CELL: 9999038812, 9419008414 **NEWS IN BRIEF** 

#### Mentally unsound commits suicide in Baramulla

Srinagar 12 May: A mentally unsound person on Thursday allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a river in Chandanwari area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Sources said that a mentally unsound person (name withheld), a resident of Salamabad Uri committed suicide after jumping into the river.

Following the incident, police and other officials rushed to the spot. However, the body of the person was not retrieved immediately, they said, adding a rescue operation to fish out the body has been launched.

#### **CISF** personal found dead in Bandipora

Srinagar: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel was found dead this morning in his room at National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC) in north Kashmir's Bandipora dis-

CISF personnel identified as Constable Asgar Ali son of Nizamudin, a resident of Maksuspur District Saran East Zone, Bihar was found dead in his room at NHPC Bandipora.

Police in this regard said the body of the deceased has been shifted to police control room for a post-mortem to ascertain the cause of his

#### Youth's found dead in Anantnag

Srinagar, May 12: Dead body of a 24-year-old youth was found inside an autorickshaw in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday.

Informed sources said the victim was identified as Tehseen Gul of Malknag.

#### **Snow clearance** on at Baltal track ahead of Yatra

HT NEWS NETWORK

Ganderbal, May 12: Almost 90 percent snow has been cleared from Baltal track leading to Amarnath Shrine while work on the remaining portion is under-

According to officials of the concerned agencies, 14 km road length which is the the shortest track to holy cave via Baltal in Ganderbal is almost through except snow clearance at one or two places. He said they will replace six **CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

SC order on sedition law

'historic': Cong HT NEWS NETWORK



May 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Thursday hailed the

Srinagar,

Supreme Court order of putting on hold the colonial-era provision of Sedition in abeyance

JKPCC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir **CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### 2 Agri officials held

in bribery case HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, May 12: The sleuths of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday arrested two officials of Agricultural Department in

a bribery case here. A CBI official said that a Plant Protection Officer (PPO) and Field Assistant, both officials of Agriculture department, Jammu were arrested in a bribery

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 10

SRINAGAR ● FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022 ● 11 SHAWWAL 1443 ● 12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF PUBLICATION

# **VOICE TO THE VOICELESS**

Vol No:12 ● Issue No: 113 ● RNI No: JKENG/2011/39231 ● Epaper.dailyheadlinestoday.co. ● www.dailyheadlinestoday.co ● Pages: 16 ● Price: Rs 02/-

### **Prime focus on ensuring** adequate, affordable Medicare to people at doorsteps: Govt

Two AIIMS, 1000 healthcare, wellness centers, five new nursing colleges established in UT

HT NEWS NETWORK

ment and expand healthcare lace is facilitated with best Medicare at their doorsteps.

Abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state further accelerated the growth and development scenario BSc paramedical courses in J&K with complete implementation of several by almost more than 100 perrevolutionary policies and interventions in the Union

is focusing special attention Srinagar, May 12: Jammu on three areas 'Prevention, and Kashmir government is Better Treatment and Care' working tirelessly to aug- besides ensuring several incentives for poor patients network in the Union Terrior of the UT. In this regard, tory so that the ailing popuseven new medical colleges, two AIIMS, nearly 1000 healthcare and wellness centres, five new nursing colleges have been established

> The focus of the government is not only on creation

in J&K besides introducing

and increasing medical seats

The J&K administration of best of the best private hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar but also on strengthening hospitals in districts and other remote areas.

The UT administration launched J&K Health Care Investment Policy (HCIP) to encourage private players to set up healthcare infrastructure in the Union Territory. This Healthcare Invest-

ment Policy aims to materialize the UT government's commitment of providing quality healthcare to its citizens at their door steps.

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### Militants shot dead Kashmiri Pandit official in Budgam

Those behind despicable terror attack will not go unpunished: LG



HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: A Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead in yet another targeted attack in Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

Police said that an employee of Revenue department identified as Rahul Bhat was shot

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10** 

### **KP's hit streets. threaten mass** resignation if killings continue

(KPs), majority of them government employees working under Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package, Thursday hit roads at various places across valley to protest against the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat at Chadoora, Budgam.

The protestors also blocked the Srinagar-Jammu highway outside Vessu migrant KP colony, Qazigund in Anantnag district to protest against the killings. They also lit candles to register their protest.

One of the protesters

Budgam/Pulwama/ said the migrant KPs were Baramulla, May 12: being targeted earlier and Migrant Kashmiri Pandits now during the BJP rule as well. "If rehabilitation costs life, we will prefer to resign enmass and leave Kashmir forever," he said, wishing not to be named. 'We are being made soft

targets by militants. Militants should also clear their policy. If they are out to kill all of us, they should tell us clearly. But the fact remains that the government has failed to protect us despite making tall claims.3 The protestors blocked

the Srinagar-Jammu national highway at

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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

LAWAIPORA SRINAGAR & HUMHAMA BUDGAM

#### Six persons hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning

DR AB QAYOOM

Handwara, May 12: In a suspected food poisoning case, six persons including a girl and women fell ill after eating lunch with Kale vegetable at a village in Handwara sub-district on Thursday, official said.An offical of sub-district told HEADLINES TODAY, They have been admitted to district hospital Handwara, he said. The affected persons reside at village chota Siraipora in Handwara subdistrict. Apart from the girl and women the victims - aged between 23 and 55 they ate the lunch with Kale Vegetable(which is generally consumed by villagers normally. However, after that, they started suffering from dizziness

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### **New CEC to oversee** Assembly polls including J&K, 2024 elections

HT NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, May 12: Chief election commissionerdesignate Rajiv Kumar, who is set to take over from Sushil Chandra on May 15, will oversee the upcoming Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir as well



as the 2024 general elections. The Ministry of Law and Justice announced on Thursday that Kumar, now an election commissioner, will take over as chief election commissioner

### At least 168 militants operating in J&K, 75 killed this year: Army

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: At least 168 militants are operating in Jammu and Kashmir while 75 have been killed in encounters with security forces this year, officials said. Among those neutralized include 21 foreign mercenaries, they pointed out.

In the past 11 months, 11 militants were encountered and 12 infiltration bids were foiled in the vicinity of the

Line of Control (LoC) alone, they said.

'The intensity of (counter-terrorism) operations will continue to be high till all of the residual 168 plus militants surrender or are eliminated," a senior army officer said.

He said the overall situation is progressively improving due to the proactive army-guided deployment, leading to a

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### Valley to be connected with rest of country through railway link by end of 2023'



HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: Manager Northern Railway (NR)

Ashutosh Gangal today called on the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

as militants escape HT NEWS NETWORK

operation called off

Anantnag

Srinagar, May 12: Operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag district has been called off as the militants who engaged government forces in a brief gunfight managed to escape, officials said on Thursday.

The militants and the security forces for a brief period exchanged heavy fire last evening at Marhama Bijbehara in Anantnag district during a

#### 1400 km road length to be macadamized this year: CE R&B

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: The Roads and Buildings Department (R&B) is all set to start the macadamization process of roads in the second quarter of this month, with officials claiming that about financial year. 1400 kilometers of Linear

cial year. Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Rafiq Ahmad Rafig said the department plans to complete the macmeters of roads in the region by the end of this year (2022).

cess for macadamization of Roads is underway and the work most likely will be started in the 2nd quarter of this month," he said adding adequate estimated funds are available with the department in the current

Replying to query on lack Road Length will be macad- of road connectivity in rural amized in the current finan- areas, he said the statement seems to be based on "misinformation". "As a matter of fact, most of the village roads constructed under PMGSY program have witadamization of 1467.85 kilo- nessed upgrade, besides upgradation under other funding sectors

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** "The tendering pro-

#### Police arrest 4 drug peddlers in Handwara, **Pulwama**

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested four drug peddlers from Handwara and Awantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party established a checkpoint at Rasripora in Handwara and intercepted three persons. who were moving in a suspicious condition. On being searched, around 306 grams of Charas-like substance was recovered from **CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

#### Dubai based retail chain in UAE to import apples from I&K HT NEWS NETWORK

Riyadh, May 12: Al Maya Group is keen to import apples from Jammu and Kashmir, its group director and partner Kamal Vachani informed Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, 'Khaleej

Times' reported. Al Maya Group is also planning to host Kashmir Food Week at select supermarkets of the Group in Dubai, said Vachani.

"The Kashmir Food Week will showcase the rich culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.



Kamal Vachani met Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir as part of a highlevel delegation from the UAE.

India ranks seven in world apple production **CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### Govt to reopen cinema halls in Kashmir; organize **National Film Festival**

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: Jammu and Kashmir government has set the ball in motion to reopen the closed cinema halls in the valley.

The administration is organizing an international film festival next month to promote local artists. The festival will act as a bridge between the artists' renowned directors, actors, singers, and lyricists of the country

"We will revive the cinema halls that **CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 10** 



### **NEET-PG 2022 unlikely to** be postponed: Reports

**Government orders transfer** 

Sapna Kotwal transferred and posted as

Joint Director Information, Jammu

New Delhi. May 12: Amid demands for postponing the NEET PG 2022 examination. several states have shown less interest to pursue such a course and there are "slim chances" for such a decision,

sources said on Thursday. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has also not received any assurance from the Union Health Ministry after a brief discussion, the sources said

IMA president Dr Sahajanand Prasad Singh said

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 12: The

Jammu and Kashmir gov-

ernment on Thursday trans-

ferred ten officers in the

orders issued by the Gen-

eral Administration Depart-

ment, Namrita Dogra, Joint

Director, Information,

Jammu, has been trans-

ferred and posted as Deputy

Commissioner, State Taxes

(Recovery), Jammu, against

According separate

civil administration.

of ten officers in J&K

they met Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Kevadia in Gujarat.

'We met Union Health Minister and discussed with him the postponement of NEET PG 2022. He said only seven states want to postpone and we are looking into it," Dr Singh said.

tion for 2022 is scheduled to be held on May 21. IMA had written to the

The NEET-PG examina

Union Health Minister demanding that the exam be rescheduled as "there CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 10

pur, has been transferred

and posted as Joint Director,

Director, Food, Civil

Supplies and Consumer

Affairs, Jammu, has been

transferred and posted as

Member, J&K Services

Ahmad, General Manager,

DIC. Anantnag, has been

transferred and posted as

Member, J&K Services

Zahoor

Shagun Sharma, Joint

Information, Jammu.

Selection Board.

Selection Board.

Peerzada

### CSC services to be extended to citizens through FPS network

e-governance services **Dpts signs MoU** 

Srinagar, May 12: In a



zens through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPS), here

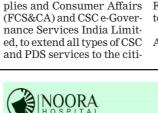
The MoU was signed by Additional

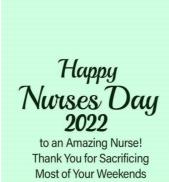
**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

### FCS&CA, CSC HT NEWS NETWORK

HT NEWS NETWORK

significant step towards improving public service effectiveness a MoU was signed between the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs









Anu Behl, Program Offi an available vacancy. Sapna Kotwal, Project cer, ICDS, Samba, has Manager, IWMP, Udham-**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 10** 

for the Patients





# تحصیلدار پاوامه طاہر ملک کی تبدیل کومنسوخ کیاجائے عوام دوست ملنساراور رشوت ستانی سے پاکشخصیت قرار اعوامی طقے

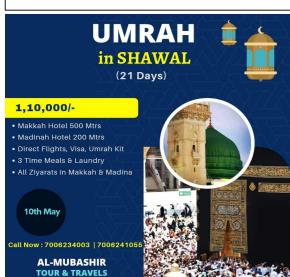


تحصیلدارطاہر ملک کو رشوت خوری سے یا کشخصیت قرار دیا ہے ۔ پلوامہ کے غوام نےحکومت کے اغلی ومتعلقہ حکام سے اُمید ظاہر کی ہے کہ وہ طاہر ملک کے

پلوامہ/بیر وانی // پیملے تین برسول سے لوگ ملک صاحب کی بے باک سے کم وقت اور بغیر رمثوت حل کئے گئے ۔ دوست ملنیار اور شریف اننفس کے ساتھ کے اعلیٰ ومتعلقہ حکام کے ساتھ ساتھ ضلع ہیں۔ انہوں نے پلوامہ میں بحیثیت انتظامیہ پلوامہ سے اپیل کی گئی ہے کہ تحصیلدار اپنے فرائض ایمانداری، بخوبی تحسیلدارطاہر ملک کی پلوامہ سے تبدیلی اورخوش اصلوبی سے انجام دیتے ہیں جمکی تیدیلی آڈرکو کالعدم کرکے انہیں واپس

تعینات تحصیلدار پلوامه طاهر ملک کی کارکرد گیول اور انکی نیک اور قانونی ا جا نک تبدیلی سے بلوامہ کےلوگول میں سلاحتوں سےمطئن ہیں ۔آپ اسے بخو بی مانویں پیدا ہو گئی ہے۔ اسلئے کہ بہت واقف ہے کیہ بچھلے کچھ برسول سے بلوامہ سارے کاروباری ادارول، طالب علمول میں تعینات تحصیلدار وہیل شویبان کا کے قانونی لوازمات اور پیدا شدہ دیگر سرہنے والا طاہر احمد ملک جوکہ کسی تعارف عوا می مسائل مذکوره تحصیلدار کی وساطت سے محتاج نہیں ہیں کیونکہ وہ ایک عوام ہیں۔ مقامی لوگوں کے مطابق حکومت ساتھ ہمیشہ رشوت سانی کے خلاف رہے کے آڈر کومنسوخ کیا جائے کیونکہ مقامی عوامی حلقوں نے سراہنا کی اور

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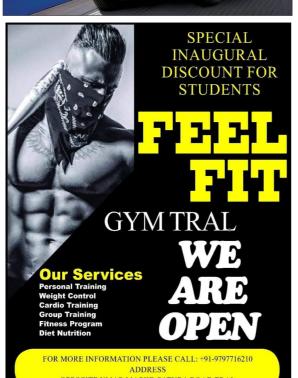


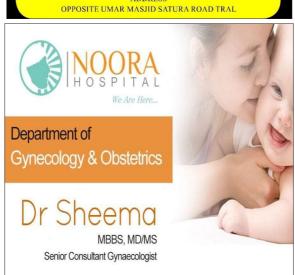
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### Member, DDC Srinagar & Haj Committee of India calls on Lt Governor



SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Er. Aijaz Hussain, Member, District Development Council, Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here today.

Sh Aijaz Hussain, who has been recently nominated as a member of the Haj Committee of India, apprised the Lt Governor about the slew of activities, arrangements, and preparations by the HCI for the smooth conduct of

Haj pilgrimage. He also briefed the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance in his constituency, particularly streamlining of functioning of stone quarries for facilitating the general public.

