The Jallianwala Bagh massacre had the greatest impact on the Indian freedom struggle. I pay my tributes to all the mar-tyrs. We can never forget their sacrifice," BJP national presi-

dent Jagat Prakash Nadda tweeted. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also took to twitter and wrote, "103 years ago, the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh showed the world the cruelty of an autocratic regime. Humble tribute to the courageous martyrs.

The former Congress president said their supreme sacrifice has continued to inspire generations to fight against injustice.

Cabinet approves continuation of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan till 2026

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved continuation of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) till 2026 with an outlay of Rs 5911 crore.Addressing a press conference on decisions by the Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the government took the decision to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

"The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs.5911 crore with the Central Share of Rs.3700 crore and that of State Share of Rs.2211 crore," he said.

The central components of the scheme will be fully funded by the Government of India. The funding pat-



tern for state components will be in the ratio of 60:40 among Centre and States respectively, except NE, Hilly States and Union Territory (UT) of J&K where Central and State share will be 90:10. However, for other UTs, Central share will be 100%. The approved scheme of RGSA will help more

than 2.78 lakh rural local bodies including traditional bodies across the country to develop governance capabilities to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilization of available resources, a Cabinet state-

jects of national importance principally under themes, namely- Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages, Healthy Village, Child Friendly Village, Wa-ter Sufficient Village, Clean and Green Village, Self-Suf-ficient Infrastructure in ficient Infrastructure in Village, Socially Secured Village, Village with Good Governance and Engendered Development in Village, the statement added. The scheme will strengthen Gram Sabhas to function as effective institutions with social inclusion of citizens particularly the vulnerable groups. Around 60 lakh elected representatives, functionaries and other stakeholders of rural local

bodies including traditional

bodies across the country

will be direct beneficiaries

we needed in India so that

the supply chains would

move smoothly.. and I count

it as a great achievement and

I must say he went out of his

way to move the American

system and getting things done," he added.

He said that during last year's severe wave of the

Delta variant, there was an

enormous demand for ox-

ygen and respirators and

some drugs. "A lot of coun-

tries came forward to help

and the country that stood

80 cr during pandemic: Piyush Goyal New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Union Minister of Commerce

and Industry Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojan (PM-GKAY) government has provided five kg of food grain per month to 80 crore people in the last 25 months.

Free ration disbursed to

The world's largest food security programme has been run in India and, under the scheme, 1,000 million metric tonnes of food grains have been delivered to the poor in 25 months, the Minister said while addressing a press conference here. Praising the Prime Minister for implementing the scheme, he said India has introduced a new thought to the whole world and the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keeping the poor's welfare at the center has shown the whole world his sensitive leadership and character.

Speaking about the One Nation - One Ration Card initiative, he said, "It was a vision of the Prime Minister to connect 80 crore beneficiaries of the country with technology and provide them with the facility to get food anywhere in the

Goyal also said the work of the Prime Minister has also been appreciated on the international stage.

Right now, the IMF, while assessing the entire situation in India, said that the free food grains that have been given, whether they are under NFSA or the Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, both of these schemes have had a huge impact in India, due to which poverty and inequality have decreased,

Leverage 'Jan Shakti' for societal progress: PM

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met district panchayat members from Gujarat and spoken at length about issues relating to rural development and leveraging 'Jan Shakti' for societal progress, the PMO said on Wednesday.

Yesterday, had an excellent meeting with District Panchayat members from Gujarat. We talked at length about issues relating to rural development and leveraging Jan Shakti for societal progress," Modi tweeted.

The Prime Minister virtually attended a number of programs in poll-bound Gujarat.

He inaugurated the hostel and education complex of Shri Annapurnadham Trust at Adalaj, Gujarat via video conferencing on Tuesday. Prime Minister also addressed the 14th Foundation Day celebration at Umiya Mata Temple at Gathila, Junagadh in Gujarat on Rama Navami virtually. Last Friday, the Prime Minister urged devotees to participate in Sound and 51 Shaktipeeths situated in the Indian subcontinent.

Rajnath in Hawaii after 2+2 dialogue

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reached Hawaii on Wednesday for a visit to the headquarters of US Indo-Pacific Command, Âmerica's oldest and largest combatant

"Reached Honolulu in Hawaii for a visto the Headquarters of Indo-Pacific Command. I shall also be visiting the Headquarters of US Army Pacific and Pacific Air Forces, during my brief stay in Hawaii," the Defence Minister said in a tweet.

On his arrival from Washington DC, Rajnath Singh was received by Commander of US INDOPACOM Admiral John Aquilino.

Known earlier as United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) since its inception, the command was renamed to US Indo-Pacific Command on May 30, 2018, in recognition of the increasing connectivity between the Indian and

The USINDOPACOM and Indian military have wide-ranging engagements, including a number of military exercises, training events and exchanges.

The Defence Minister is scheduled to visit the headquarters, Pacific Fleet and the training facilities in Hawaii on Wednesday before returning to India. He is also expected to lay wreath at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and visit Headquarters of US Army Pacific and Pacific Air Forces, during his brief stay in Hawaii.

In Washington DC, US President Joe Biden held a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin. Later, Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had cochaired with their US counterparts the 4th India-US Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue on Monday.Before the 2+2 Dialogue, Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defence separately in Pentagon.

The Defence Minister sought partnership towards co-development and co-production of military equipment with US companies in the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the two countries. Rajnath said that the "participation of US entities in industrial collaboration and partnership in research and development will be critical for success of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign."

Light show at Ambaji shrine in Gujarat which is one of the E-sharam Registration | PMKISAN Registration | Micro ATM Service **Account Opening Etc CSC CENTRE** Cell: 8082080256 DAR GANIE GUND

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Zelensky accuses Russian troops of 'hundreds of rapes'

VILNIUS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday said investiga tors had received reports of "hundreds of cases of rape" in areas previously occupied by Russian troops, including sexual assaults of small chil-

Russian troops have been accused of widespread atrocities across the country, particularly in areas around Kyiv from which they have now withdrawn.

Moscow denies the allegations.

"In areas freed from the occupiers, the recording and investigation of war crimes committed by Russia continues," Zelensky told Lithuanian lawmakers via video

Russia closes in on Mariupol as Putin strikes defiant tone

"New mass graves are found almost daily.

"Testimonials are being collected. Thousands and thousands of victims. Hundreds of cases of torture. Bodies continue to be found

in drains and cellars," he added.