While interacting with the DDC member, the Lt Governor congratulated him for being nominated as a member to the Haj Committee of India, and asked him to work with dedication and zeal for ensuring proper arrangements for Haj pilgrims of J&K UT. The Lt Governor assured

him of proper redressal of all the genuine issues he presented

### CSC services to be extended to citizens through FPS network

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: In a significant step towards improving public service effectiveness a MoU was signed between the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, to extend all types of CSC and PDS services to the citizens through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPS), here today. The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary, Department of FCS&CA, Jugal Kishore Anand, on behalf of the Department and Shahnawaz Rashid, on behalf of the CSC, e-Governance Services India Limited, in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Zubair Ahmad.Government of India has identified few initiatives for leveraging e-PoS devices of FPSs to promote their financial viability. One such initiative is providing CSC services through FPSs. It is in this backdrop that the J&K Government entered into a MoU with CSC for leveraging e-PoS devices of FPSs to deliver their services. This step can be seen as a win-win situation for all the stakeholders, particularly FPS dealers and the beneficiaries, as the CSC services will be delivered to beneficiaries at the door step, even to the far off places. The FPS dealers in turn shall earn additional revenue in shape of service-charge against the services.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Woman missing



A woman has been reportedly missing from Harni area since 1 .05.2022 She has been identified as Zeena bi wife of Mohd Shafiq a resident of Harni Tehasil Mendhar District Poonch

Anybody having clue about the missing lady can inform on Mobile Number 7051244325 or can also inform Police Station Gursai where a missing report stands registered.

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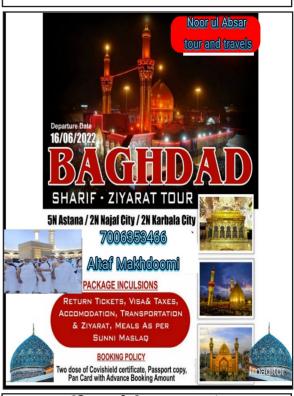
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Our offices are located at different places of the valley . opposite car plaza, kp road anantnag, 9596039676, 94693821412 nd floor, bhat complex new bus stand handwara7006595002, 9622240552



### Office of the Executive **Engineer (Jal Shakti Department) PHE Division Baramulla**

Email: kmrphebla@gmail.com (FAX) 01952234575 (Tel) 01952234244

### CORRIGENDUM **EXTENSION NOTICE**

This office ENIT No. 10 of 04/2022 dated 26.04.2022 issued vide No. PHE/Bla/CC/ 710-20 dated

In order to ensure greater participation in respect of the works advertised vide this office above referred ENIT, the online Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 18-05-2022 2:00 P.M and Tender Opening Date shall be 19-05-2022 03:30 P.M.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-1896/22

**Executive Engineer,** Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department Division Baramulla.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, **FLOOD MECHANICAL DIVISION Baramulla**

Khawaja Bagh

Telefax No. 0195-235275 e.mail ld: xenfmdbaramulla@gmail.com

#### Gist of Fresh Short term e-NIT No: 01 of 2022-23 to e-NIT No: 32 of 2021-22 Dated: 09/03/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K Executive Engineer, Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode from the Registered Mechanical Firms / Workshop holders for:-

Dismantling of Upper Cabin / Boom Arm of Long Boom Excavator at Jetty Yard Khawjabagh Baramulla

The bidding process shall be completed online in single cover containing Tender Document fee, Earnest Money Deposit, prequalification and technical bid. Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Particulars of the work	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost of work "Rs" in Lacs	Exemption Allowed	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Dismantling of Upper Cabin / Boom Arm of Long Boom Excavator at	100.00	0.89	Yes	1780.00	180 days from the date of opening of financial bid.
	Jetty Yard Khawjabagh Baramulla					

i	Publish Date	12/05/2022 at 14:00 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	12/05/2022 from 15:00hrs.
v	Bid submission start date	12/05/2022 from 15:00hrs.
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	18/05/2022 upto 16:00 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	19/05/2022 at 12:00 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date and time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Flood Mechanical Division, Baramulla.

**Estimated Cost** Position of funds **Technical Sanction**  Rs 0.89 Lacs **ARD Approved** Accorded.

**DIPK NO-1898/22** Dated:- 12/05/2022

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla

### Focus on convergence with line departments for optimum outcome: MD JKRLM

Mission Director, Jammu & Kashmir State Ru-Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review and discuss various initiatives being taken up under the Mission for empowerment of rural women of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Mission Director, JKRLM Reyaz Ahmad Beigh, National Mission Manager Livelihoods, Sunita Chakrabarty, officers from various line departments, Senior Project Managers JKRLM, District Programme Manager, Block Programme Managers and other offi-



cials of the Mission. Mission Director asked the field officials to focus on convergence with various line departments for availing optimum benefit from the existing government schemes envisaging economic betterment of

She further stressed upon the officials of various departments to reserve a percentage of allocation of targets of the schemes/ benefits for the SHG members. She asked them to ensure a simplified process of eligibility for the SHG members for availing the

that maximum number of rural women are covered. Mission Director exhorted the officers to focus on technology transfer from the concerned departments especially in agricultural related products in order to bring rural SHG members at par with the existing market production.

She further directed the field officials of the Mission to engage Self Help Group members in service development services as it has huge scope for expansion of their livelihoods.

Meanwhile, the meeting also discussed roadmap to develop novel livelihood ideas for SHG women en-

### NYK Anantnag organizes 3 days BLOT for Youth Volunteers, Members of Youth Clubs at Kokernag

ANANTNAG, MARCH 12: The Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Anantnag today organized three days Block Level Orientation Training (BLOT) for Youth Volunteers and Members of Youth Clubs, as part of Youth Participation in Investor Education, Awareness and Protection Project in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Govt of India at Kokernag.

The programme was inaugurated by SDM Kokernag, Sarib Sahran as a chief guest of function. BDC Chairman Kokernag, Parveena, President Municipal Committee Kokernag, Prince Sheikh and



SDPO Kokernag, Mansoor Ayaz were also present in the programme. All the guests appreciated the programme and assured full support in fu-

ture for organizing other

programmes in the area.

They also discussed about

Social evils, Drug Abuse, TB etc and advised youth of the area to come forward for self-development which will help us to make our society developed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director M Khalil Mir said that the objective of the programme is to aware and educate Youth Leader/ Youth Volunteers and members of Youth Clubs on the issues of investor Education, Awareness and Protection.

To empower youth to assume lead role and act as Catalytic agent for educating people to invest their savings in Government financial schemes instead of pongy Schemes. Different resources persons from LIC, J&K Bank also highlighted the various schemes of Bank. They also threwh light on types of Financial Frauds (Card Fraud, Fund Transfer scams, International Lottery Fraud etc.).

### **DPO/ADC Bandipora reviews functioning** of OSC, Mahila Shakti Kendra

BANDIPORA, MAY 12: The District Programme Officer ICDS who is also Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to review the functioning of One Stop Centre (OSC) and Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK).

The ADC took a detailed review of the functioning of these two centres aimed at assisting women and lending a helping hand to women in distress.

He said One-Stop Centre- Sakhi is aimed at providing an array of services, from skill development to psychological assistance to violence affected women under one roof.

He said the centre is exclusively for the women and is being run by the female staff and is serving women affected by violence, in private or at public places, within the family, community or at work-

Officials informed the centre is having representatives from health, Education, administration,



who will assist the aggrieved womenfolk.

They said the centre will also provide awareness about various women-specific schemes besides skill development initiatives and other activities.

OSC officials informed that OSC of which 140 have been resolved while 27 cases are under process. Meeting was informed that 14 cases are under trial in Bandipora court while four FIRs have also

been registered. Meeting was further informed that the centre conducted 67 awareness programmes across the district regarding sensitization of women towards their rights besides holding 10 orientations cum sensitization programmes.

Regarding MSK, ADC Bandipora said MSK was started with the sole aim to facilitate the women of the region. He said the Government has come up with many schemes to help women to accomplish education, employment and self-reliance and for this purpose MSK has conducted dozens of awareness campaigns across the district.

"The idea behind the scheme is to create an environment for women/ girls to grow and achieve new milestones in every possible sector", he added.

Meeting was informed that MSK played a vital role in listening to the grievances of women across the board and helped them with necessary remedies available be it guidance to start new units, education loans, resolving marital disputes, awareness campaigns about Beti Bachho Beto Padhao

### Police besides the resources persons from various departments registered 181 cases till date out

### AC defines developmental contour for all departments, approves deliverables for the financial year 2022-23

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, today approved an exhaustive list of developmental deliverables to be achieved in the financial year 2022-23, for all departments.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the

meeting.
The decision to assign deliverables to all departments is a first-of-its-kind and innovative initiative of the Government aimed at propelling growth and development in the Union territory by prioritizing transformative action in all areas. These deliverables broadly define the priority areas towards ensuring greater efficiency

in the overall governance of Jammu and Kashmir, and lay down monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly targets for all de-

These developmental contours not only define the quality and quantity of departmental services to be ensured in a time bound manner, but also envision enhanced efficiency and productivity through greater inter-departmental convergence and coordination. Their implementation will be reviewed at the high-

The exercise of framing the detailed departmental deliverables and fixing tangible and time-bound targets; has been undertaken in consultation with concerned departments.
The list of deliverables broadly includes approx-1250 tangible targets relevant for improving public service

### **MD NHM reviews Maternal, Child Death** Surveillance Response, C-Section audit in J&K

Mission Director, National Health Mission, Yasin M Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review Maternal and Child Death Surveillance besides C-Section audit in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended online by concerned HoDs Associated Hospitals of GMCs, Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals including new GMCs, Programme Management Units of Maternal Health and Child Health, National Health Mission. It was highlighted in the meeting that there is an increasing trend of Caesarean Section across all healthcare units of J&K which is a matter of concern as rising rate of C-Section is a major public health concern which results in risks associated with maternal and prenatal problems. It was also discussed that the rise in number of caesarean

births have potential negative health consequences for both mother as well as the infant and as such there is no potential evidence to support that C-section delivery has any positive benefit for either mother or infant who do not require the procedure. MD NHM stressed upon the officers to take all measures to address the issue of increasing trend of caesarean births saying that all facilities must ensure C-section audit which is one of the effective non clinical interventions to tackle with this issue. He emphasized upon the participants to identify, review and take corrective measures to ascertain the causes and determinants of maternal and child deaths to prevent future mishaps.

Project Manager NHM, Dr Qazi Haroon, made a detailed power point presentation on Maternal Death Surveillance Response, Child Death Re-

Senior Consultant, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Priyanka Bharti, attended the meeting as special invitee. The meeting was attended online by concerned HoDs of Associated Hospitals of GMCs, Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals including new GMCs, Programme Management Units of Maternal Health and Child Health, National Health Mission. It was highlighted in the meeting that there is an increasing trend of Caesarean Section across all healthcare units of J&K which is a matter of concern as rising rate of C-Section is a major public health concern which results in risks associated with maternal and prenatal problems. It was also discussed that the rise in number of caesarean births have potential negative health consequences for both mother.

### **Traders Federation Kreeri calls on DC Baramulla**

Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLA, MAY 12: A delegation of Traders Federation Kreeri headed by its chairman, Syed Noorudin Andrabi today called on Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar at her office Chamber here.

The visiting delegation warmly welcomed her on assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and also briefed her with regard to various issues and demands of the area having a public significance.

On the occasion, Traders Federation Kreeri invited DC to visit the famous shrine of Sufi Saint Haji Syed Mohammad Murad Bukhari (R.A.) and also sought intervention of DC

The delegation also apprised DC with regard to the various issues including sanitation, construction of drainage system besides a long demand of SBI Branch in the said area. The delegation sought the intervention of DC for timely redressal of their demands. The DC gave a patient hearing to the demands put forth and assured the delegation that all the genuine grievances and demands shall be looked into and taken up with the concerned subtraities for timely redressal. cerned authorities for timely redressal.

### Haj Committee to provide Standardized baggage to pilgrims of Hajj-2022

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: In order to avoid inconvenience to the Haj Pilgrims, the Haj Committee of India (HCI) through a circular issued here has informed that, Haj Committee will be providing Standardized Baggage to the Haj Pilgrims, for which they have to confirm their baggage delivery address through Haj Committee of India App or website latest by

Pilgrims are requested to go through the detailed circular available on the Haj Committee

### Haj training programme to be held on **May-14 at Chadoora**

BUDGAM, MAY 12: The Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee Srinagar has communicated vide No: Haj/2022/124 dated:06-05-2022 that Haj orientation/training programme for the selected Haj pilgrims of Tehsil Chadoora, B. K. Pora and Chararisharief of District Budgam is scheduled to be held on 14th of May 2022 at Hanfia Jamia Masjid Raheema Chadoora at 10.00 A.M.As such all the selected intending Haj pilgrims are informed to attend the said training programme on the scheduled date and time.

Tehsildar Chadoora is nominated as Nodal officer for the said programme and he shall ensure all the arrangement i,e public address system, projector and other Logistics on the

### **Anantnag youth urged to register** themselves on Youth Data Bank

ANANTNAG, MAY 12: The Mission Youth is building a database of youth so as to map their job requirements based on their needs, aspirations, skill, education and qualifications and accordingly, all the youth of District Anantnag are urged to register themselves on

missionyouthjk. in/YouthDataBank/ within a period of two weeks.

The registration process is simple and can be completed using a Smartphone. However, any youth facing difficulty in doing so can contact their nearest CSC.

### **GDC Ajas lauches website**

BANDIPORA, MAY 12: The Govt. Degree College (GDC) Ajas today organised a daylong event to launch its website https://gdcajas.com. The event was attended by students and staff of the college. The webite was launched under the supervision of District Informatics Officer Bandipora Mala Ram. The event started with a welcome address by the Principal GDC Ajas, Prof. Dr Parveen Kouser who in her address welcomed the guests and the faculty members. District Informatics Officer, Mala Ram, and Network Engineer NIC Bandipora, Zahoor Ramzan Mir in their respective presentations provided a bird's eye view

### **Union MoS for Cooperation reviews functioning of Cooperative Deptt**

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Union Minister of State (MoS) for Cooperation and Development of North Eastern Region, B.L Verma today held a detailed review of functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Department here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, J&K Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgal; Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Shafqat Iqbal, Director Finance, Sukhwant Kaur, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu Dr. Nir-upa Rai, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad, Joint Director Planning, Madan Gopal Sharma, Additional Secretary, Kewal Krishan and other senior officers of Cooperative Depart-

Speaking during the meeting, the minister highlighted that under the guidance of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi & Home Minister, Shri Amit

encing the revival of the Cooperative movement to alleviate the problems faced by poor and marginalised section of the Society. The Minister remarked that in recent years, the Central Government has made significant efforts to facilitate development of women as well as youth by associating them with Cooperatives. While reviewing different schemes of Cooperative Department, the Minister impressed upon the officers that steps should be initiated to maximize the number of cooperative societies across J&K with special focus on registration of PACS at Panchayat level for benefiting the common masses at large. He advised the officers to generate maximum awareness among the masses about different schemes of cooperative department in order to attract more youth Complimenting the department

for growth of Super Bazars, the

Shah, the country is experi-

Minister lauded the scheme of establishing one Super Bazar in each district. He asked officers to bring technological innovations in already established Super Bazars for transparency and ease of customers.

While reviewing the facilities and functioning of Cooperative , the Minister appreciated the idea of establishing one cooperative school in each District and asked the officers to expedite the process. The Minister directed that the said schools be equipped with best modern facilities like labs, library and smart classrooms.

Giving a detailed presentation on progress of Cooperative department in J&K, Yasha Mudgal informed the minister that the three tier structure of cooperative societies already in place in J&K. She further informed the minister that 595 awareness camps were held at different locations across J&K for the benefit of the masses in the previous financial year

2021-22

The Secretary also apprised the minister that the cooperative department is focusing on establishing women centric cooperative societies in collaboration with National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

She further informed the Minister that the department is contemplating the registration of PACS at each Panchayat of UT of J&K in addition to the existing 594 PACS. It was given to understand that the department has revived 138 defunct Cooperative Societies in the previous

While presenting the review / progress of Cooperative Banks the Secretary cooperative apprised the Minister that due to the release of re-capitalization amount of Rs. 255.71 crore by the Finance Department and Rs. 111.22 crore by NABARD, the financial position of District Central Cooperative Banks (DDCBs) is going to improve considerably for retaining the 9% CRAR as eligibility criteria for obtaining the licence from Reserve Bank of India.