"Hundreds of cases of rape have been recorded, including those of young girls and very young children. Even of a baby!" Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda responded to that last claim by saying, "It's simply impossible to imagine a greater horror." Having documented victim accounts, human rights organisations say rape is being used as a "weapon of war" in Ukraine.

One Ukrainian woman told AFP that she was sexually assaulted by two Russian troops after they learned that her husband was a soldier. Massive onslaught

Meanwhile, Russian troops on Tuesday intensified a campaign to take the port city of Mariupol, part of an anticipated massive onslaught across eastern Ukraine, as President Vladimir Putin made a defiant case for the war on Russia's neighbour.

Moscow is believed to be trying to connect occupied



Crimea with Russian-backed separatist territories Donetsk and Lugansk in Donbas, and has laid siege to the strategically located city, once home to more than 400,000

As the fighting dragged toward its seventh week, the Ukrainian army fought desperately to defend Mariupol against the Russian offen-

"The connection with the units of the defence forces that heroically hold the city is stable and maintained," the Land Forces of Ukraine wrote on Telegram.

However, the Russian defence ministry said its army had thwarted an attempt to break the siege with "airstrikes and artillery fire" at a factory in a northern district

In his nightly address, Zelensky on Monday made another plea to his allies for more weapons to boost the defence of the city.

"We are not getting as much

sooner. To completely destroy the enemy on our land... in particular, to un-block Mariupol," he said. Zelensky has said he believes Russia has killed "at least tens of thousands of

people" in the city.
With little hope of a quick end to fighting, Putin pledged Moscow would proceed on its own timetable with its military operation, rebuffing repeated interna-tional calls for a ceasefire. "Our task is to fulfil and achieve all the goals set, minimising losses. And we will act rhythmically, calmly, according to the plan originally proposed by the General Staff," Putin said during a televised press conference with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. He also dismissed as "fake" reports of the discovery of hundreds of dead bodies of civilians in the town of Bucha outside the Ukrainian capital Kyiv after the withdrawal of Moscow's forces. Images taken by journalists on the ground, including AFP reporters, of bodies littering the streets of Bucha sparked worldwide outrage and calls for an investigation into possible war crimes. Bucha Mayor Anatoly Fedoruk said on Tuesday that more than 400 people had been found dead so far and 25 women reported being raped, as the town prepares for the return of residents

who fled the fighting.
"What people will find in their homes is shocking, and they will remember the Russian occupiers for a very long time," he said. Ukraine's border force said on Tuesday that more than on Tuesday that more than 870,000 people who fled abroad since the start of the war had returned to the country, including a growing number of women and children. "What people will find in their homes is shocking, and they will remember the Russian occupiers for a very long time," he said. Ukraine's border force said on Tuesday that more than 870,000 people.

confidential letter': Suri

Pakistan: SC has received 'sealed

Islamabad, April 13 (UNI) Deputy National Assembly Speaker Suri said that the Pakistan Supreme Court has received a copy of the contentious "sealed confidential letter" which purportedly contains evidence of a "conspiracy" orchestrated by the United States to topple former premier Imran Khan's government, Express tribune reported on

The deputy speaker tweeted that the National Assembly Secretariat had sent the "threatening letter" on his directions and has been "received" by the office of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial.

"The honourable court is expected to form a commission similar to the one formed in the memogate scandal and hold an inquiry," tweeted Suri.

Suri alleged that it was "clearly written" in the letter that Pakistan will face strict actions if the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan failed.

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry also tweeted that the "original letter" has been sent to the chief justice, saying that it was now incumbent upon the apex court to initiate an inquiry and summon the concerned people, including the ambassador, to

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had on Monday announced that he would arrange an in-camera session of the parliamentary security committee to ascertain the facts involved in the purported foreign letter regarding alleged foreign interference into the country's internal affairs.

Shehbaz Sharif has accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, of staging a drama in the country and churning lies over a pur-

PTI dissident Aleem Khan refutes rumours of rift with Hamza Shahbaz

Islamabad, April 13 (UNI) Dissident PTI leader Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday refuted rumours of a rift with PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz at a private hotel in Lahore, Dawn reported.

"I have a very good relationship of love and respect with Hamza. He is like my younger brother and nothing like that has or will happen," he tweeted today afternoon.

Aleem Khan said this after reports on social media appeared that he got into a disagreement with the PML-N leader last night at a Lahore hotel where Hamza allegedly slapped the former. It was also said that the PTI dissident warned Hamza

of resignations if his terms and conditions were not met.

Aleem Khan instead accused Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, who is the PML-Q and PTI's candidate for the upcoming Punjab chief minister election, for the fake news about a rift between

Japan received unofficial invite to join AUKUS

cial, separate invitations from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to join the AUKUS alliance amid the member states' intention to develop hypersonic weapons, Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun reported on Wednes-

interested in close partnership with Japan, as the high technological potential of the country in cyberspace, quantum technologies and artificial intelligence can be used in the development of hypersonic weapons and tools of electronic

Pentagon expects continuation of healthy relationship with Pakistan armed forces

Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby has said the United States had a "healthy military-to-military relationship with Pakistani armed forces", adding that "we have every expectation that will be able to continue to be the case"

The comments from the senior Pentagon official come two days after Shehbaz Sharif was elected as the prime minister of Pakistan, replacing Imran Khan who was ousted last week through a parliament vote.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Kirby said the US had shared interests with Pakistan with respect to security and stability in "that part of the world".

"We recognise that Pakistan plays a key role in the region. We recognise that Pakistan and the Pakistani people are, themselves, victims of terrorist attacks inside their own country," he added.

In response to a question about election of Shehbaz Sharif as the prime minister and allegations of the ousted premier Imran Khan against the US for its role in regime change, Kirby declined to offer a comment.

"I think you can understand that we're not going to comment about domestic politics inside Pakistan," he responded.

When asked whether the US was prepared in case Pakistan's military intervenes amid street protests organised by former prime minister Imran Khan "with his very large crowd of supporters", Kirby said he did not foresee any US military role there."And I'm certainly not going to, again, wade into internal domestic politics in Pakistan," he said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki had earlier said that a democratic Pakistan was critical to US interests.

Ties between Islamabad and Washington touched a new low after former prime minister Imran Khan accused the US of conspiring to dislodge his government. He based his allegation on a diplomatic cable in which it was reportedly said that a State Department official had warned of consequences for bilateral ties if the no-confidence motion failed.

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka defaults on foreign debt

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka announced a default on its \$51 billion foreign debt on Tuesday as the island nation grapples with its worst economic crisis in memory and escalating protests demanding the government's resignation.

Acute food and fuel shortages, as well as long daily electricity blackouts, have brought widespread suffering to the country's 22 million people in its most painful downturn since independence in 1948.

The government has strug-

gled to service foreign loans

and Tuesday's decision comes ahead of negotiations for an International Monetary Fund bailout aimed at preventing a more catastrophic hard default that would see Sri Lanka completely repudiate its debts. "We have lost the ability to repay foreign debt," Sri Lanka's Central Bank governor Nandalal Weerasinghe told reporters in Colombo.

"This is a pre-emptive ne-



gotiated default. We have announced (it) to the creditors." Officials say the move will free up foreign currency to finance desperately needed food, fuel and medicine imports after months of scarce supplies.

Just under half of Sri Lanka's debt is market borrowings through international sovereign bonds, including one worth \$1 billion that was maturing on July 25. China is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender and owns about 10 per cent of the island's foreign debt, followed by Japan and India. The government has borrowed heavily from Beijing since 2005 for infrastructure projects, many of which became white elephants.

Sri Lanka also leased its strategic Hambantota port to a Chinese company in 2017 after it became unable to service the \$1.4 billion debt from Beijing used to build it. sparked concerns This from Western countries and neighbour India that the strategically located South

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the Tuesday's default would not stop Beijing from lending support to Sri Lanka's

victim to a debt trap.

Asian nation was falling

beleaguered economy. "China has always done its best in providing assistance to Sri Lanka's economic and social development. We will continue to do so in the fu-

ture," he said. Sri Lanka's snowballing economic crisis began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances.

The government imposed a wide import ban to conserve dwindling foreign currency reserves and use them to service the debts it has now defaulted on.

But the resulting shortages have stoked public anger. At least eight people have died while waiting in fuel queues since March 20, with two of the deaths reported on Mon-

Tokyo, April 13 (UNI/Sputnik) Japan has received unoffi-

According to the newspaper, the AUKUS member states are

warfare.

At the same time, opinions in the Japanese government regarding the possibility of joining the AUKUS partnership are reportedly divided. Some lawmakers support strengthening the alliance involving the United States amid the growing military power of China. Others, on the contrary, doubt the feasibility of the idea, since Japan already cooperates with each of the three countries, Sankei Shimbun reported. At the same time, Tokyo cannot participate in a number of projects, including those of nuclear submarines.

In mid-September, 2021, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom announced the new trilateral defense partnership, which forced Canberra to give up on a \$66 billion contract with Paris to develop 12 state-of-the-art conventionally powered Barracuda-class attack submarines, after the alliance promised to enhance Australia's fleet with nuclear-powered submarines.

SL PM to discuss crisis with protesters

Colombo, April 13 (UNI) Amid unending anti-government protests in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday pledged to discuss with demonstrators the unprecedented economic crisis which has plagued the country. Colombo Page quoted the Prime Minister as saying that he was ready for a discussion with the protestors massed at Colombo's Galle Face Green promenade to find a quick solution

The invitation by Mahinda Rajapaksa on the occasion of Sinhala and Tamil New Year comes as tens of thousands of Sri Lankans, most the young, have been protesting for days against the government, blaming it for creating crippling

The protesters want President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign. According to Colombo Page, the protests at Galle Face Green and in front of the Presidential Secretariat entered the

The protesters have named the agitation site near the Presidential Secretariat as "Gota Go Gama" (Gota Go Village).

US citizen jailed for helping North evade sanctions

Washington, April 13 (UNI) A former US researcher of a cryptocurrency organisation has been sentenced to more than five years in prison for conspiring to held North Korea avoid US sanctions via cryptocurrency. Virgil Griffith, former employee of Ethereum Foundation, had pleaded guilty to to conspiring to violate the US International Emergency Economic Powers Act by traveling to North Korea's capital Pyongyang to give a presentation on blockchain technology, BBC reported. Terming the sentence as disappointing, Griffith's lawyer on Tuesday said that the judge "acknowledged Virgil's commitment to moving forward with his life productively, and that he is a talented person who has a lot to contribute."While presenting his case, Griffith said, "The most important feature of blockchains is that they are open. And the DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] can't be kept out no matter what the USA or the UN says.'

BBC quoted the prosecutors as saying that the accused, who has a doctorate from the California Institute of Technology, travelled to North Korea via China in April 2019 to speak at the Pyongyang Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference, despite being denied permission by the US Department of State to go.In September, the US Department of Justice said he had "jeopardised the national security of the United States" by undermining sanctions.BBC quoted the prosecutors as saying that the accused, who has a doctorate from the California Institute of Technology, travelled to North Korea via China in April 2019 to speak at the Pyongyang Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference, despite being denied permission by the US Department of State to go. In September, the US Department of Justice said he had "jeopardised the national security of the United States" by undermining sanctions.

Taiwan issues wartime survival handbook amid China threat

published a handbook on Tuesday advising civilians on how to prepare for a potential Chinese invasion, including where to find bomb shelters and how to stockpile emergency supplies.

China's Communist Party has never controlled selfruled Taiwan but it nonetheless views the island as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

Those threats have turned more bellicose under Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in a generation. Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine has also heightened fears that China might one day follow through on threats to annex its smaller neighbour.

The 28-page guide contains information which "the general public can use as an emergency response guideline in a military crisis or ministry spokesman Sun Li-fang said during an introduction at an online press conference. It is the first time Taiwan's

military has published such a handbook. Drawn from similar guides

by Sweden and Japan, it tells residents where to find bomb shelters via mobile phone apps and what to do in an emergency including how to distinguish air raid

the public to better prepare themselves before a war or disaster happens," Liu Taiyi, an official of the ministry's All-Out Defense Mobilisation Agency, said.

It includes information on basic survival skills for the public during air raids, massive fires, building collapses, power outages and disasters."We hope the public can familiarise themselves where the safety

added.Beijing's increased sabre-rattling has spurred diplomatic support for Taipei and visits from Western nations shaken by China's more muscular tone. Taiwan remains massively outgunned against China

lenge for any military to conquer. Taiwan last year stepped up its training regime for

but the mountainous island

would be a formidable chal-

purchases of military equipment such as jets and anti-ship missiles.

The island is also considering extending its compulsory military service to 12 months. Currently all eligible males have to undergo a four-month basic military

Unlike South Korea, the Philippines and Japan, Taiwan is not a treaty ally with the United States.

Death toll in Philippines from storm Megi further to 56

Manila, April 13 (UNI/Xinhua) The death toll from the tropical storm that battered the Philippines over last weekend rose to 56, including the 47 buried by landslides in the central Philippines, authorities said on Ŵednesday.