Secretary Cooperatives also briefed about the targets fixed for the Department and roadmap for achieving the same in a time bound manner during the current financial year.

## 52 day Tribal Artisans 'Product Development in Embroidery' workshop culminates in Budgam

52 day long 'Product Development in Embroidery' workshop for tribal artisans of Budgam culminated today at a function held at Doodpathri in Budgam. The training programme was organised under the scheme Cluster Tribal Model Vil-

The workshop was conducted by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and started from March- 22, where as many 27 tribal artisans were provided skill development trainings.

Lauding the efforts of District Administration Budgam and NIFT for organising the workshop, Secretary Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary who was chief guest on the occasion said that innovative model of Budgam shall be replicated in other districts also to ensure better skill development trainings are provided to the tribal artisans.

The Secretary said that the

Government has initiated various schemes and conducted workshops for promotion of local craft arti-

He said that special exhibitions and two mega Haats would be also organised for the artisans to showcase their products and efforts are on to ensure better market facilities to all traditional craft with new innovative designing introduced by our arti-

He further emphasized on holding more courses and assured full support to the concerned departments for promotion of tribal artisans and their craft at both national and international level.

On the occasion, Secretary also felicitated the artisans and distributed registration certificates among the artisans. The artisans also showcased their craft work and products they have prepared during the workshop period.

The Handicrafts and Handloom departments had also



set up their stalls to showcase their products on the

Terming it big achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza who also spoke on the occasion said that these artisans can make world's best craft products.

He stressed on the handholding of these artisans and said better market facilities are ensured to them for promotion of the local art and

He said the district administration shall conduct one more workshop on digital designing for local artisans. He further urged artisans to make best use of trainings and ensure better craft products are produced by them.

He said such programmes shall help tribal youth to compete and excel with new innovative designing.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Handicrafts, Tariq Ahamd Zargar said that introducing innovation was only way to compete and promote our art and craft.

He stressed that e- commerce facilities is also important for its promotion. Director NIFT, Javed Ah-

mad Wani also spoke on the successful holding of the workshop and deliberated on its importance for empowerment of artisans and turning them to become into job providers. Among others, Special Secretary Tribal Affiars, Mohammad Harun Malik, CEO Doodhpathri, ACD, AD Handloom, Trainers, Artisans and others concerned were present on the occasion. holding more courses and assured full support to the concerned departments for promotion of tribal artisans and their craft at both national and international level.

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### DC Kupwara visits SDH Kupwara; reviews preparations for mega health camp

DR.AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, MAY 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir today visited Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara and reviewed health facilities being provided to the patients there. He also took stock of the preparations made for smooth conduct of the mega health camp which started on May 11 in the hospital and will last till May 18.

The DC inspected various wards including OPD, IPD, Operation Theatre and Gynaecological section, during which he interacted with Medical Superintendent (MS), Doctors, paramedics and patients and re-ceived feedback regarding the facilities.

He urged upon the Medical Superintendent to further upgrade the facilities so that the patients do not face any inconvenience during their treatment. He directed them to keep round the clock facilities available to the patients of border dis-

Health camp, the DC was informed that all possible measures have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the camp. He was informed that the Health department, Divisional Administration and Rotary International (NGO) has jointly organized the mega health camp for the general public of Kupwara district.

cludes 26 ophthalmic, 14 Gynae and 14 general sur-

Speaking at the occasion, the DC said that the health sector is among the top most priorities of the Government and District Administration is committed to provide all possible support to boost the health facilities in the district. While assessing the prepaplace for the smooth conduct of the camp. He was informed that the Health Divisional Administration and Rotary International (NGO) has jointly organized the mega health camp for the general He was further informed

### 2 Days Training/ Capacity Building workshop on Forest Demarcation concludes at SFH, Bijbehara

The two days Training cum Capacity Building workshop by J&K Forest Department on Forest Demarcation for the forest frontline staff concluded today at South Forest Headquarters (SFH), Biibehara.

The program was organized in collaboration with Forest Demarcation Division, Kashmir Region in which about 35 forest officials participated.

During inaugural session, Conservator of Forests, South Kashmir, Irfan Ali Shah, welcomed all the Forest trainees as well as domain experts and trainers from the Demarcation Division Kashmir. He said that Forests covers about 48percent of total land area in the J&K, so demarcation of the forest land is of utmost importance in the present scenario.

He stressed upon maintaining a proper balance



imperatives and ecological needs so that sustainable development could be

Shah informed that traditionally, the Forest Officers along with Revenue Officers demarcated the forests using traditional equipment's but with the advent of modern technology, our Foresters need to adopt themselves with the advanced technologies like GPS, GIS, PDA, formation of KMZ and KML files

gy. He informed that these training programs are a step in this direction.

He directed all forest officers to ensure Demarcation of Forest lands strictly in accordance with Forest

The first Technical session was taken by DFO Demarcation Division, Kashmir Region Syed Jawad-ul-Hassan who briefed about the history of demarcation in Kashmir. He also made trainees aware about de-

Shabir Ahmad Dar, Incharge IT Lab, made participants aware about Geo-referencing, use of Global Positioning System and knowledge of KMZ

Javaid Ahmad Nathkhan, Range Officer South Demarcation Range briefed about land dispute issues and their disposal in the light of rules and relevant

On the second day of training, the trainees were given exposure to various field exercises and skills viz Forest Demarcation in Hutmurra, Manigam Forests of Lidder Forest Di-

The programme was coordinated by DFO Kulgam Syed Wasim Gull, who in his address spoke about the Technicalities of Forest Surveying and need for having practical knowhow of Demarcation field work

#### **Tourism Department** cracks whip on erring service providers

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Continuing with its efforts to check overpricing of tourism services by service providers, a team of officers of the Tourism Department conducted checks of various hotels in the city to check the services and their pricing being offered to vis-

During the checking, the team of officers slapped fine on two hotels, Taj Vivanta and Lalit Grand Palace for exorbitant rates and other service deficiencies. The units were also served notices that action under relevant clauses of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act and other legal action would follow for the violations and if course corrections are not done. The team of officers comprised Deputy Directors, Registration Kashmir, Assistant Directors, Headquarters and Recreation, Assistant Director, Enforcement and other officials. It may be recalled that the Department, after receiving several complaints by tourists and locals of overcharging and other service deficiencies constituted a Central Committee of officers to regulate the tourism services across Kashmir and ensure that proper services are delivered at reasonable prices. The drive of the Committee is planned to intensify in coming days. The Department has cautioned all the service providers against overcharging, cheating or touting while appealing them to conduct their business within the highest hospitality traditions of the place and not let the law enforcing agencies take any action against them for any violation.

#### Chairman DDC Anantnag lays foundation stone of Amad Zoo to Grend Aish Road

ANANTNAG, MAY 12: The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi today laid the foundation stone of the road from Amad zoo to Grend Aish, here. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman said the active involvement of PRIs has given a major boost to development initiatives of the government adding that a number of such projects are being executed and completed in



department, public of Kupwara district. that 54 surgeries have been conducted during the first day of the camp.

# DC Anantnag reviews SANJY Sanitation, IEC, Livelihood Plan

Deputy Commissioner (DC) The BDOs were directed to en-Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla to- sure that the CSCs are painted, day held a detailed meeting here necessary signages erected and the sanitation, livelihood and IEC activity plan for

A detailed discussion was held regarding availability and capacity of Langar space, parking areas and Common Sanitary Complexes on the route taken by

Various CSCs under construction were also discussed and directions were issued to concerned implementing agencies to ensure that the CSCs are functional and water connections have been installed. The DC also said that reflective signages should be installed at toilets to ensure nocturnal visibility. Further, mobile toilets which may be deployed as required will also be

manpower deployed for maintenance of CSCs.

Dr Singla emphasized that sanitary langar spaces and adequate parking places are being set up at all transit camps. Further, water supply arrangements at transit camps were also discussed and SE Jal Shakti was directed to ensure that adequate supply is available for yatries halting at

A thorough discussion about the sanitation plan for Pahalgam was undertaken. The officials were directed by the DC to ensure that adequate manpower is deployed and all waste should be scientifically disposed-off. Special mechanism for sanitation inside Nunwan and Chandanwari base



camps was also deliberated upon and the chair was apprised of

Regarding IEC activities, a detailed plan was discussed with inputs from all concerned mu-

messages and banners by pan- ment the livelihood generation chayats falling on the route will for the stakeholders. intervals and banners with informative content will be erected at regular intervals.

Dr Singla emphasized that cleanliness must be maintained on the route. He further said that SANJY is an important event where lakhs of yatries will visit the district and innovative IEC material may be displayed at conspicuous places to reflect our culture and spirit of hospitality. The DC said that SANJY also

provides opportunities for the artisans and entrepreneurs to display the craft and products. He said that space will be identified along the route where self help groups and artisans can display and sell their products. He said it

be erected. Further, signages at The meeting was attended by ADC, CPO, SE Jal Shaktı, Ex Engineer Jal Shakti, SDM Dooru, ACR, ACD, ACP, BDOs of Khoveripora, Pahalgam, Anantnag and Qazigund besides EOs among other officials. Dr Singla emphasized that cleanliness must be maintained on the route. He further said that SANJY is an important event where lakhs of yatries will visit the district and innovative IEC material may be displayed at conspicuous places to reflect our culture and spirit of hospitality. The DC said that SANJŶ also provides opportunities for the artisans and entrepreneurs to display the craft and products. He said that space will be identified along the route

### Youth inspired development is a catalyst of change and prosperity: DC Pulwama

PULWAMA, MAY 12: Youth act as catalysts of change and development besides play a vital role in transforming societies into progressive and prosperous ones, said the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq while addressing thousands of youth in a programme under the banner, 'Vision Pulwama 2047 -Be the Change'.

He reiterated his commitment to transform Pulwama into a self-reliant economy besides envisioning its youth as leaders of the future.

The program was organised by the District Administration Pulwama where the officers of the district headed by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary had an interaction session with the participants

Youth from all age groups participated in the event which witnessed unprecedented participation. The aim of the programme was to create a connection between youth and civil administration besides addressing the issues and chal-lenges being faced by youth on a daily

Officers from various Rural Development Department deliberated on issues like Self employment, Entrepreneurship, changing rural economy and livelihoods. Issues like drug addiction and substance abuse were also discussed.



Later, youth from Nikas and adjoining areas raised various demands besides putforth their pending issues.

Demands like setting up of well equipped health centre, Children's parks, Open air gym and public library were raised by the youth of Nikas Youth from adjoining areas of Arihal,

Arigam, Gaberpora raised demands like health infrastructure, Sporting facilities and repairs of damaged roads. The DC while listening to the grievances issued spot instructions to the concerned officers for their early redressal and assured the participants for

positive outcomes. Senior Officers from administration including Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Development, and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat participated in the event.

Aganwadi workers and helpers union Jk affiliated with center of **Indian Trade unions** 

Farooq Rather



Kulgam: 12 May, A meet-

ing was held by Aganwadi workers and helpers zone and project office Bearers of District kulgam in the presidency of Mir Hanifa (working president). presidency of Mir Han-ifa (working president). CITU jand k secretary Ab Rashid Najar, was special invitee of meeting for mon-itoring progress and shar-ing of experinces on how to become part of successful up coming state conference On the occasion, CITU secretary, and Mir haneefa working president shared experiences with oll leaders of meeting on up coming state delegate conference and measures to make it better for future. They further gave Instructions on how they will complete member ship within couple of

### **Gen Manager Northern Railway calls** on Chief Secretary

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Manager Northern Rail-way (NR), Ashutosh Gangal today called on the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and apprised him about the status of the ongoing works on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL). CAO construction Údhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (US-BRL), A. K. Khandelwal; PCSC NR, A N Mishra; DRM Firozpur, Seema Sharma also accompanied

GM NR. GM Northern Railway briefed the Chief Secretary about the works that have been finished, or nearing completion, works under progress, and the adherence to the set timelines to dedicate the project to the people at the earliest.

Chief Secretary was informed that it is expected that Kashmir valley would be connected to the Jammu and rest of the country during 2023, providing efficient connectivity to

Kashmir valley with other parts of the country by rail. The all-weather and cost-effective connectivity shall be a boon for economy of J&K. Chief Secretary was in-

formed about the work on the intervening 111 kms of Katra-Banihal section which is going on in full swing despite challenging and inhospitable terrain.

While appreciating the Railways for the work done with respect to connecting the Jammu and Kashmir region with the rest of India, Dr Mehta observed that the railway line will act as a catalyst for the overall development, progress, and prosperity of the region and shall play important role in rapid industrialization, movement of raw materials, boost trade and tourism, besides providing opportunity for employment generation.

Dr Mehta assured all possible support and cooperation from the UT administration to finish the project

within the given timeline. General Manager NR also thanked the Chief Secretary for the UT administration's support that has been extended to the Railway for executing the several projects and finishing those in a time-bound manner. Chief Secretary was informed about the work on the intervening 111 kms of Katra-Banihal section which is going on in full swing despite chal-lenging and inhospitable While appreciating the

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### **SCERT CONCLUDES NATIONAL CURRICULUM** FRAMEWORK'S POSITION PAPER EXERCISE



SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Three more State Focus Groups (SFGs) held a consultative meeting to finalize the position papers prepared by the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) at the State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) in Bemina here today.

The event marked an end to a series of hectic online and offline exercises wherein experts from various fields and faculties chosen by the NCERT put in their best efforts to finalise the position papers on some 25 themes/areas.

The NCF Committee has appointed chairpersons, member secretaries and members to prepare the position papers. Four NCFs have been laid out by the NEP 2020 on Early Childhood Care and Editor.

been laid out by the NEP 2020 on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), School Education (SE), Teacher Education (TE) and Adult Education (AE) have been laid out by the NEP 2020.

The groups on "Guidance and Counselling", "Health Well-Being, Yoga, Sports & Fitness" and "Emerging Role of Community in Education" were respectively led by Prof. Showkat Ahmad Shah, Dean, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences, Dr Surjit Singh, Head, Physical Education, University of Kashmir and Dr Tasleema Jan, Head, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences. Dr Roma Wani, former Planning Commissioner, J&K State, Dr Asma Nabi, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Khan, Professor, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences, University of Kashmir, Dr. Syed Ishfaq Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Directorate of Distance Education, Dr Shabnum Qureshi, Assistant Professor, School of Education, Dr Shabnum Qureshi, Assistant Professor, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences, University of Kashmir, Dr Shabir Ahmad, Assistant Professor, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences, University of Kashmir, Dr Humaira Yaqoob, IMPA, Dr Kulsooma, teacher, Dr Tahseena Bashir, teacher, Dr. Hilal Ahmad, Lecturer, Dr Showkat Hussain Bhat, Assistant Professor, Physical Education College, Gandarbal, Dr Nazir Ahmed Waza, Assistant Professor, Physical Education College, Gandarbal, Dr Hartaj Singh, Principal, Physical Education College, Gandarbal, Javed Ahmad Wani, District Nodal Officer, Child Protection and Counselling Cell, Kupwara and Danish Aziz, Education Speand Counselling Cell, Kupwara and Danish Aziz, Education Specialist, UNICEF India, also participated in the meeting.