As of Wednesday morning, Baybay City Mayor Jose Carlos Cari said rescuers retrieved 47 bodies from the mud that covered 10 villages in Leyte province. "Some of the bodies were

retrieved, and some were washed out in the shoreline," he told a local television interview, adding that 12 more are missing in two villages. He said social workers are doing a headcount to determine the number of residents missing in one riverside village that was heavily destroyed by the mudslide early

Sunday morning. Cari said the affected vil-



lages are near rice paddies. "The soil was fully saturated, so the mud reached the villages," he said. The swollen rivers also flooded some vil-

Cari said the dead includes rescuers who rushed to the scene early after the initial landslide. "The second landslide buried them," he added. "We intensified the search and rescue operation today because the rain stopped. Yesterday, we flew drones over the villages to see if there were still survivors,"

The National Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management Council reported other eight storm-related deaths, 193 injuries, and 28 missing in the central and southern Philippines. The Philippine National Police also reported one death case due to the storm in central Samar prov-

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said although Megi weakened further to a low-pressure area, the threat of heavy rainfall continues.

Megi is the first tropical storm this year to hit the Southeast Asian country, which is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms every year. The Philippines archipelago lies on the Pacific typhoon belt, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Threat of chemical terrorism by Ukrainian nationalists very real

considers the threat of chemical terrorism by Ukrainian nationalists and military to be very real, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov told Sputnik.

"We consider very real the threat of chemical terrorism by fascist nationalists, operating under the patronage of the current Kiev regime, and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine under their control," Syromolotov

"The high probability of such a scenario implementation is conditioned by multiple chemical provocations organized by armed extremist groups controlled by the United States and its NATO allies during the Syrian conflict," he said.

Syromolotov said an example of this was the staged provocation in the Ukrainian town of Bucha and the plans for chemical provocations in Donbas hatched by the team of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, about which Russia has repeatedly informed the UN Security Council and the OPCW.

"We will not be surprised if similar accusations are made against us in relation to the recent events at the Zarya plant (the town of Rubezhnoye), where militants undertook to blow up tanks with nitric acid so that the re-



sulting cloud of toxic substances was carried by the wind to the settlement of Kudryashovka, liberated from them," he said.

'We do not rule out that such terrorist attacks will be repeated, since, according to some estimates, about 40,000 tonnes of highly toxic substances remain at this enterprise, including nitric, sulfuric and hydrochloric acids, as well as ammonia," Syromolotov said.

IIT, IIM, Central Universities made functional in record time in J&K: Kansa

Mobile Film making workshop organized at Central University Jammu I

& Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented era of positive developments with setting up of premier education institutes like IIT, IIM, AIIMS, Central and Cluster Universities among other avenues of education. The remarks were made by Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal while addressing students of Central University Jammu. He was chairing the valedictory function of a 3-day Mobile Film Making workshop. The workshop was organised by the Mass Communication and New Media Department of Central University of Jammu. The participants have been trained by Ritesh Taksande from Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal Secretary said, 'In the fast changing and fast developing world of today, it is pertinent to identify ideas and develop the wherewithal to implement them meticulously to fruition. Ideas have the potential to develop into billion-dollar companies these days.

Explaining the scope of technology and its advantages, the Principal Secretary added that they have demolished barriers of time and space and provided 'level playing field' to youngsters and bright minds from all sections of society. He explained how the digital world has enabled people to collaborate across time and geographies and how distance and remoteness were no longer barriers to a bright idea. He advised the students to 'think through chaos to identify world

changing opportunities'.

The Principal Secretary also shed light on the implementation of National Education Policy-2020. He reiterated that all educational institutions across J&K would be implementing NEP in full from the current session. He also revealed that J&K would now follow a uniform academic calendar that would be in sync with the national academic calendar. This would immensely benefit the students and also enable students from J&K to compete for admission to the best colleges and universities across India without any loss of time. He also revealed that in order to



reduce the burden of multiple examinations, a committee of Vice Chancellors was examining the mechanism of centralized test and a synchronized admission process to various UG, PG and technical courses in J&K. He also highlighted the need for increasing employability and growth through skill based courses and said that the present workshop was one such example of the introduction of skills and technical courses. He also assured all support to the Central University Jammu for the implementation of the NEP 2020.

Veteran BBC Editor and documentary film maker, Vijay Rana also spoke on the event and shared his professional experiences with the students. He urged the students to move ahead with confidence and faith and nothing could prevent them from being successful.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor Sanjeev Jain assured successful implementation of NEP-2020 in the university and assured that the Central University would enhance the emphasis on employability and skill based courses and continue organising 'outcome based' practical training sessions in the university in the future also.

Three films, namely Ek Fauji, Educated Fools and Mitra were adjudged the three best films and the teams were awarded cash

Those present at the event included Registrar, Dr Yashwant Singh, Dean School of Knowledge Management and Media Studies, Prof Devanand, Head of Department MCNM, Prof Baccha Babuamong staff, students and others. Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented era of positive developments with setting up of premier education institutes like IIT, IIM, AIIMS, Central and Cluster Universities among other avenues of education. The remarks were made by Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal while addressing students of Central University Jammu. He was chairing the valedictory function of a 3-day Mobile Film Making

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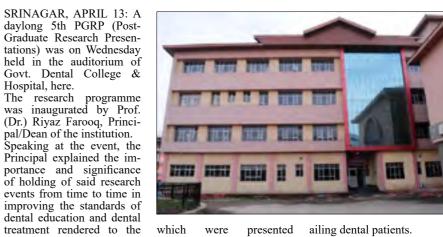
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he has promoted the sus-

tainable development which

means development but not on the cost of destruction of natural environment. He added that better understanding the interactions between various climatic change factors on nutritional composition is needed to address nutritional security. Interaction of climate change factors with biotic pests (e.g., diseases, insects and weeds) and on host plant susceptibility is essential to quantify the overall impact on crop productivity. To address these multiple challenges (food, nutrition and climate security), focus should be on systems approaches such as sustainable agricultural intensification, climate smart agriculture, broader one-health, and using principles of circularity.

This will require a stronger, meaningful and targeted dialogue and collaboration between multiple disciplines and convergence of sciences which includes both biophysical and social sciences. Emphasis should be on co-learning, co-creation and co-development that brings scholars, policy makers, private sector and practitioners together to ensure development and adoption of appropriate technologies occurs at scale to have positive impacts on food and nutritional security and environmental outcomes. At the end of session, he also interacted with faculty members & PG students cleared their doubts and queries. The lecture ended with the concluding



during the said brain storming academic event.