Shagufta Nazir and Ishfaq Anjum Samoon, senior academic officers at SCERT and Peerzada Bashir Ahmad, Coordinator Nishta on Dikhsha, are the member secretaries chosen by the NCERT for

All states and UTs have been asked to prepare their State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs) passing through the process of District Level Consultations (DLC), mobile app survey and development of position papers by the State Focus Groups in 25 areas/themes identified as per the NEP, 2020.

SCERT has been nominated as a nodal agency to prepare the State Curriculum Framework (SCF) through a series of consultative meetings involving educationists, teacher educators, resource persons, representatives from Social Welfare Department, parents and

"In all 70 questions—40 for School Education, 10 each for ECCE, Adult Education and Teacher Education—were prepared by the NCERT," Academic Officer, G H Reshi, Nodal Officer, SCF, informed.

NCERT had dispatched a team last month to interact with diverse stakeholders at a consultative meet on the SCF.

"The inclusion of local flavour in the curriculum would help cast aside rigidity and exclusivity," Prof Anita Nuna, former head, Department of Curriculum Studies, NCERT, New Delhi, said. "The National Education Policy 2020 has been designed in a manner that it allows—through discussions and consultative meetings with the stakeholders—the inclusion of the local flavour, value systems, socio-economic backgrounds and the best practices of any state or UT before the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is given a

A bottom-up procedure, she said, had been adopted for the first time to frame the national curriculum based on several novel concepts such as competency-based education, experiential learning, flexibility, creative and critica NCERT had dispatched a team last month to interact with diverse stakeholders at a consultative meet on the SCF. "The inclusion of local flavour in the curriculum would help cast aside rigidity and exclusivity," Prof Anita Nuna, former head, Department of Curriculum Studies, NCERT, New Delhi, said. "The National Education Policy 2020 has been designed in a manner that it allows—through discussions and consultative meetings with the stakeholders—the inclusion of the local flavour, value systems, socio-economic backgrounds and the best practices of any state or UT before the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is

### Dr Samoon reviews progress on skill training to women SHGs

SRINAGAR, MAY Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department Dr Asghar Haasan Samoon today chaired a meeting here to review the progress achieved under training of Self Help Groups (SHGs). While chairing the meeting,

Dr Samoon emphasised that proper training and hand-holding of SHGs is need of the hour to upskill their income level.

He said that imparting training to women SHGs is a priority of the government and serious efforts need to be taken in this regard.

He directed the officers to start imparting of skill training to SHGs members through Polytechnic Colleges and ITIs of Jammu and Kashmir from May 19. Under the programme 60000 women SHGs will be



equipped with skills of all kind of advanced technologies in fashion designing, tailoring, cosmetology, fruit processing and other trades so that they don't face any hindrance while running their business units. Dr. Samoon further re-

marked that Skill Development is emerging as a necessity for the workforce of the present day world as it needs multi-tasking people to deal with the day to day functioning. He said that imparting training to women SHGs is a priority of the

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Dr. Samoon further remarked that Skill Development is emerging as a necessity for the workforce of the present day world as it needs multi-tasking people to deal with the day to day functioning.

### SDM, Rajpura addresses Aryans **Nursing students**

Srinagar 12 MayTo focus on the true value of nurses to the people of the world, Aryans Institute of Nursing (AIN), Rajpura Near Chandigarh celebrated International Nurses Day on this year theme "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health". Mr. Himanshu Gupta (PCS), SDM, Rajpura was the Chief Guest of the occasion Mrs Rajinder Kaur, Principal, SGHS College of Nursing was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans presided over the Group event

while addressing Gupta nursing faculty & students highlighted on the importance of contributing to humanity and outstanding role played by nurses. He



expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the nurses who are on the front line to save mankind, especially during this Covid pandemic & stressed on encouraging the present generation to join Nursing. He also said that teachers play a major role in the future nursing education

and to bring the best out of

the students. Aryans Nursing including B. Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM pledged their noble profession, under leadership of Mrs. Rajinder Kaur. She said that today nursing has evolved into a profession with wealth of skills and professional knowledge but the world.

#### **The Poesy Note**



Teacher Zone Mawer.

Written about a year ago "The Poesy Note". I am dedicating this poem to my dearest friend Shafi Rather.

> Sojourn on terrain, A bounty early bright, The soothing Zephyr, A blessing of the woods.

The dwelling throngs, Very little. Peace and tranquility, All around.

Hours of whoopee, King of heartstrings, On thy friendship, I am proud.

### **DC Srinagar chairs meeting of Screening Committee** for nomination of schools participating in SVP

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: A meeting of District Level Screening Committee for nominations of schools for participating in Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar(SVP)-2022, was today held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar(SVP) has been instituted by the Union Ministry of Education to recognize, inspire and celebrate excellence in sanitation and hygiene practices in schools.

He said the purpose of SVP is to honour Schools that have undertaken signifi-cant steps towards fulfilling the mandate of the Swachh Vidyalaya Campaign and adhering to the standards of hygiene and cleanliness.

The DC asked the CEO to conduct internal screening of the schools and make sure that all schools participating in Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar have maintained facilities like Sanitation, Hand hygiene system, COVID-19 preparedness and response system.

Earlier, the Chief Education Officer, Manzoor Ahmad Kumar apprised the DC that from Srinagar District as many as 706 Schools are registered for Swachh



Vidhalaya Puraskar 2021-22 out of which 475 schools have applied so far. Among these 239 were assigned 3 stars, 285 were assigned 4 stars and 14 were assigned 5 stars by the Government of India.He was further informed that a team of 72 Evaluators was nominated to evaluate the parameters as well as a questionnaire provided by MHRD which has been directed to complete the evaluation process by or before 15-05-2022.

The meeting among others was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive ical Officer, senior Lecturers and other members of these Committee. He was further informed that a team of 72 Evaluators was nominated to evaluate the parameters as well as a questionnaire pro-vided by MHRD which has been directed to complete the evaluation process by or before 15-05-2022.

The meeting among others was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer, PHE, Chief Medical Officer, senior Lecturers and other members of these

International School of Medicine (ISM)

Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA)

Osh State University

KAZAKISTAN

Karaganda University

Astana University

**UKRAINE** 

Ternopil University

Vinnitsia University

Kiev University Uzhhorod University Sumy State University

00 Bogomolets

**IRAN** 



### BANGLADESH

- Bangladesh Medical College
- Dhaka National Medical College
- Tairunnesa Medical College ■ Community Based Medical College
- Holy Family Medical College
- Uttara Women's Medical College
- Addin Women's Medical College ■ Z.H Sikhder Women's College
- Kumudini Women's Medical College
- International Medical College
- Enam Medical College
- Dr Siraj Ul Islam Medical College
- East West Medical College
- US Bangla Medical College
- Shaheed Mansur Ali Medical College
- Jahurul Islam Medical College
- Khwaja Yunis Ali Medical College

Iran University **Tehran University** Shiraz University Isfahan University

LLOO COMPLEX,IKHWAN CHOWK, MUNAWARABAD
Opp. BBQ Restaurant Near KHYBER HOSPITAL, SGR

7006965247 / 7006940477



Dhaka National Medical College

Community Based Medical College East West Medical College

→ Uttara Womens Medical College → Addin Womens Medical College

 Ibn Sina Medical College
 US Bangla Medical College
 Shahabuddin Medical College → Kumudini Wamens Medical Cal<mark>lege</mark> → → ZH Sikhder W<mark>omens Medical Col</mark>lege →

→ Khwaja Yunis Ali Medical College → Enam Medical College

→ International Medical College > Tairunnisa Medical College

→ Marks Me<mark>dical College</mark> → City Medical College → Ashiyan Medical College ightarrow Shaheed Mansur Ali Medical College ightarrow Sylhet Womens Medical College → Eastern Medical College

→ Anwar Khan Medical College

→ Diabetic Association Medical College
 → Barind Medical College

Popular Medical College

Prime Medical College

MH Samorita Medical College Siraj Ul Islam Medical College

D

E

R

Lowest Package's Guaranteed

👤 1st Floor, Pulloo Complex, Ikhwan Chowk, Munawarabad, Near Khyber Hospital Sgr.

### **Cleanliness drive in & around Hokersar** WCR continues with full vigour

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: As part of ongoing 'Save Hokersar-Save Srinagar' campaign being held under the banner 'TAWAZUN' and launched by the Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir, the Chairman National Society for protection of Water resources, Forests & Wetlands, Nazir Benazir today flagged-off a cleanliness drive in and around Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve (WCR),

Safai-karamcharis of Municipal Committees of Srinagar, Budgam and Narbal, Range Officer, Lakes along with his field staff, Ayesha Parveen, Sarpanch Narbal B, Students of Govt. Degree College, Bemina / Holy Mission School Narbal

Boys Higher Secondary School, Narbal, different N.G.O's, volunteers, Forest Protection Force personals of K-01/K-03 and representatives of different stake holding departments participated.

During the drive solid waste of about 3 to 4 trucks of load were collected from from Sozeith Bridge to Laweypora/ Sozeith Play ground/ Sozeith Nursery and was then accordingly disposed-off, which involved mass efforts of 200 persons. Speaking on the occasion,

Sajid Farooq, Range Officer, Lakes thanked the participants who pledged to join hands with the department of Wildlife Protection for keeping the "Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve" solid waste free.

It is worth mentioning here that this initiative is a joint collaboration of Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir with stake holding departments, civil society groups, N.G.O's and Educational institutions.

Sajid Farooq, Range Officer, Lakes thanked the s. Municipal Committees of Srinagar, Budgam and Narbal, Range Officer, Lakes along with his field participants who pledged to join hands with the department of Wildlife Protection for keeping the "Hokersar Wetland Constaff, Ayesha Parveen, Sarpanch Narbal B, Students of Govt. Degree College, Bemina / Holy Misservation Reserve" solid waste free. sion School Narbal/Boys It is worth mentioning Higher Secondary School, Narbal, different N.G.O's,

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zeith Play ground/ Sozeith

Nursery and was then ac-

cordingly disposed-off, which involved mass ef-

Speaking on the occasion,

forts of 200 persons.

### **Director Agriculture Kashmir visits Floriculture Development Farm Nunnar, Ganderbal**

GANDERBAL, MAY 12: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited Floriculture Development Farm Nunner Ganderbal to take stock of its

functioning.

During the visit, the Director took tour of different blocks of the farm and was briefed by the concerned Farm Manager, Technical Experts about different ornamental, medicinal plants cultivated in the farm. Besides, various latest interventions adopted and introduced during the cultivation of ornamental and medicinal plants were also brought into his notice.

It is worth mentioning here that Floriculture Development Farm Nunner Ganderbal is unique in its specialization for the propagation and development of ornamental and medic-



inal plants in the region. Speaking on the occasion, the Director marked the economic importance of ornamental and medicinal plants in the overall agriculture eco system. He said there is a vast potential in this sector and department has a floriculture development scheme for strengthening this sector in

the valley.
Iqbal said the cultivation

of ornamental and medicinal plants on commercial lines and participation of educated youth in this allied wing could help in achieving the economic security to the concerned farming families.

He said Kashmir being one of the best tourist destinations in the country has immense opportunities for the marketing of ornamental plants and floriculture

products therefore the Department is endeavouring to attract more and more farmers towards the cultivation of ornamental and

medicinal plants.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by Deputy Director Planning Mohammad Younis Chowdhary, Divisional Seed Certification Officer Sheikh Imran and other officers of the Department.

### Superannuation function held at **DIC Pulwama**

PULWAMA, MAY 12: A farewell function was held today at the District Information Centre (DIC) Pulwama to honor Mohammad Yousuf Assistant Information Officer, Mohammad Yaqoob Senior Assistant and Mohamamd Akbar Khan Screenman who are attaining the age of superannuation.

The function was presided over by District Information Officer (DIO) Pulwama, Tahir Ahmad Magray. All employees of District Information Office Pulwama attended the

The contribution of superannuating officials was immensely appreciated and acknowledged by Tahir Ahmad and other speakers at the function. It is matter of honour for any Government employee to reach superannuation without any blot or taint, they said.

All wished them a happy and healthy post retirement life.

### **CEO Bandipora hands over Rs Five** lakh cheque to DC Bandipora

BANDIPORA, MAY 12: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Ab Roub Shaad accompanied by Deputy Chief Education Officer, Bandipora on Thursday handed over a cheque of Rs five lakh as Red Cross contribution to Deputy Commissioner (Chairman, District Redcross Soci ety) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad.

On the occasion, the CEO informed that it has become possible due to best and collective efforts of the education department, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and their parents. He said all the students have voluntarily do-

nated understanding the funds being used for the poor and needy during natural disasters and calamities.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the department in contributing for the noble cause and also issued appreciation letter in favour of the department.

#### Kulgam Police observed 'Thana Diwas' at Police Station Qazigund, Qaimoh, DH Pora, Manzgam, Devsar and Yaripora

Farooq Rather

Kulgam: May 12, 2022As a part of J&K Government's Public outreach programme, Kulgam Police today organized 'Thana Divas' conducted by various supervisory officers and concerned SHOs on the directions of SSP

At Police Station Qazigund, the 'Thana Divas' was conducted by Addl SP NHW Qazigund Kulgam, SDPO Qazigund, and SHO Qazigund; at PS Qaimoh the Thana Divas was conducted by DYSP PC Mirbazar & SHO Qaimoh; at PS Manzgam the Thana Divas' was conducted by the SDPO DH Pora & SHO Manzgam; at PS Devsar the Thana Divas was conducted By DySP Mirbazar & and SHO Devsar; at PS Yaripora the Thana Divas was conducted By DySP PC Hatipora and SHO Yaripora; at PS DH Pora the Thana Divas was conducted by SDPO DH Pora and SHO DH Pora.

The meetings were attended by the respectable citizens, civil societies of concerned areas, including, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation and Transporters, PRI's. Besides large number of Public of the concerned areas

### **Kreeri Police Organized "Thana** Diwas" at Police Station kreeri

Ashiq Hussain HT NEWS NETWORK



Muraadabad Kreeri, May 12: May As a part of Public outreach programme, Thana Diwas; an initiative of Government of J&K, was organized by the Kreeri Police today at Police Station kreeri. The event was chaired by SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat in presence of SDPO kreeri, SHO Kreeri and DO Wagoora The programmes were attended by the, presidents of Tata Sumo stand, Traders federation kreeri,numbardars , Chowkidars and respectable citizens of kreeri area .On the occasion, participants highlighted various issues of the public importance. They were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to the Police will be resolved on priority. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that policing at grassroot level in the district would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people. Chairing officers while speaking on the occasion, said that Thana Diwas is an initiative started by the Government of J&K to bridge the gap between Police and Public and also to hear/redress the grievances of common masses. They further added that community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils.

### DDC finalises convergence plan under Poshan Abhiyan in Rajouri

RAJOURI, MAY 12: District Development Com-missioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss and finalize the convergence plan under Poshan Abhi-

volunteers, Forest Protec-

tion Force personals of K-01/K-03 and represen-

tatives of different stake holding departments par-

ticipated.During the drive solid waste of about 3 to

Officers present in the meeting included ADDC, Pawan Kumar; ADC Nowshera, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics, JP Singh; PO ICDS, Kar-tar Singh; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt and other concerned officers.