Day-long Post Graduate Research

Presentations held at GDC&H, Srinagar

The research event concluded with distribution of certificates of appreciation by the Principal /Dean of the institution among all the research presenters of the day. A daylong 5th PGRP (Post-Graduate Research Presentations) was on Wednesday held in the auditorium of Govt. Dental College & Hospital, here.The research programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Farooq, Principal/Dean of the institution. Speaking at the event, the Principal explained the importance and significance of holding of said research events from time to time in improving the standards of dental education and dental treatment rendered to the

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Shabir Ahmad Shah, Medical Superintendent and Convener of the said event welcomed the faculty, registrars and the PG scholars of the institution who participated in the said research event.

16 research presentations including 3 each from the Departments of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Prosthodontics/Crown Bridge, Oral Medicine & Radiology, Periodontics and 2 each from the Departments of Conservative Dentistry Endodontics & Orthodontics/ Dentofacial Orthodontics were conducted during the whole day with active interaction and deliberations by the participants about the various topics of research which were presented.

Wadura camps SKUAST-K organised expert lecture on "Impact of climate change"

Prof.P. V. Vara Prasad has discussed about the consequences of climatic changes on the environment

DR.AB QAYOOM

Sopore, Apr, 13: An

Hospital, here.

pal/Dean of the institution.

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Endodontics & Orthodon-

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various topics of research

Prosthodontics/Crown

Surgery,

said research event.

Maxillofacial

lecture on 'Impact of climate change factors on crops & opportunities to enhance resilience of Agri-food systems' was organized under NEHEP-SKUAST-K by the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura today in the conference hall. Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture welcomed the speaker Prof. (Dr.) P. V. Vara Prasad, Distinguished Professor, Crop Ecophysiology and Director of Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (Agronomy Department) at Kansas State University, USA. Dr Parvaiz A. Sofi introduced the guest speaker, highlighting his glorious research achievements mainly focused on understanding responses of food grain crop to changing environments (temperature, water and climate change factors), screening germplasm collections for tolerance to ing physiological basis of tolerance and developing crop, soil, water and nutrient management strategies for efficient use of resources.In his lecture Prof. (Dr.) P. V. Vara Prasad has discussed about the consequences of climatic changes on the environment. According to him, although modification of climatic condition is triggered by natural factors but the intervention of humans accelerated this process. So



remarks of Prof. Ali Anwar.

IIT Madras joins IAF to speed up indigenization

New Delhi, April 13 (UNI) Indian Air Force and IIT Madras on Wednesday signed an MoU for various developmental projects to speed up the indigenization process and to support the requirements of the IAF.

The MoU was signed by Air Commodore S Bahuja, Command Engineering Officer (Systems), Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF and Professor HS N Murthy, Head of Department Aerospace Engineering IIT Madras, at Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, Delhi, the IAF said.

"Joint Partnership between IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'. Under the ambit of MoU, IAF has identified key focus ar-



development and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems," the IAF added. IIT Madras will provide consultancy duly supported by research for feasibility studies and prototype devel-

IIT Madras in partnership eas involving technology with IAF will significantly contribute in indigenisation efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF, towards enhancing sustenance capability, obsolescence management and achieving Self

UP govt to crack whip on substandard nursing colleges

Lucknow, April 13 (UNI) The Uttar Pradesh government has colleges who are operating against the rules or are imparting substandard education, officials informed on Wednesday.

During a meeting with the officials on Wednesday Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Nursing homes operating against rules or are substandard should be identified, an FIR should be lodged against their operators and stern action should be taken.'

He said that running a college without accreditation is playing with the future of the youths. "Each and every such information or complaint should be taken seriously and prompt action should be taken on it," he said.

Yogi directed the officials to take immediate cognizance of the public complaints and resolve them. "No file should remain pending in any office for more than three days. Accountability will be fixed in the case of delay," he said.

He said that timely attendance of every officer and employee should be ensured in the government offices. "Dilly dallying will not be tolerated at any cost. Senior officials should make surprise inspections on a regular basis. Stern action should be taken against officers and employees having a lax and dilly dallying attitude," he directed.

Yogi directed the officials to take immediate cognizance of the public complaints and resolve them. "No file should remain pending in any office for more than three days. Accountability will be fixed in the case of delay," he said. He said that timely attendance of every officer and employee should be ensured in the government offices.

Engineering student stabbed to death inside college at Meerut

Meerut, April 13 (UNI) A student was stabbed to death during a violent clash between two groups of students in an engineering college on Wednesday. Police said five students have been arrested and heavy force has been deployed after the incident.

Police said two groups of students of MIT college, located near Meerut-Baghpat bypass, clashed allegedly over supremacy this morning. "During the violent clash 23-year-old Nikhil Chaudhary, mechanical second year student, was stabbed. He suffered around two dozen stab injuries in the clash," it said. Police said that Nikhil was taken to nearby Subharati hospitals where doctors declared him dead. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Keshav Kumar said five students, including the main accused Abhishek Sharma, have been arrested. "The murder weapon has been recovered and the arrested students are being quizzed. Nikhil was assaulted in the past as well," he said.

Iconic Week celebration: Various activities held across Pulwama

PULWAMA, APRIL 13: As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrating 75 years of India's Independence and celebration of Iconic Week, various activities were held across the Panchayats of the district to spread awareness through the medium of Grass roots level democracy.During Maha Gram Sabhas, a number of resolutions were adopted for saturation of 100 point programme indicators identified by the LG administration for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, the Gram Sabhas also ensured to work out a strategy to eradicate the use of plastic, develop Swach Panchayat and formulate Panchayat heritage plan. The Gram



Swaraj Month activities were also held at Block Kakapora, Block Dadsara and Block Pampore. The programme with 100 different commitments and agendas will focus on rural infrastructure, good governance, youth empowerment, environment protection, wage employment and increased women participation. The officials and PRIs manning the Panchayat Secretariats to work in team spirit for redres-

sal of the individual and community based issues through Panchayat Secretariats making optimal use of the Panchayat and

forward the cases to higher authorities through proper channel wherever the intervention of the superior officials is required on priority basis, so that the main purpose of the panchayat Secretariat is achieved in letter and spirit.

Gram Swaraj Month is being observed to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions to realize the vision of Gram Swaraj. Speaking on the occasion,

the DDC Chairperson said that it is an appropriate time for appraising the functioning of PRIs in different ways so as to reflect on emerging trends and to identify the impediments that have emerged in the process of democratic decentralization.



5 morning drinks that help in reducing belly fat

Reducing belly fat can be quite a task. It is like that uninvited guest who simply refuses to leave. It, undeniably, takes a lot of effort to bid bye to those rigid extra inches. From exercising regularly to eating healthy food, there are several lifestyle changes you need to make in order to fit into your old pair of jeans again. If you have also been trying to melt that belly fat lately, here's some help. We list 5 easy-to-prepare morning drinks that you can consume on an empty stomach to reduce belly fat quickly. HONEY AND LEMON

Drinking honey and lem-on water the first thing in the morning is an age-old trick for weight loss and is a common practice in Indian households. All you need to do is to add a bit of lemon juice and one teaspoon of



honey to a glass of luke-warm water. That is it. It also gives a refreshing start to your day and helps boost

your immunity.

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR In a glass of lukewarm water, add one teaspoon of apple cider vinegar. Drink it first thing in the morning and make sure you do not eat anything for the next 30

to aid weight loss. More-over, apple cider vinegar also helps control choles-terol and blood sugar levels. Jeera is a staple ingredient in Indian kitchens. It not only adds that extra flavour only adds that extra flavour to your favourite curries but is also beneficial for your health. It has detoxifying properties and is known to regulate sugar levels and cholesterol. You just need to

soak a tablespoon of cumin seeds in water overnight. Strain the water and drink it in the morning on an empty

SAUNF WATER

Drinking saunf (fennel seeds) water in the morning not only promotes weight loss but also helps deal with digestion issues. Just soak a teaspoon of fennel seeds in water overnight. Strain it in the morning and consume it on an empty stomach.

GREEN TEA

You can also start your day with a hot cup of green tea with mint leaves if you are trying to reduce belly fat. You need to boil one and a half cups of water with a few mint green leaves in it. Once the water boils, add green tea. Boil for another 2-3 minutes. Strain it into a cup and consume it in the morning. It is said to be an effec-

Alzheimer's: Loss of wake-promoting neurons may explain sleepiness

esearchers inves-tigated the link between wake-promoting neurons and sleep quality in people with neurodegenerative conditions including Alzhei-

They found that having fewer wake-promoting neurons was linked to a higher sleep

The researchers say their findings suggest that subcortical arousal mechanisms are linked to sleep disturbances in the early stages of neurodegenerative conditions.

Sleep disruption is common among patients with neurodegenerative conditions. For example, those with Alzheimer's disease (AD) often experience daytime sleepi-

ness and sundowning.
On the other side of the spectrum, people with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) — a rare neurological disorder affecting move-ment, walking, and balance — find it harder to sleep.

Previous studies have found that, in AD, groups of subcortical neurons linked to wakefulness are affected by a buildup of tau protein in the brain, and that these produce extreme neuronal loss. However, in PSP, these same wake-promoting neurons are protectedTrusted Source despite tau accumulation. Understanding the reasons behind different outcomes

from tau-protein buildup in AD and PSP could help researchers develop more effective ways to improve sleep for both conditions. Recently, researchers investigated the relationship

between wake-promoting neurons and sleep quality among patients with AD and

They found that the loss of wake-promoting neurons among patients with neurological conditions may disturb the sleep-wake cycle.
"These findings indicate that AD and PSP target areas of the brainstem and hypothalamus that regulate wakefulness and keep peo-ple awake," Bryce Mander, Ph.D., assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the University of California, Irvine, not involved in the study, told

Medical News Today. "These diseases do so in different ways, resulting in the clinical sleepiness phenotypes observed. In AD specifically, degeneration of these centers leads to increased sleepiness because the wakefulness drive is reduced by the loss of wake-promoting neurons," he added.

The study was published in JAMA NeurologyTrusted

It is called the ascending Brain analyses For the study, the researchers enrolled 33 people with AD, 20 people with PSP, and 32 typical controls. All leads to coma.'

troencephalographic (EEG) and polysomnographic (PSG) sleep assessments.
They were able to perform a postmortem neuronal analysis of brainstem wake-promoting neurons on 10 patients with AD and 9 with

In these analyses, the re-searchers focused on three wake-promoting nuclei: Noradrenergic locus coeruleus (LC)

individuals underwent elec-

Orexinergic lateral hypothalamic area (LHA)

Histaminergic tuberomam-millary nucleus (TMN) Compared to controls and those with PSP, those with AD had a greater sleep drive including more sleep time, higher sleep maintenance, and less wakefulness after sleep onset.

The researchers found that higher numbers of LC, LHA, and TMN were linked to less total sleep time, less maintenance, and wakefulness after

They also found that greater numbers of LC neurons correlated with less rapid eye movement (REM) sleep the dreaming stage of sleep — and that greater numbers of LHA and TMN neurons

correlated with less stage 2 non REM (NREM2) sleep - which is important for the consolidation of motor sequence memoriesTrusted

When asked to explain how the loss of wake-promoting neurons may promote drowsiness in people with Alzheimer's, Dr. Lea Grinberg, professor of neurology at the University of California San Francisco and one of the study's authors, told MNT: "Our brain has a network of neurons tasked to keep us alerted and awake.

arousal system. In extreme cases, damage to this system

"In Alzheimer's disease, this very network is one of the first to accumulate pathological changes and degenerate, long before the memory areas get involved. Early loss of these neurons in Alzheimer's disease affects individuals' capacity to stay 100% alert and awake, regardless if they slept well the night before." – Dr. Grinberg

The researchers wrote that the different responses to tau buildups among wake-promoting neurons in those with AD and PSP explain differences in sleep quality between the conditions.

"This study adds correlative evidence that is consistent with the view that those who appear to have the most loss of the special wakefulness-promoting neurons also tend to have greater problems with maintaining wakefulness, which would present primarily as increased drowsiness," Russell Swerdlow, MD, director of the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, not involved in the study, told MNT.

The researchers concluded that the subcortical system is a primary mechanism linked to sleep disturbances in the early stages of neurodegenerative conditions. Study limitations

The researchers also highlighted some limitations to their findings. As the postmortem studies were cross-sectional, they could not measure what happened over time. They also note that the time gap between sleep measures and postmortem results may reduce the quality of their data.

The authors also highlight that all patients involved in the study were white so the results may not be applicable to all racial and ethnic

When asked to comment on the study, Dr. Clifford B. Saper, professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School, not involved in the study, told MNT:

"Because the clinicopathological measure was a PSG, the outcome measures are hard to interpret. For example, the shorter total sleep time is interpreted as 'lower sleep drive,' which may be the case, or it may be that the patients slept more during the day and less at night. Unfortunately, this appears not to have been measured."
"The bottom line is that while the study provides some interesting additional data points, I do not think one can draw the conclu-sions that this study does (i.e. that daytime sleepiness of AD patients is due to loss of arousal neurons)."