The meeting was informed that 43000 children in the 0-6 year age group are presently enrolled in the Anganwari centres

across the district. The DDC asked for the health check up of all the enrolled children by the medical teams to ascertain their health status and suggest remedies for deficiencies.

The DC inquired about the institutional deliveries during the last year and asked the concerned officers to take the field staff on board to educate the public about the mother and child care available in the health institutions and other benefits. said that

The DDC POSHAN Abhiyan was a flagship programme of the Government of India to improve nutritional outcomes for children, preg-



nant women and lactating mothers

Underlining the objective behind the formulation of convergence plan under Poshan Abhiyan, he said that the plan aims to prevent and reduce under-nutrition and stunting in children, reduce the

er diseases among young children, women, adoles-cent girls and reduce the low birth rate. Stating that interdepartmental coordination is a must for the implementation of the Poshan Abhiyan, he asked the stakeholders to work in tandem for the successful and better implementation of the program on ground. The DDC also stressed on

prevalence of anemia/oth-

distribution of medicines like albendazole, iron and folic acid tablets among the beneficiaries The DC inquired about the institutional deliveries during the last year and asked the concerned officers to take the field staff on board to

educate the public about the mother and child care available in the health institutions and other benefits.The DDC said that POSHAN Abhiyan was a flagship programme of the Government of India to improve nutritional out-comes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Underlining the objective behind the formulation of convergence plan under Poshan Abhiyan, he said that the plan aims to prevent and reduce under-nutrition and stunting in children, reduce the prevalence of anemia/other diseases among young children, women, adolescent girls and reduce.

### 2-day SBI life recruitment drive concludes at GCW Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, MAY-12:-The two-day SBI Life Recruitment drive organized by the Career Counselling, Guidance and Placement cell of Government College for Women, Udhampur concluded today. The drive was held in collaboration with SBI Life Insurance and under the supervision of Prof. Jugal Kishore, Convener, Career Counselling, Guidance and Placement cell and overall guidance of Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of the College.On the second day of the recruitment drive, about 100 candidates appeared for the interview with a total tally aggregating to 197 numbers of candidates in the whole Recruitment Drive.Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the college applauded the efforts of the Career



Placement cell. She reiterated the commitment of the College to organize more such events in the near future to apprise and prepare students to face the challenges of the emerging Job Market Scenario. Earlier, the Principal of the College had a round of the venue of the Recruitment Drive and interacted and encouraged the students to participate actively and confidently. Students of the college, under the leadership of the college president Nee-

sha, and Radhika Sharma, Vice President, actively participated in the event. The NCC Cadets of the college, under the guidance of Prof. Kamal Deep Kour, also performed exemplary services in the overall management of the event. Prof. Yash Paul, Prof. Binny Kumar, Dr. Mohan Galgotra, Dr. Usha Sharma, Prof. Roopa Kumari. Prof. Rajinder Singh, Prof. Yash Kumar, Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Prof. Pooja Bharti and Arun Gupta were also

### DG Horticulture, Kashmir chairs review meeting of department

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Director General (DG) Horticulture, Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today chaired a review meeting at Directorate of Horticulture Rajbagh, here. At the outset, the DG was

apprised by all the district heads about the status of developmental schemes and other functions of the Department.

During the meeting, the DG took review of all the Departmental schemes particularly Modified High Density Planation Scheme. He further instructed the officers to ensure 100 percent expenditure within the set timelines.

Regarding the pest/disease management, he directed the field functionar-

community and keep close liaison and personally monitor the orchards. He further advised them hold awareness camps in the farmers' field and ensure implementation of plant protection advisory on community basis.

ies to reach out the farming

He advised the officers to improve the work culture and their work must be acknowledged in the field.

The DG highlighted the importance of updating knowledge and stressed on the skill development of all the employees of the Department which will subsequently improve the performance level of the Department. He further added that a training programme will be formulated, and necessary training will be provided to the field functionaries.

The meeting was attended by Chief Horticulture Officers, Horticulture Development Officers and other officers of the Department of Kashmir division. He advised the officers to improve the work culture and their work must be acknowledged in the field.

The DG highlighted the importance of updating knowledge and stressed on the skill development of all the employees of the Department which will subsequently improve the performance level of the Department. He further added that a training programme will be formulated, and necessary.

### What goes won the lower level in Consumers Affairs and Public Distribution (Food and Supplies )in District Poonch

By: M S Nazki

Mendhar:Two radical men, one a store keeper in the Sub Division Mendhar unit of the institution perhaps joined the department with only one aim, how to hammer the poor and make maximum money on them! That has been the unwritten but very visible fate of the poor dependent upon the department! But one thing the officials should realize, no matter how hard Evil tries, it can never quite match up to the power of Good, because evil is ultimately self-destructive. Evil may set out to corrupt others, but in the process corrupts itself. I have seen many corrupt men rotting towards the end of their lives, a thing that is Goddamn certain! In Sub Division Mendhar it is/was always on the dot!

-'There is a man who has done the job of a storekeeper all throughout his life! If he was so great then he should have been handling the Godowns of the CAPD (F&S) Godowns and ensuring that every poor got his share! His name is Mohammed Sadeeq and he is a TSO (Tehasil Supply Officer) A haggard, corrupt man in all the senses! If sources are to be believed then he has already made Lakhs of Rupees and is now on the verge of retirement! Why

not an investigation into his career, his signatures and what he did during his tenure? I will sum it up in one line: looted the state and the people, bungled funds and enjoyed a huge livelihood, his salary was just a bonus!

-'Profit should never come at the cost of human blood. Any official that places profit before people is pure evil. About this man we had informed Ranjeet Singh but he did nothing! The Assistant Director knows the best because he has a habit of just trashing the documents! At least for the last three years I have been seeing that! -'When people can get away with crimes just be-

cause they are wealthy or have the right connections, the scales are tipped against fairness and equality. The weight of corruption then becomes so heavy that it creates a dent that forces the world to become slanted, so much so — that justice just slips off.' This dictum fits in truly well with yet another man with similar credentials asw Mohammed Sadeeq '!

-'He is another Tehasil Supply Officer (TSO Mohd Khaliq! He loves Mendhar, despite being banished from Mendhar for his outrageous activities, attached to the Director (CAPD (F&S) Office in

Jammu he is back in Medhar! By the way his credentials are more dubious! In fighting for because one without the other would be hell. This is nothing but a

invisible fences that are between the officialdom and the people it is corruption

back and we have the details as to why and Khaliq was sent on a tumble because charges against him are several!

-His cases are in Police Station Mendhar and they all revolve around frauds and black marketing of rations!

-How is the Government tolerating him when he should be under the dismissal from service stamp? -Khaliq has been suspended and after being ousted from Mendhar he was attached to the Directorate of CAPD (F&S) and thereafter he managed a posting back. If sources are to be believed then he bribed his way through!

-Now What does the Assistant Director Ranjeet Singh have to say on this? Trust me the buck will not stop at him now!

-Rest is up to the DC Inderjeet to check into because the matter directly concerns the people! Assistant Director Ranjeet

should check into this and think on these lines, if hee can, whenever you stand up, for your conscience, be prepared to be hated, by the wicked. But never, ever, let that scare you. For whenever you stand up for people, you are loved! Just a small little writer who produced



fact it was Ranjeet Singh who discarded him as a joker in the pack!

-'Now is the CAPD (F&S) Department functioning properly in Sub Division Mendhar? The people say no but the administration says yes! What does DC Poonch Inderjeet have to say on this?

-'I read it long back, just like freedom, truth is not cheap. Yet both are worth more than all the gold in the world. But what is freedom, if there is no truth? And what is truth, if there is no freedom? Both are worth

game of rations for the poor and there is a department that has been set up for it! But are the officials in the department CAPD (F&S) doing their job properly! In Subdivision Mendhar they are not! The Director has to look into it as the people are a dissatisfied lot!

Power has always corrupted, my dear friends. Even the promise of power. It is a hard thing to look at through the fence for hundreds of years without wondering what it would be like on the other side. In District Poonch on both sides of the that is gnawing into their lives! The worst thing is to whom should they tell their sordid tale! The credentials of Moham-

med Sadeeq and Khaliq:
-Both are corrupt and it is not their age to redeem themselves! -Sadeeq is on the verge of retirement and the other

still feels that he has not got his complete fill! -Both should be under the screws because the bunglings that they have created are far too many! -Sadeeq was under the

cloud a couple of years

this but wrong in no way!

### Div Com Jammu takes firsthand appraisal of NH-44 works, preparations for Holy Amarnath Ji Yatra at Ramban

Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today visited Ramban to take firsthand appraisal of the ongoing works on four-laning of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and the preparations for the ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SAN-JY) 2022.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commission-Ramban, Mussarat Islam, SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma, SSP Traffic, NHW, Shabir Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma and Project Director NHAI, Purshottam

SDM Banihal, Zaheer Abbas and SDM Ramsoo Vaqar Giri were also present on the occasion along with all senior officers of Line

The Divisional Commissioner first visited Lambriefing regarding arrangements being made for the Amarnath Ji Yatris. He issued on-spot directions for setting up of all utilities and establishment of langers with required infrastructure.

At Banihal, the Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioner to ensure that ongoing works on the drain being executed by Municipal Committee Banihal is completed by May 15. He also directed SDM Banihal to ensure that all bottlenecks are removed in Banihal market for smooth movement of vehicular traffic.

the Divisional Later, Commissioner inspected the ongoing works on NH-44 which include the realigned package between Banihal and Ramban. PD NHAI gave a briefing on the three packages comprising also the realigned package that includes



tunnels and viaducts, especially from Marog to Chamalwas.

The Divisional Commissioner passed standing directions to PD NHAI to immediately install crash barriers and parapets on all uncovered locations and remove muck and debris lying on the road to widen the existing carriageway. The Divisional Commis-

sioner also directed PD NHAI to immediately start reconstruction work on the damaged Steel Tunnel at Panthyal, in order to ensure the safety of the passengers travelling on the

Emphasizing upon the significance of washrooms and lavatories on NH-44 axis, the Divisional Commissioner also inspected

NHAI has constructed six Mini Nests from Nashri to Banihal to facilitate the passengers and as well Yatris. While chairing a meeting of all senior officers at District Headquarters, the Divisional Commissioner stressed upon better coordination between civil and police administration for has-sle-free SANJY-2022. He asked all executing agencies including Jal Shakti, Public Works Department and JPDCL to ensure commencement of allotted works so that these are completed well ahead of the Holy Yatra.

SSP Ramban, SSP Traffic NHW, PD NHAI and the District Administration made power-point presentations regarding ongoing works on NH-44 and the arrangements being made for a smooth conduct of SANJY- 2022. The Deputy Commissioner informed

sioner that 271 temporary toilets are being constructed between Nashri and Banihal on NH-44 for the comfort of the passengers and yatris. As many as 13 lodgment centres and 34 langer sites have also been finalized, he added.Later, the Divisional Commissioner inspected the ongoing works at SASB Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote where he passed directions to CPWD for immediate completion of the project by May 20. He also visited Rahat Centre at Dhalwas along with langer sites at Nashri and Chanderkote. He was also briefed by the engineers of CPWD about the facilities being created at the SASB Yatri Niwas which include 17 dormi-

tories having capacity of more than 3000 yatris. During the visit, the Di-

Commissioner impressed upon complete

#### **Viral Stunt Biker Challaned for dangerous** driving and other relevant Traffic Violations

JAMMU, 12 May 2022:Traffic police City Jammu cracked on the biker bearing reg no. JK02BR5164 for performing stunt at public place and also for rash driving withou Helmet.E-court challan under relevant sections has been done to the concerned Biker with the warning to produce before the traffic police.On the directions of SSP traffic Jammu Dr Koshal Sharma JKPS a Challan no. JK91296220512165454 has been served to the violator by DTI Kapil Manhas under supervision of DySP Traffic Neeraj Padyar.

It is further advised by SSP traffic city Jammu that traffic rules should be followed properly on roads and stunt driving /rash driving is not acceptable at all.

### Yuva Tourism Club GDC Majalta visits Bhagavati Temple Manwal

UDHAMPUR, MAY 12: The student members of newly established Yuva Tourism Club of Government Degree College, Majalta today visited eleventh century Bhagavati Temple in Manwal-a small town surrounded by Shivalik Hills and bardly caven kilometers away from the college Hills and hardly seven kilometers away from the college

A group of 28 students along with the Teachers in charge Dr. Parveen Kumari and Dr. Imran Hussain Shah visited the site and educated the students about history of the temple and other historical monuments.

A few students knew about the historical Temple and most

of them visited the site for the first time.

Principal of the College Dr B B Anand, flagged off the "Yuva Tourism Club". He said that the basic idea behind this initiative was to make aware the student community about our diversity, values and preservation of culture.

### R&B team inspects progress of road projects in Chilly Bhalesa

GANDOH, MAY 12: Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Special division Gandoh Bhalessa, Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmed today inspected the progress of R&B roads in Chilly Bhala area and listened to the grievances of the

During the visit, he directed the R&B officials for close monitoring of work to ensure timely completion of roads, buildings and bridges. The Ex En directed concerned officials to prepare compensation and monitor ongoing works on Chilly Pai to Chilly Bala road.

He also asked contractors to stick to the timelines set for completion of the allotted works by maintaining the

Among others accompanying the Ex En were AE R&B, JE R&B, Serpanch Chilly Bala Sheikh Manier Ahmed, besides field staff of the concerned departments..

#### Director SHD Jammu inspects departmental activities in Rajouri district

JAMMU, MAY 12: Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu, Krishan Lal today took a detailed review of departmental activities being undertaken for welfare of the farming community in Rajouri during a daylong tour of the

During the tour, the Director inspected harvesting and bal-ing operations being undertaken in Fodder Development Farm at Lam. He directed the concerned to be vigilant to prevent any attempt of encroachment on the farm land and ensure protection of crop from stray/private animals.

He also inspeted Veterinary Assistant Surgeon office Nowshera and reviewed its functioning. He asked the offi-cer/officials to work for the welfare of Sheep/Goat Breed-

During the visit, the Director was accompanied by Satish Kumar Sharma Deputy Director (Feed & Fodder) Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu.

### **Orientation Programme for** Handicrafts, Handloom **Cooperative Societies held at Doda**









DODA, MAY 12: The Office of the Assistant Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Doda, organised "Orientation Programme for Handicrafts and Handloom Cooperative Societies". The programme was organised to inform the Cooperative Societies about the demand and market potential of Handicrafts and Handloom products and self-re-

During the programme representatives of 19 H&H Cooperative societies, artisans and weavers participated.

The artisans/weavers participating in the programme were made aware about schemes of Handicrafts and Handloom Department viz. Credit Card Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme, Financial Support of Cooperatives, Scholarship scheme for Children of Artisans and Weavers registered with the department, Pradhan Mantri Weavers Mudra Yojana, Share Capital Loan Scheme and departmental training programmes. During the financial year 2021-22, 36 Cooperative societies in the district were provided an infusion of Rs. 18.00 lakh as financial assistance. Under financial support for Cooperatives registered in the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, every Cooperative society receives financial assistance of Rs 1 Lakh in two equal installments for two years. The Office of the Assistant Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Doda, organised "Orientation Programme for Handicrafts and Handloom Cooperative Societies". The programme was organised to inform the Cooperative Societies about the demand and market potential of Handicrafts and Handloom products and self-reliance schemes. During the programme representatives of 19 H&H Cooperative societies, artisans and weavers participated.