"To determine whether AD patients are excessively sleepy, or have normal sleep drive, you need to compare them to controls, not PSP patients, and record their wake-sleep across several complete days," Prof. Saper concluded. When asked to comment on the study, Dr. Clifford B. Saper, professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School, not involved in the study told MNT. study, told MNT: "Because the clinicopatho-

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Alopecia areata: 1 in 3 people regrow hair with arthritis drug

cia areata attacks the body's hair follicles, causing hair

There is currently no cure for alopecia areata, which affects 147 million peo-

Researchers recently published promising results from a phase 3 clinical trial for possibly the first treatment for alopecia areata approved by the United States Food and Drug Administra-

The trial found that 1 in 3 patients with the condition were able to regrow hair after treatment with baricitinib — a drug normally used for rheumatoid

New research from the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT, found that 1 in 3 people with alopecia areata are able to regrow hair following treatment with an arthritis drug. This study is part of phase 3 clinical

proved treatment for the skin condi-The results from this study appear in The New England Journal of Medi-

trial for potentially the first FDA-ap-

MEDICAL NEWS TODAY NEWS-

LETTER Stay informed on skin remedies with

our newsletter Open your inbox to care tips, research, and treatment updates on skin conditions such as eczema, acne, and more. Enter your emailYour privacy is important to usWhat is alopecia areata?Alopecia areata is an autoimmune diseaseTrusted Source that causes the body to attack hair follicles. The dis-



body, causing hair loss.

People of any age, gender, and ethnic background may develop alopecia areata. However, it is more common for a person to develop alopecia areata before the age of 40.

According to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, about 6.8 million people in the United States and 147 million people globally have or will develop the condition.

There is currently no cure for alopecia areata. Some people with mild forms of the disease may spontaneously regrow hair over time. Current treatments include corticosteroids, topical minoxidil (i.e. Rogaine), and immunosuppressive drugs.

Treating alopecia areata with an arthritis drugA team of researchers led by Dr. Brett King, an associate professor of dermatology at the Yale School of Medicine recently published results from a phase 3 clinical trial.

The study examines the use of baricitinib — a prescription medication for the treatment of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis. Baricitinib is a nicate with specific proteins called cytokinesTrusted Source associated with

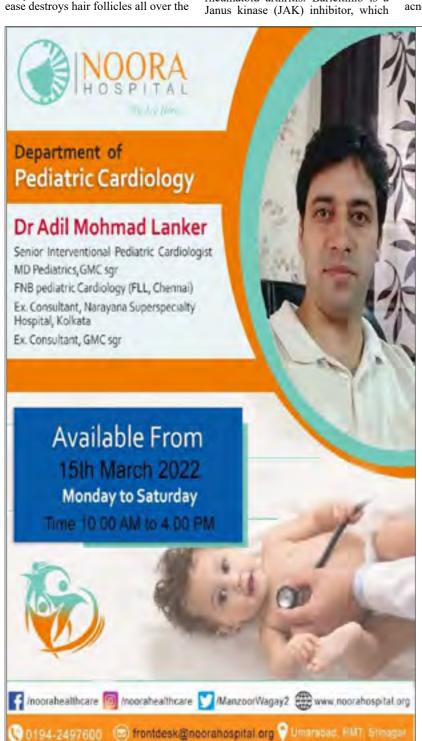
"We think baricitinib works by interrupting the messaging between hair follicles and immune cells that lead to immune cells attacking hair follicles and ultimately hair loss," Dr. King told Medical News Today.

"When the messaging is interrupted, the immune cells leave hair follicles alone and the hair follicles can do what they are supposed to, that is,

For the study, Dr. King and his team studied 1,200 people in two large, randomized trials. The study sponsor, American pharmaceutical company

Eli Lilly, designed the study trials.

Study participants included both males and females over the age of 18. All participants had severe alopecia areata defined by a Severity of Alopecia Tool (SALT) score of 50 or higher. SALT ranges from a score of 0 with no hair loss from the scalp to 100, which is the complete loss of all hair from the scalp.During the 36-week trials, participants received either 2 milligrams or 4 milligrams of baricitinib each day, or a placebo. According to the study results, about 39% of Trial 1 participants and 36% of Trial 2 participants given the 4-milligram dose of baricitinib grew enough hair back to move to a SALT score of 20 or less by week 36.Study results also showed possible side effects of using baricitinib as an alopecia areata treatment. According to researchers, the most common side effects among study participants were acne, elevated levels of creatine.



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Shikhar Dhawan, Odean Smith Star As PBKS Beat Mumbai Indians By 12 Runs

PL 2022, Mumbai Indians vs Punjab Kings Highlights:
Punjab Kings (PBKS) on
Wednesday beat Mumbai Indians (MI) by 12 runs in match 23 of the of the ongoing IPL 2022 season at the MCA Stadium in Pune. Chasing a target of 199, MI were restricted to a total of 186 for nine. Dewald Brevis top-scored for MI with a counter-attacking 49 while Odean Smith was the pick of the bowlers for PBKS, having bagged four wickets. Earlier, PBKS managed to post a total of 198 for five against MI. After being put into bat first, openers Shikhar Dhawan (70) and Mayank Agarwal (52) hit half-centuries to give PBKS a solid platform, before Jitesh Sharma also played a fine knock of 30 not out. For



MI, Basil Thampi took two wickets while Jasprit Bumrah, Jaydev Unadkat and M Ashwin also bagged a wickets each. Earlier, MI won the toss and elected to bowl first. (SCORECARD)

Mumbai Indians: Ishan Kishan (wk), Rohit Sharma (capt.), Dewald Bre-

Tilak Varma, Kieron Pollard, Tymal Mills, Jaydev Unadkat, Murugan Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Basil Thampi IPL 2022, Mumbai Indians vs Punjab Kings Highlights: Punjab Kings (PBKS) on Wednesday beat Mumbai Indians (MI) by 12 runs in match 23 of the vis, Suryakumar Yadav, of the ongoing IPL 2022

dium in Pune. Chasing a target of 199, MI were restricted to a total of 186 for nine. Dewald Brevis top-scored for MI with a counter-attacking 49 while Odean Smith was the pick of the bowlers for PBKS, having bagged four wickets. Earlier, PBKS managed to post a total of 198 for five against MI. After being put into bat first, openers Shikhar Dhawan (70) and Mayank Agarwal (52) hit half-centuries to give PBKS a solid platform, before Jitesh Sharma also played a fine knock of 30 not out. For MI, Basil Thampi took two wickets while Jasprit Bumrah, Jaydev Unadkat and M Ashwin also bagged a wickets each. Earlier, MI won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Australia appoints Andrew McDonald as cricket coach

Australia's top cricket body appointed Andrew McDonald as the national coach on Wednesday, two months after the shock departure of Justin Langer. McDonald, 40, secured a four-year contract after winning praise for his performance as interim coach since Langer's abrupt resignation on February 5 shook the cricket world.