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### DC Udhampur holds interaction with media persons

UDHAMPUR, MAY 12: Commissioner, Krittika Jyotsna today convened an interaction meeting with media persons here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by District Information Officer Udhampur Rajinder Kumar Digra, besides media persons representing different print and electronic media organisations. They highlighted different issues being faced by the media and general public

of the District.

Detailed discussions were held to ensure better coordination between the district administration and media agencies to facilitate dissemination of factual information through

Suggestions were also sought from the media persons for addressing the problems being faced by them in connection with the dissemination of developmental activities being carried out in the district. Speaking on the occa-

implementation of govern-ment welfare schemes and other activities. She said that journalists should be aware of welfare schemes government programmes so that they can report the anomalies which will ultimately help the

public at large.
The DC said that the objective of holding the interaction sessions was to

sion, the DC thanked to

the media persons and ex-

tended her best wishes to

them. She added that print

and electronic media were

playing a vital role in get-ting public feedback on the

ensure that the information regarding the developmental activities in the district can be disseminated in an effective manner

During the interaction, the DC listened to the demands and issues of media persons and assured them all possible help from the administration. district Deputy Commissioner, Krittika Jyotsna today convened an interaction meeting with media persons here at Conference Hall

DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by District Information Of-ficer Udhampur Rajinder

Kumar Digra, besides media persons representing different print and electronic media organisations. They highlighted different issues being faced by the media and general public of the District.

Detailed discussions were held to ensure better coordination between the district administration and media agencies to facilitate dissemination of factual information through media.

Suggestions were also sought from the media persons for addressing the problems being faced by them in connection with the dissemination of developmental activities being carried out in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC thanked to the media persons and ex-tended her best wishes to them. She added that print and electronic media were playing a vital role in getting public feedback on the implementation of govern-ment welfare schemes and

### **CMO Jammu inspects functioning of** health institutions in Dansal block



JAMMU, MAY 12: Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Dr Harbaksh Singh today visited PHC Jindrah, PHC Dansal, Sub Centres Dhan, Kahpohta and Badsoo and took stock of their functioning. He was accompanied by Block Medical Officer Dansal, Dr Manzoor Hussain, Dr Meenakshi Manhas and R K Chadha.

During the visit of the team, the Land for Sub centre Dhan was also demarcated by Naib Tehsildar and Patwari in presence of Sarpanch, Ex Sarpanch and rest of their team. The matter that had been lingering on for the past many years, was resolved and the revenue department was asked to prepare papers for transfer of land along with papers of approach road donated by two local villagers unconditionally.

Later, a meeting was held with Block ASHA Coordinator and ASHA Facilitators at Block Head Quarter Dansal in which they were directed to increase the updating of work done along with all other parameters on respective portals.

### Poonch: Mission Youth activities reviewed at DLTF meeting

District Level Task Force (DLTF) on Mission youth today approved Mission Youth Plan 2022-23 at its meeting chaired by District Development Commissioner Poonch, Inder

The plan, among other things envisages skill enhancement/development of 6500 identified unemployed youth of different youth clubs.

The DLTF also deliberated on the targets set to be achieved under the Livelihood generation scheme of mission youth.

The plan targets to benefit 150 youth under MUM-KIN-livelihood generation scheme, 150 under spurring entrepreneurship initiative, 300 under Tescheme meant

POONCH MAY 12: The to encourage female entrepreneurship, 150 for SAHAYTA program, 10 for young innovators program, 20 for sector specific scheme for dental professionals, 10 for Rise together program.

The meeting further decided that all other departments who are implementing different livelihood generation programs of the government shall ensure 40 percent benefit of these programmes to members of the youth clubs in the age group of 18-35 years. Further all departments, within 2 days, shall notify a Nodal Contact point for information dissemination, Q&A and feedback related to all departmental activities especially self employment schemes for

the awareness of the mem-



bers of the youth clubs of partments shall notify the monthly activity calendar for conducting activities at each youth club.

Regarding young innovators a Committee under the chairmanship of Principal Government Degree College Poonch shall be constituted for the screening and finalization of propos-

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commission-er, Abdul Sattar, DSEO, officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Handicraft, Handloom, FCS&CA Department, Information, Animal Husbandry, Employment, Lead Bank, MSME, Education, Medical departments.

### **DC Kathua distributes Sewing Machines among poor Women** under District Red Cross fund

KATHUA, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey today handed over sewing machines to Priority Households (PHH)/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries here at a brief ceremony held in the Conference Hall of DC office complex.

The Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman of District Red Cross Society, said the move aims to create avenues of growth through capacity building and skill development. He said that the District Social Welfare Depart-

ment has been entrusted with the responsibility to hone the skills of identified beneficiaries to enable them to work as a Self Help Group.

Pertinently, the District Red Cross unit has roped in PRIs to identify women belonging to poor (PHH/ AAY) background who have knowhow about basic skills required for operating Sewing Machines so that they can become self-reliant and use their skill set for Sustainable livelihood.

### **SOCIAL WELFARE DEPT ORGANISES ORAL HEALTH CAMP**

JAMMU, MAY. 12: Kitab Aur Kalam Foundation & District Social welfare department collaborated to organise a dental camp today under the banner of 'Dant upchar Aapke Dwar' at Bal Aashram and Naari Niketan, R.S Pura, Jammu. The main motive of this camp was to spreadawareness among the children about the importance of Oral Hygiene. A total of 35 Students were examined during the camp and free toothpastes were distributed amongst them. Doctors presented an insightful demonstration about the correct method

the children. The organisers of the camp thanked Ms. Avny Lavasa (Chairperson, Red Cross Society jammu), Mr. Ajay Salan (District Social Welfare Officer), Mr Shashank Rawal (Red Cross, Representative),

and team of doctors in-

of toothbrushing among



cluding Dr.Himja Mengi, Dr Arshiya, Inderjeet Shan, Amit sharma, Guneet Singh, Jiya Gupta, Vanshika Gupta, Priyanshi Mahajan and Mr Pawan Kumar. They also thanked the management committee of Bal Aashram and Nari Nikten for letting them organise the dental awareness camp in their premises. Dant upchar Aapke Dwar' at Bal Aashram and Naari Niketan, R.S Pura, Jammu. The main motive of this camp was to spreadawareness among the children about the importance of Oral Hygiene. A total of 35 Students were examined during the camp and free toothpastes were

distributed amongst them. Doctors presented an insightful demonstration about the correct method of toothbrushing among the children. The organ-

isers of the camp thanked Ms. Avny Lavasa (Chairperson, Red Cross Society jammu), Mr. Ajay Salan (District Social Welfare Officer), Mr Shashank.

### **Editorial**

### **Worrisome effects** of urbanization

gricultural 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 insectborne and other infectious diseases that afflict humans.

Deforestation 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.

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 and animals.

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?

### **NO BULLDOZER RAJ, COUNTRYMEN WANT SHELTER FOR POOR AND MIGRANTS**

KRISHNA JHA

The 75th year of Indian independence, which the government named as 'Amrith Kaal' is marked by the growl of the bulldozers. It has become a day-today affair in the national capital where the authorities come with bulldozers to the neighbourhood of Delhi where the poor people dwell in huge numbers. Jahangirpuri, Govindpuri, Shaheenbagh, Sarojini Nagar- thus the list grows. It shows the class character of the RSS BJP government and its approach to the concerns of the poor. Shelter is a fundamental right of every human being living on this earth. For the BJP, that is easily forgettable if the victims are poor or Muslims. This is an outrageous violation of Article 21 of the constitution.

The Supreme Court of India has held that the right to life of human beings is not limited to mere animal existence and extends to the right to live with human dignity, including shelter, clothing, nutrition. The Court has also interpreted the right to be a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(e) and 21 of the Indian Constitution. Article 25 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that every individual has a right to a satisfactory standard of living, along with the enjoyment of cloth-

ing, food, and medical care. Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recognizes the right of adequate housing to everyone with a focus on continuous improvement in living conditions. Article 43 in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families discusses the right to access housing of migrant workers and their families.

new. It is a global phenom-

that has engulfed the agriculture sector, badly affecting the rural economy. People in large numbers are forced to migrate to cities in search of work, food and shelter. Thus, not only new neighbourhoods came into existence at the outskirts of every large city. Slums also have emerged where the most downtrodden among them are forced to live. Theirs is a bitter struggle for survival. Those human beings face all sorts of challenges, still they have become an essential part of urban life and Indian reality. The statistics with the government itself say that 6.5 crores people are living in around 108,00 slums (2011 Census data). It is every one's knowledge that the real numbers are much



above the official data.

In the course of time these migrated lot becomes inevitable necessity for the smooth flowing of affluent urban life even. They do all sort of menial labour for the households of the rich and the affluent. They are the drivers, dhobis, vendors, domestic workers, cleaners and plumbers, security guards, gardeners, rag pickers etc. for the urban life. No city can even imagine of its existence without the labour of these sections of people who constitute a major part of our workforce. On certain special occasions the rulers

praise their service using hollow adjectives. During the elections big leaders visit them as vote seekers and the next day they forget them. It is to their dwelling places that the bulldozers are sent

The authorities and the BJP leaders talk about unauthorized constructions. It is with this argument they try to justify their bulldozer politics. It is well known to them that illegal constructions are taking place in large scale in those areas where the urban rich are concentrated. Their malls, shops, offices, houses, theatres, etc. are built or

extended as and when they like it. Can the government say that all these big constructions are taking place as per rules and regulations? Bulldozer politics is yet another instance of the double standards followed by the ruling class.

There are different yardsticks for their law when it is applicable to the rich and the poor. Even while dealing with the so-called illegal constructions, the Supreme Court has specified conditions like proper notice and rehabilitation. In the case of large-scale evictions, rehabilitation

For the BJP rulers all concerns of human rights and democratic norms are insignificant. They approach the issue with political vendetta. Communal intolerance also guides them. They draw in faith and God into their demolition frenzy. Even though bulldozer politics hit at the lives and livelihood of the poor, irrespective of their religion, RSS-BJP are eager to paint it as a Hindu-Muslim issue.

Aiming at communal violence, their storm troopers are propagating rumours and cooked up stories. The ruling party that has failed in all walks of life is desperately trying to divide the people to hide their crime on the nation. Elections in 2024 is their goal. For that they intend to mobilize religious extremists as their vanguard. An analysis of the recent demolitions signifies this fact. The government should desist from its communally charged vendetta politics targeted against the poor and the minorities. They should heed to the reference made by the Supreme Court asking the Central government in a similar case "to act humanely, as is expected of a "model government", by not taking any coercive action against the occupants till their plea for rehabilitation is decided".

### HORN OF AFRICA IS FACING WORST ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS IN DECADES

**ARUN KUMAR SHRIVASTAV** 

he Horn of Africa, also known as Somali Peninsula, is making big news these days but somehow it's not reaching us with the same high decibel resonance as the Sri Lankan economic and political crisis or the Russia-Ukraine war. A geographical region that spans several African countries -- Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda, the Horn of Africa is in the grip of a prolonged and devastating drought.

region is facing the worst drought since 1981 – about the war in sight. Why? 40 years. The crisis has been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Now, at least 10 million children are, according to Unicef, in is a former actor and comethe "greatest danger" while 20 million people are staring

Stretching from Somalia to Tanzania and covering an who because of his training area of 580,367 sq km with is only good at playing to 48.4 million people, the Horn

of Africa is also the financial hub of East Africa. The region hosts about 67% of refugees who fled fearing for their lives from many African countries ruled by despotic leaders, amid tribal and fundamentalist insurgency. But except some media outlets, nobody really is caring for what is happening in these African countries.

Despite complete anarchy in a country of 22 million people, average Sri Lankans are still enjoying a much better life than those in the Horn of Africa. The mindless Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted top leaders from the Western world to poor rainy seasons, this Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital. However, there is no end to

> It's because the 69-year-old Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is a former spy of the dreaded KGB while the President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dian. Putin understands the reality of world politics as an insider, more incisively than 44-year-old Zelenskyy, the gallery. He is putting up



a good show but his people are suffering and for that reason alone his leadership is far from foresighted and consumate. His 44-year-old wife Olena Zelenska is also a screenwriter.

In Sri Lanka, 76-yearresigned as the Prime Min-After many consecutive make heroic appearances in ister on Monday, the day when the island nation saw the worst violence with eight people dead. His ancestral house was set on fire and protestors laid a siege and tried to storm the heavily guarded house throughout the night before. Rajapaksa who began as a lawyer and entered the parliament first way back in 1970 did not resign even a week ago when the situation had not come to this pass.

Mahinda Rajapaksa and his 69-year-old wife Shiranthi Wickremesinghe Rai-

apaksa who is a child psychologist are at a naval base after being evacuated by the security forces. Protestors have gathered around this security post and blocked the way to the airport so that The people had been taken

for granted for far too long!

Like Mahinda Rajapaksa, Vladimir Putin has also stayed put in the country's top position ever since he got there. People called him a dictator and accused him of rigging the polls, putting opposition leaders in jail, and even poisoning some of them. He once fired the Prime Minister he had appointed live on a TV show. Putin divorced his wife for 30 years Lyudmila in 2014 and had been in a relationship with Olympic gold medal-

ist rhythmic gymnast Alina Kabaeva, who is 38 years old The latest news is that

Alina Kabaeva is pregnant with Putin's third child with her. According to intelligence emanating from Alina Kabaeva's secret home in Switzerland the pregnancy is an unplanned one. Well, life is this part of the world is always glamorous

Another very important name that should find mention in this discussion is 44-year-old French President ful things about my wife. I call and tried to convince conference. him to reconsider his decision to wage a war against Ukraine. Then, when US President Joe Biden called Putin a "butcher" after meeting refugees in Poland, Macron cautioned the world against verbal "escalation"

of the war. Whether it's Islamic fundamentalism or climate talks, Macron has manhearts. He has studied philosophy and public affairs.

His 69-year-old wife Brigitte Macron is his former teacher and he married her as soon as he turned 18, and she 43.

When Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro made fun of Macron in a Facebook post, putting the picture of the French First Lady alongside his 37-year-old wife Michelle Bolsonaro, in the aftermath of the Paris climate talks, Macron lashed out at Jair Bolsonaro calling it "extraordinarily rude" and "sad".

"He said very disrespect Emmanuel Macron who has have great respect for the the Rajapaksa family can't just recently to the office Brazilian people and can old Mahindra Rajapaksa escape from the country. after the elections. He was only hope they soon have a the first major politician who president who is up to the engaged Putin over a phone job," Macron said at a news

> Bolsonaro who is a former military officer was enraged at Macron calling the fires in parts of Amazon rain forest as "international crisis" and Bolsonaro's inability to put out the fire.

After such a power-packed and glamorous "international crisis" from Europe, does the world have time for the crisis in the Horn of Africa aged to talk sense and win to call a global crisis? (IPA Service)

### Just IMF bail-out is not going to resolve Sri Lanka's deep crisis

**PRAKASH KARAT** 

he May 9 incidents of bought into sharp relief the deteriorating situation caused by the grave economic crisis which has gripped the country. The economic crisis has now engulfed the political system and the entire society.

At the heart of this maelstrom is the Rajapaksa family regime. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who wields executive power has pressurised his elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, to resign as prime minister in an effort to salvage the tottering regime. Earlier, the entire cabinet had resigned and a new ministry under Mahinda Rajapaksa had been appointed.

was responsible for the disastrous decisions that contributed to the economic crisis. The decision to cut taxes, which drew support from all

diose investments in vanity projects were all taken by the violence in Sri Lanka authoritarian regime which reduced revenues, disrupted agricultural production and in foreign exchange earnings and remittances from Sri Lankan workers abroad.

> collapse, the people had suffered in the midst of severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines and galloping price-rise. The unbearable conditions of life drove people to come out into the March 31, protesters gath-Galle Face Green in Central prime minister's residence. in these peaceful protests peaceful transition.

use in agriculture and gran-teachers, students, employees and trade unions

The working class has played an important role in the ongoing popular movement. The coordinating body added to the growing debt of the trade unions gave a call burden. The Covid pandemic for a general strike on April only precipitated the loom- 28 in which millions particiing crisis with the drastic fall pated. There was a second one-day general strike and with the stoppage of tourism hartal call on May 5 which saw greater participation including doctors, nurses Ever since the economic and other professionals. These strikes called for the president and the government, to resign.

Rattled by this militant strike action, president Gotabaya declared a state of emergency, the second in streets to protest. From just over a month. Curfew was imposed but the protestered and camped out on the ers defied it. The regime was truly at a dead end. The vio-The Rajapaksa regime Colombo and outside the lence that erupted on May 9 was the Rajapaksa's last-Thousands participated ditch effort to disrupt any



supporters to his official Mahinda Rajapaksa, residence. After a provoca-

ing and leaving the scene, his men streamed out and summoned his party (SLPP) attacked the peaceful protesters outside the residence. destroying their tents. They stop fertilizer imports for sections of people including instead of quietly resign- tive speech by Rajapaksa, followed this up by attack-

ing the camps at Galle Face wants an interim president ism and lay the basis for the and hundreds were injured and interim government till unity of the people with a with the police failing to act

It is this naked violence by the ruling party supporters bussed into Colombo from mendous executive powers. outside that sparked retali- He has to be held mainly ation. Thousands of people accountable for the economic gathered outside Temple mess that has been created Trees, the prime minister's residence, and sought to national security state that storm it. Finally, Mahinda Rajapaksa who had already resigned as prime minister and his family had to be rescued by helicopter and taken apaksa regime must be to a naval base. Targeting accompanied by a demothe houses of the Rajapksas, erstwhile ministers and parliamentarians of the ruling economic structures. The party followed, with many of them set on fire.

In the meantime, the main opposition, the SJB alliance announced it will not join any all-party or interim government under president Gotabava. They want Gotabava to also resign. The Left party, Janatha Vimuk-

fresh elections are held.

The demand that president Gotabaya quit is justified as it is he who wields treand for the authoritarian has been set up. The economic and political crises

are intertwined. The ouster of the Raicratic transformation of the country's political and executive presidency has to be abolished and the centralised national security state set-up dismantled. The neoliberal framework of policies has to be replaced by a propeople path of development. Rajapaksa clan will hopefulthi Perumana (JVP) also Sinhala Buddhist national-

democratic approach to linguistic and religious minori-

The Sri Lankan government is negotiating with the IMF for a loan programme. This will entail cuts in welfare, austerity measures along with further privatisation. The mainstream political establishment in Sri Lanka sees no other way but to follow the IMF dictates. But this is not a solution to the deep structural crisis. It is necessary to set out an alternative path - one which will protect the people's interests and also shield Sri Lanka from the depredations of finance capital. A rare opportunity presents itself for the Left and democratic forces in Sri Lanka to assert that there has to be a restructuring of the political The disillusionment with the and economic systems and rally the people to fight for ly result in the depletion of such a change. (IPA Service)

### Rabindranath Tagore spoke strongly against sedition law in 1897 on the eve of Tilak's arrest

the British oppressor rulers

crisply "public disorder or

the reasonable anticipation

or likelihood of public disor-

der". The judges concurred

that sedition would mean

resistance or lawlessness in

some form but if there is no

incitement to violence, there

is no sedition. The present

regime at the centre, 'saf-

fronite' government of the

Bharatiya Janata Party with

Narendra Modi as the Prime

Minister and Amit Shah as

the minister of home affairs

as also BJP-ruled state gov-

ernments travel beyond the

bounds of Sec 124A treating

non-violent and peaceful

protest as seditious- a ten-

dentious misuse often out of

cepts of sedition and nation-

alism are inter-related - both

postulating an exagger-

ated notion of love for the

nation or chauvinism .Little

wonder, Tagore was opposed

not only to nationalism.

but patriotism too in some

way. "Patriotism cannot be

our final spiritual shelter;

my refuge is humanity"

he said . Two of his songs,

Jana Gana Mana and Amar

Sonar Bangla are national

anthems of India and Ban-

gladesh but that does not

mean he endorsed national-

ism. Gandhiji in an obituary

to the poet succinctly wrote

"we have lost the greatest

Theoretically, the con-

political vendetta.

was Rabindranath and staunch international- nine members- six white ist who stood up openly at a jurors voting against and public meeting in 1897 at the three Indian jurors voting historic Town Hall of Calcutta, then India's capital in protest against the infamous sedition act, the day before it was first used -Section 124A of Indian Penal Code. It was the Sedition Act which was British rulers at that time Tilak for sedition—Queen Empress vs. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1897).

out an essay captioned Kanyears ago.. The very beginning of it, translated into risen to read this essay is the language of Bengalis, the language of the weak, language of a vanquished nation; yet our authorities are afraid of this language. One of the reasons of this fear is that they don't understand this (Bengali) language. And wherever there is darkness of ignorance, there is an eeriness of

blinded apprehensions." the Raj for writing articles plague epidemic in India. He simpleton. I am not desir- Majumdar vs. King Emper-

Section 124A and jailed for in his favour.

18 March 1922, for "bringing or attempting to excite disthe first protestation against affection towards His Majesty's government established introduced in 1870. The by law in British India." He was imprisoned for 12 animal shiver.' booked Bal Gangadhar months. Gandhi famously said: "Section 124A under which I am happily charged is perhaps the prince among Standing straight he read the political sections of the Indian Penal Code designed tharodh (throttled voice) 125 to suppress the liberty of the later metaphorically criticitizen. Affection cannot be manufactured or regulated English, read: "Today the by the law. If one has no language in which I have affection for a person, one should be free to give the fullest expression to his disaffection, so long as he does not contemplate, promote or incite to violence.

that the new sub-section of IPC might be misused by the colonial rulers that were paranoid and vindictive – a He was prophetic. In a chaste Tilak earned the wrath of Sanskritised prose, packed had snubbed the colonial with subtle innuendos and in his Marathi newspaper sharpness, he wrote: "I am ly for applying the tortu-Kesari criticising govern- neither rebellious, nor a ous sub-section, Remember ment's lapse in curbing the hero, nor presumably, a the case – Niharendu Dutt

Tagore said at his meting

high court for sedition under raised colonial sceptre and succumb to it accidentally. Tagore, the myriad- 18 months. Tilak was held But I do not know where and Lminded poet, thinker guilty by a jury comprising at which corner the masculine ruler reposes surreptitiously. I do not clearly know the place setting foot at which might lead me to be Mohandas Karamchand beaten by the ruler's mace Gandhi faced a trial in a ses- and be fallen. For, my ruler sions court in Ahmedabad on does not understand my language. Hence, his mace may blindly hit me like suddenly appearing meteor, crossing the limits of penal code, thus make inner senses of a weak

> At that time, there were several high class orators among national leaders who preferred to remain silent. The poet who cracked Nobel Prize for literature 16 years cised then. "At such a juncture, symptomatically it is benignly clever to remain totally mum and in our unfortunate country, many are away from their duties to play safe", he pointed his displeasure at roaring orators preferring to stay mum at their lair.

The bard ingenuously described the notorious subsection of IPC as medieval in nature. Indeed, it was frereflex of cowardice inside. quently used vindictively by the Raj. The Privy Council executive albeit infrequent-

was punished by the Bombay ous of being trampled by the or (1942) FCR 48. The Brit-nationalist who was humaniish judicial apex cautioned tarian."

A hard core humanitarian for which the motto of Viswa Bharati has been Yatra Vishwa Bhabatyekonedam (Where the world resides in a single nest), the muse introduced. Like Marx, he was anti-statist. The communist or socialist society (synonymous with cooperative societv) that Marx envisioned will be based on 'collective self-activity, while Tagore who campaigned for a cooperative society, driven by 'sammilito atmokartitwo') collective self-authority', pointed out Marx-scholar of international fame Paresh-Chattopadhyay in a talk delivered in Kolkata in 2011.

Social scientist and subaltern historian Partha Chatterjee in an article in 2016 in Economic and Political Weekly snapped fingers at judiciary "Our courts, so fond of the modus vivendi rather than clear interpretation, have shied away from pronouncing Section 124A unconstitutional but have, instead, in repeated judgments, emphasized the distinction between advocacy and incitement and insisted that mere speech unconnected to actual harm caused against the state cannot be punished under this law".

But for leniency by judges – an indulgence not all open to the judiciary-

and vindictive. The death of Father Stan Swamy in jail custody is glaring evidence. Ajay Datta, a human rights activist, associated with the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties and a lawyer, said: "Misuse of Section 124 A is nothing new. When the CPI was banned, it was misused. Thereafter too it was misused, but its misuse ever since Narendra Modi became the PM increased disproportionately.

Somnath Lahiri, lone CPI

member in the Constituent

Assembly of India (until 14 August 1947) spoke against the Sedition and demanded its non-inclusion in his speech on 29 April, 1947. The CPI leaders were continuously harassed in the course of the freedom movement. Lahiri a great orator mentioned the pernicious impact of the 1870's British statute and appealed to the leaders of the Congress who were going to form the first Government in independent India to do away with the sedition law. His appeal was unheeded by the Congress Government after it came to power in August 1947. In the 75th year of independence, finally, the Supreme Court has kept the 124A section of the statute in abeyance till the centre comes out with its review before the next hearing in the third week of July this year. This is a big step the saffron rule could not forward but the abrogation poet of our age ...an ardent be increasingly oppressive of the statute is still not final.

### **SUPREME COURT ORDER ON MADHYA PRADESH LOCAL BODIES POLL IS A JOLT TO BJP**

#### **LS HERDENIA**

upreme Court's direction to hold local bodies elections without reservation for OBCs has created serious dilemma for the BJP led Madhya Pradesh Government. The BJP was very keen that seats in local bodies should be reserved for OBCs. It is the considered opinion of the BJP that OBCs constitute solid base for the party.

The term of all the local bodies ended in 2019. The Congress Government issued notification for the elections in 2019. But elections got delayed due to some or other reasons. Meanwhile Congress Government was overthrown. The BJP Government, which succeeded Congress Government did not hold election making Corona an excuse. Meanwhile some other problems cropped up and elections continued to be delayed. Nearly pulling up the state Government for the inordinate delay in holding elections the Supreme Court directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) to issue a poll programme for local bodies within two weeks. Saying more than 23,363 such bodies are functioning without elected representatives for the last over two years and this is bordering on a 'break

The apex court said the ongoing activity of delimitation or formation of the ward cannot be a legitimate ground to be set forth by any authority to not discharge its constitutional obligation in notifying the election programme at the opportune time and to ensure that the elected body is installed before the expiry of five years term of the outgoing body.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar noted that until the triple test formality is completed "in all respects" by the state government no reservation for the OBCs can be provisioned.

'Therefore we direct the SEC by the way of an interim order to issue an election programme without any further delay on the basis of the wards as per the delimitation done in the concerned local bodies when the elections had become due consequent to the expiry of five years term of the outgoing elected body or before coming into force of the impugned amendment Act(s) whichever is later" it said.

Soon after the Supreme Court's directive to conduct panchayat polls in the state without OBC reservation, CM Shivrai Singh Chouhan said that the government will file a review petition. "The honourable apex court's decision has come. We have not studied the details of the order. So that Panchayat elections are held with OBC reservations. We will file a review petition and appeal that the local body polls are conducted with OBC quota". CM Chouhan said. Former CM Kamal Nath said "The anti-OBC face of the Shivraj government has been revealed once again. The government did not want the OBC category to get benefits of any reservation, so all conspiracies were being plotted

Looking to the seriousness of the issue and the importance for the BJP, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan rushed to New Delhi with two of his cabinet colleagues to discuss the legalities of the OBC reservation issue with solicitor general Tushar Mehta and senior party leaders.

OBC reservation is at the centre stage in Madhya Pradesh after the Supreme Court ruling. Chouhan, who was scheduled on a visit abroad, from May 14 to attract investments has cancelled it to discuss the nuances of the Supreme Court decision. Home minister Narottam Mishra and urban development and housing minister Bhupendra Singh accompanied the CM to New Delhi.

In a tweet the CM said that the government was committed for sufficient OBC reservation in local bodies and panchayat elections and will make all possible efforts towards securing it. Every legal issue on the subject would be discussed in detail.

Although the Chief Minister is making all out effort to file review petition, legal experts term it a fruitless attempt. In view of this SEC has initiated necessary procedure to hold election within the stipulated period. Since SEC is a statutory body it need not wait government's direction. Moreover it is important to note the Supreme Court's direction is to the SEC and it is duty bound t carry out SC's order.

In view of this position it is learnt that the Commission is expected to notify election schedule by May 24. The commission is also expected to complete elections before June 30. Meanwhile both BJP and Congress have indicated that they will allot 27 percent seats to OBC candidates. The BJP also announced that it will try to allot more than 27 percent seats to OBC

### PANDEMIC HAS HAD DEVASTATING IMPACT ON LEARNING OF INDIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

**K R SUDHAMAN** 

Das said recently it manner. The pandemic had will spill over to next decade impacted working mothers for the Indian economy to as well as millions of them recover the losses that had were forced to leave their resulted to the economy as jobs. The learning losses a result of the Covid Pan- measured in terms of money demic during the last two odd years. Now the economy lion world over annually, has started recovering not only in India but also globally even though the pace is uneven. It has also posed new dangers to macro-economic fundamentals particularly Inflation which has, strangely, become both demand and ed, the pandemic, according widely across the world. supply driven. But one area to a McKinsey analysis, the School buildings in middle where not much attention pandemic made the tough income Latin America and has been given is the impact profession of teaching even South Asia, including India, of covid on education partougher. Teachers remain were fully or partially closed ticularly school education. under an unprecedented the longest--- for 75 weeks or Extremism ruins couple of level of strain, exacerbat- more. Those in high income generations as it impacts ed by shortages that have Europe and Central Asia working age group.

In the case of Covid, the partially bridged the gap. impact particularly to the school going generation and if immediate correctives are

larly the poor and emerging economies where the impact eserve Bank of India is more and correctives not Governor Shaktikanta forthcoming in an urgent could be as high as \$1.6 trilwhich could be as high as 0.9 per cent of World GDP. The losses could go up to as high

plagued school systems.

impact may not be that demic has taken a substansevere as digital learning tial toll on students' academic progress as well as Nevertheless it has had an their mental health. School remote and hybrid learning systems need to respond across multiple horizons to help students get back not put in place, there is a on track. In one of its latest possibility of a whole genera-reports, McKinsey examined significantly. This includtion getting wasted. This is the impact of Covid 19 pan- ed India and other South losses of \$1.6 trillion, 0.9 per true of all countries particudemic on student learning Asian countries apart from



and well-being and identify potential considerations for school systems as they supas 2 per cent of GDP annually port students in recovery and beyond. Among the key Not only school going chil- findings is that the length dren have been badly affect- of school closures varied were fully or partially closed McKinsey says the pan- for less time—30 weeks on an average. In low income sub-Sahara it was 34 weeks on an average. Access to quality also varied both across and within countries.