He takes on one of the highest-profile jobs in Australia, where cricket is an essential part of the country's identity and the team's exploits grip much of the nation.

"It's an exciting opportunity, exciting role, and I am really happy, happy and grateful," McDonald told reporters after being confirmed in the job by Cricket Australia.

McDonald returned last week from the side's successful Pakistan tour where they won the Test series and the sole Twenty20 (T20).

Langer left after failing to win the public support of key players including captain Pat Cummins, despite guiding Australia to a 4-0 Ashes victory over archrivals England and a maiden T20 World Cup title.

Langer was also credited with overhauling a toxic Australian cricketing culture that led to the 2018 "Sandpa-



per-gate" ball-tampering scandal. In the run-up to Langer's departure, disgruntled players had complained anonymously to Australian media about his intense coaching style. 'Fantastic job'By contrast, limited-overs captain Aaron Finch had praised former Test allrounder McDonald's "calm approach". "He never seems to get flustered by any situation or result — it's all about the process and making sure your preparation and attention to detail is 100 per cent," Finch told reporters shortly after McDonald took over in the interim role.Cricket Australia said McDonald will be head coach in all formats but an assistant to alleviate the "significant

workload ahead". "I think he will do a fantastic job," former Australia Test captain Michael Clarke said on Tuesday on the eve of McDonald's widely anticipated ap-

pointment. He warned, however, that Australia would be under pressure to perform with McDonald, who had been an assistant to Langer since 2019.

"To me, it looks like this is exactly what the players want, which puts extra pressure on them if they don't perform," Clarke said in an interview with Sky Sports Radio.

As captain, Cummins in particular would face "extreme pressure", Clarke predicted."He's had Justin Langer sacked, pretty much ... he's come out and said this is what the players wanted," Clarke said. Cummins has denied that a player revolt was behind Langer's resignation, saying he had tried to show respect for "proper process" by not intervening publicly to support or criticise him.

McDonald, who has red hair and was inevitably nicknamed Ronnie, played four Tests for Australia with his biggest knock a 68 against South Africa.

Sports Competitions hosted in Doda under My Youth My Pride programme

DODA, APRIL 13: Sports Competitions for Kabbaddi, Kho-Kho and Chess were today conducted here at Sports Stadium Doda under My Youth My PridePro-

Kho-Kho and Chess were organised under the dynamic leadership of Secretary sports council Nuzhat Gil under the guidance of Div. Sports officer Jammu and supervision of Rajesh Kumar and concerned game coaches especially Hockey Coach Dalbir Mehta, Ajay Gupta Kabaddi Coach, Anil Sharma Kho-Kho Coach and Manmeet Kour Kabaddi Coach.

The Chief Guest of the sports competition was Ravinder Thakur and Shivali Rana Sarpanch was Guest of Honour. Sports activities which are organised

by the Sports council are a big boost for sports lovers. These types of sports activities are required to be organised in future for the betterment of the local youth of District Doda



A total of 110 sports persons participated in the game of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Chess.

City, Liverpool look to move a step closer to Champions League final clash

PARIS: A point separates the two in a tantalisingly close Premier League title race. They face each other in the semi-final of the FA Cup on Saturday. And they could still meet in the Champions League final on May 28. But for Manchester City and

Liverpool to meet in the European Cup climax in Paris at the end of the season, they still have to confirm their berths in the semi-finals. That will be known on Wednesday when the two sides play the second legs of their respective quarter-final ties. That will put them one step away from a mouthwatering final clash to be crowned European champions in a season where their rivalry has transcended any other. One of these teams will win the Premier League after a riveting clash between them on Sunday

ended in a 2-2 draw. One of them will go into the FA Cup final as the heavy favourites. And then there is the Champions League where Premier League leaders City are chasing a title which has proved elusive. Pep Guardiola's side, bidding to become the first English side since city rivals Manchester United in 1999 to win the treble, travel to Atletico Madrid holding a 1-0 lead from the first leg at home.

Juergen Klopp's Liverpool, chasing an unprecedented quadruple of titles with the League Cup already in the bag, have one foot in the last four after winning the first leg of their tie with Benfica 3-1 in Portugal. MANCHESTER:

Stones of Manchester City takes part in a training session on Tuesday.—AFP And so, naturally, at Klopp's pre-match news conference on Tuesday there was more discussion on the FA Cup semi-final rather than the Benfica clash at Anfield.

Klopp insisted the City clash will have no impact on his team selection on Wednesday."The next game has no influence on the line up for tomorrow but the last game [in the Premier League] has so we have to see," Klopp said."There is nobody injured as far as I know but we need to look at who is fresh enough for this game. We see it as a super important game to us. We tried so hard last year to qualify for the Champions League and now we can make it to semis, which is incredible."As for Liverpool's ongoing bid for the quadruple, Klopp said: "We are part of four competitions, and thankfully we are good enough this year.

Anderson still waiting on word from England after being dropped

LONDON: Fast bowler James Anderson said he has not heard from the England set-up since being controversially dropped from the squad but expects to hear from them after a new coach and director of cricket has been appointed.Anderson and Stuart Broad, England's all-time leading Test wicket takers with 1,177 victims between them, were left out of the 16-man squad for the three-test tour of the West Indies in March.The country's board (ECB) had a string of high-profile departures following the 4-0 Ashes drubbing in Australia including director of cricket Ashley Giles, head coach Chris Silverwood and batting coach Graham Thorpe. "After an Ashes defeat everything comes under scrutiny," Anderson told British media on Monday."There's lots going on, people losing



their jobs and stuff. I would have loved a sit-down, faceto-face, but obviously that's not always possible.

"I would have loved more than a five-minute phone call ..."It's difficult because there is no one in those positions yet, there is an interim director of cricket and interim head coach. With stuff up in the air like that, I would expect to hear something once those positions are filled."England captain Joe Root said in the wake of the defeat to West Indies that there had been.