The pandemic affected

Latin American countries. McKinsey said students in South Asia including India and in Latin America students were on an average 12 months behind. The pandemic also increased inequalities within systems. Beyond the pandemic has had broader social and emotiative to set up a 1.75 lakh India may need 34 million tional impacts on students globally – with rising mental force to motivate school health concerns, report violence against children, rising obesity, increase in teenage pregnancy, and rising levels of chronic absenteeism and dropouts. Lower levels of learning translate into lower future earnings potential for students and lower economic productivity for nations.

McKinsey says by 2040, the economic impact of the middle income countries pandemic related learning meal scheme are now at delays could lead to annual cent of total global GDP.

The prescription to deal with this problem, according to McKinsey is to encourage reopening of schools for inperson learning while ensuring resilience for future disruptions. School systems should also encourage students, families and teachers to reengage with learning in effective learning environments. More importantly, a system needed to be evolved to support students as they recover from the academic and social emotional impacts of the pandemic, starting with an understanding of each student's needs.

In Tamil Nadu, the govto school. This is something other states too could emuto get back to school both physically and emotionally. In rural India in particular, many children who had become regular school going children because of the nation-wide rollout of noon used sitting at home and carthis issue urgently. rving out errands for their

parents and helping them out in their informal jobs as they themselves are in recovery mode. A study by the Azim

Premji Foundation suggests that as early as January 2021, more than 90 per cent of students assessed in India have lost at least one language ability, while more than 80 per cent lost a math ability. This pattern could be particularly challenging, since higher order skills are increasingly important in middle-income countries like India with rising levels of workplace automation.

Mckinsey's jobs lost, ernment had taken an ini- jobs gained report suggests people strong voluntary to 100 million more high school graduates by 2030 to going children to get back fill workplace demands. The pandemic has put existing high school graduation rates late, replicate and improve at risk, let alone the vast upon so as to make children expansion required to meet future demand for workers. If correctives do not happen immediately, the losses arising out of pandemic impact on education could be as high as 2 per cent of global GDP annually by 2040 and hence all countries includcross roads as they have got ing India needed to act upon

# South Asia should be made into a nuclear weapons free zone

**DR ARUN MITRA** 

n 1998 that is 24 years back on 11th May India carried out first nuclear weapon test under the Vajpayee government. The event was celebrated with fanfare; public was jubilant over that India has now become a power to reckon with. Those who termed the event as a step towards mutually assured destruction were ridiculed. But just after 17 days on 28th May Pakistan too did the same. Observers felt that Pakistan has become at par with India in nuclear weapons race. Mood of the supporters of nuclear weapons in the country got subdued. Some experts argued that India who had superiority over Pakistan in conventional warfare has lost that since both countries have become nuclear armed. Exact figure unknown but there are estimates that both have 100 plus nuclear weapons each. The nuclear lobby argued

that these weapons will serve as deterrent to war between the two on earth. Despite being rich in logue and confidence building consequences of limited nuclear countries who have been having natural resources, it is among the among the nations. Civil society perpetual tension since long. This poorest regions of the world in can play a big role in highlight- atomic bombs between India and hypothesis however was proved terms of per capita income, with ing the humanitarian impact of Pakistan, which would put over have the courtesy to meet with a but Mongolia set an example by

was war between India and Paki- here. Still countries of the region stan at Kargil front in 1999. Terrorism from across the border continues unabated. There was terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament after which armies of the two countries were face to face on high alert with fear of use of nuclear weapons looming large. Possession of nuclear weap-There were skirmishes between the two at Galwan in June 2020. Now the nuclear lobby is actively propagating that if Ukraine had nuclear weapons, Russia would have not attacked.

South Asia comprises of eight nations: India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and the island nations Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Although South Asia occupies only 3.4% of the world's land area, the region is home to approximately 24% of the world's population, making it the most densely populated place

wrong as in about a year there 40% of the world's poor living especially India and Pakistan spend lot on arms race. Expenditure on nuclear weapons adds to their defence budget. As a result the countries of the region are left with little to spend on health, education and development.

Arms race in the region on the rise. With the ambition to become ons has not deterred standoff arms exporter India has already between India and China either. signed a \$375 million agreement with Philippines to supply supersonic shore-based anti-ship BrahMos missile system with a range of 290 km developed jointly with Russia. Reports are that more such agreements are likely to be signed with Vietnam and Indonesia. With China acquiring advanced weapons system India has the excuse to manufacture and export arms. After China made its first nuclear bomb in 1964, there was lot of pressure on India to build nuclear weapons.

There is need to reverse this situation through mutual dia-



nuclear weapons and build public opinion in India and Pakistan to join the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons and for diversion of funds from arms race to development.

The peace movements have multifaceted tasks ahead. They have to build strong public opinion for disarmament. Medical peace activists have to explain how the arms race is affecting our health adversely. The message of the study by Dr. Ira Helfand, Co-President IPPNW on climatic war using 100 Hiroshima sized

be taken down to the masses as well as the decision makers.

Steps need to be taken for a lasting peace and nuclear disar $mament\ in\ the\ region.\ Structural$ drivers for war have to be identified and peace activities have to be designed accordingly. India has been the harbinger of the non-aligned movement, which was initiated by the first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru along with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia and Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. The basic thrust of this movement has been non alignment from any blocks, based on the principle of respect to sovereignty and integrity of other nations. India also proposed the Rajiv Gandhi action plan for nuclear disarmament in 1988.

However given the aggressive nationalism and macho approach towards militarization, the task of peace making has become all the more difficult. India and Pakistan have not been receptive to the idea of nuclear disarmament. and strengthening confidence as NWFZ and put pressure on the The ministers of the present government at the centre did not cept covers the regional areas

two billion people at risk, has to delegation from IPPNW, a Nobel Laureate organization, in March 2018 at the time of an international seminar on the TPNW in New Delhi. Previously, all ministers, including the President and

the Prime Minister, had shown a

willingness to engage with such

delegations. Under these circumstances it has become important to initiate discussion on making south Asia a Nuclear Weapons free Zone (NFZ). Presently such zones exist in Latin America, Caribbean, South Pacific, Southeast Asia, whole of African continent and Central Asia which cover 39% of world population.

Chairman of an NGO, Blue Banner, Dr. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia is quite vocal on the necessity of Nuclear-weaponfree zones (NWFZs). According to him these are recognized as important and practical regional measures of non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWSs) in promoting the goals of nuclear non-proliferation among states. Whereas the con-

declaring its territory as a single state Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in 1992.

It is imperative for the nonnuclear states in the south Asian region to build pressure on India and Pakistan to abolish their nuclear weapons and make the region NWFZ. With a long history of non-alignment and with people of India and Pakistan having same cultural values and language, even relations they will be overwhelmed with the idea. Peace activists and organisations have to carry it forward and initiate a dialogue on the issue. This appears to be a task difficult but not impossible. Humanitarian benefits for this would be manifold. It is well known now that nuclear weapons could not save us from Pandemic. They have utterly failed to even alleviate poverty and hunger so much rampant in our region. Even if India and Pakistan are unwilling, other non-nuclear weapons countries of the region can declare south Asia two countries.

The writer is Co-President,

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### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### Prime focus...

document ensures availability of complete gamut of healthcare services in primary, secondary and tertiary care centers to people of the UT.

 ${\bf Meanwhile, the \ new \ Unani \ Medical \ College \ and \ Hospital}$ has been set up with a cost of Rs 32.50 crore at Ganderbal with financial assistance of Rs 17 crore from the Ministry of Ayush under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Rs 18.25 crore from the J&K government and Rs 38.82 lakh under National AYUSH Mission to make the college operational.

The college has an intake capacity of 60 students in BUMS course besides having hospital of 60 bedded facilities.

Notably, AYUSH ministry has sanctioned several other projects in J&K under National AYUSH Mission and erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes including a Government Ayurvedic Medical College at Akhnoor, five 50 bedded integrated Ayush Hospitals in the districts of Kupwara, Kulgam, Kishtwar, Kathua and Samba besides upgrading existing infrastructure of 35 standalone Ayush dispensaries and promoting 571 Ayush dispensaries as health and wellness centers in a phased manner under the flagship programme of Ayushman Bharat by 2023-24.

Speaking on transformation taking place in health sector of J&K, Lieutenant Governor said that the government is introducing new reforms for developing a balanced healthcare ecosystem that promotes social equality besides ensuring easily accessible quality health facilities for all.

"This important stride in the healthcare sector truly symbolizes PM Narendra Modi's vision of self-reliance, achieving cism from mainstream parties in the Valley. excellence in modern health facilities for remote locations and reducing the urban-rural divide to deliver services at people's doorsteps", added the LG.

LG maintained that 'Our efforts of reforming the healthcare sector have been impressive. We have addressed the health infrastructure issues with a comprehensive and long term national vision under the guidance of Prime Minister and even the far-flung areas now have adequate, affordable and reliable healthcare facilities'

Jammu and Kashmir has one of the highest budget allocations in the country. Some of the worth mentioning health infrastructure projects included two new AIIMS with a project cost of Rs 4000 crore one each at Jammu and Kashmir the IAS in February 2020. He who took over as an election

Besides, seven new Government Medical Colleges are being established with a total cost of Rs 1595 crore, ten new Nursing Colleges with an approximate cost of Rs. 60 crore and 5 nursing colleges have been upgraded. Similarly, two one each at Jammu and Kashmir division and 274 projects under CAPEX are being carried out to create unparalleled healthcare infrastructure

Under AB PMJAY SEHAT scheme in convergence with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), nearly 55.56 lakh beneficiaries have already been registered. Besides, 1,592 medical packages, as approved under AB-PMJAY, are accessible to the beneficiaries of Jammu and Kashmir SEHAT scheme.

#### Militants shot...

at critically wounded in his office at Chadoora Budgam. "Terrorists fired upon one employee ... from minority community in Tehsildar office Chadoora, Budgam. He has

been shifted to hospital," a police tweet said. "The #injured was immediately brought to SMHS Hospital, Srinagar for treatment where he #succumbed to his injuries. Police said two militants were involved in the attack.

"Preliminary investigation reveals that 02 #terrorists are #involved in this #heinous crime & have used pistol for

committing this crime," the police tweet said.

A health official said the injured Bhat succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

'He had received four bullets," he said.

Today's is the latest in a series of attacks on migrant workers and local minorities in Kashmir.

Political parties have condemned the killing of the Kashmiri Pandit

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah said targeted killings were continuing. "I unequivocally condemn the murderous militant attack on Rahul Bhatt. Rahul was a government employee working in the Tehsil office in Chadoora where he was attacked. Targeted killings continue & a sense strongly," the officer said. of fear grows unchecked. My heartfelt condolences to Rahul's family. RIP," Omar tweeted.

BJP termed the act "highly barbaric, cowardly, and frusation by toproviste."

Valley to be... tration by terrorists.

"Strongly denounce the cowardly act by terrorists who fired at an innocent and unarmed civilian Rahul Bhat working in the Revenue department at Chadoora, Budgam, Act highly barbaric, cowardly and frustration by terrorists. Attackers must be brought to justice forthwith," BJP JK DRM Firozpur, Seema Sharma also accompanied GM NR. spokesman Altaf Thakur said.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha strongly condemned the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit after he was shot dead by militants in Budgam district.

Speaking over the matter, LG said, "Those behind this despicable terror attack will not go unpunished. J&K Govt stands in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour

"I strongly condemn the barbaric killing of Rahul Bhat by terrorists at Budgam. Those behind this despicable terror attack will not go unpunished. J&K Govt stands in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief." office of Manoj Sinha issued a statement.

#### KP's hit...

Qazigund leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded for hours. A massive protest was also held at Sheikhpora, Budgam outside the migrant KP colony where women and male members of the Pandit community sat on Dharna in protest against the killing of Rahul Bhat, a KP employee, who was shot dead by militants.

A woman protestor, amid wails and shrieks, said they have not come to Kashmir to get killed. "Is this rehabilitation BJP has promised us? We don't want this rehabilitation. Police must nab the killers of Rahul. We also want to know why militants are killing us," she said while others tried to

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar visited Sheikhpora, Budgam to express solidarity and sympathy with the fellow colleagues of the slain employee. However, the protestors insisted him to bring Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to the spot.

"Why these killings are take place. Who are Kashmir Tigers, and why are they killing us," a woman protester asked the Kashmir police chief. "If they want to kill us, why don't they kill us all together.'

Another protestor said the BJP government has miserably failed to protect the migrant KPs brought back in the name of the rehabilitation package of PM Narendera Modi.

Many protestors alleged that the killing of Rahul Bhat at Tehsil office Chadoora, was a major security lapse. "How come militants managed to enter the Tehsil office and kill Rahul," they questioned.

Another massive protest was held along the Pulwama-Shopian highway outside KP migrant colony Nikas. "Fail Hai, Fail Hai, administration fail Hai" slogans were raised by the protestors. They said government is duty bound to

protect employees working under the PM's package. "Government should strengthen our security cover so that no such killing takes place in future," the protestors

demanding justice and protection to KPs working under agency which has constructed the road. PM's package

#### Six persons...

and vomiting. They were taken to a local District hospital Handwara ,he identified these persons as

Ab Aziz Shah s/o Gaffar Shah, Mushtaq Ah Shah s/o Ab Aziz,Shahil ah shah s/o Mushtaq shah,Khusboo Bano D/o Mushtaq Ah Shah residents of Sirajpora, Meharaj Ah shah s/o Reyaz Ah shah R)o Hundi Kupwara,Hajra begum w/o Ab gani shah R/o Kawari Handwara. While talking to HEAD-LINES TODAY Medical superintendent DH Handwara Dr. Nissar Ahmad, said that all patients are stable and besides a team with ambulance have been sent to the village and all the staff has been on alert to handle the situation. However, Medical Superintendent confirmed that they have received total six patients from the area and all are stable.

#### **New CEC...**

(CEC) on May 15. The 24th CEC, Chandra is due to retire on May 14.

Kumar's CEC tenure begins right after the delimitation commission finalized its order for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, recommending seven additional constituencies — six for Jammu and one for Kashmir — and taking the total number of seats in the UT to 90. It also comes at a time when the poll panel's decisions have drawn criti-

It will also pave the way for elections to be held in the Union Territory that has been without an elected government since 2018, when the Centre abrogated the erstwhile state's special status.

His tenure as an election commissioner has seen a slew of reforms, including multiple dates for voter registration and the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which called for voluntary linking of Aadhaar numbers with voter cards. During Kumar's tenure, the commission also began working on the concept of remote voting.

A 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Bihar/Jharkhand cadre, Kumar superannuated from commissioner on September 1 2020, after helming the Public Enterprises Selection Board for five months since April 2020.

Born on February, 19, 1960 Kumar acquired a slew of academic degrees including a B Sc, LLB, PGDM and an MA in Public Policy, and has over 37 years of experience working State Cancer institutes worth Rs 240 crore are coming up for the government across ministries at the Centre and the social, environmental, human resources, finance and the banking sectors in states.

Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner with effect from 15th May.

Kumar has also been director of the central boards of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), SBI and Nabard and a member of the Economic Intelligence Council, Financial Stability and Development Council, Bank Board Bureau, Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee and the Civil Services Board, among many other boards and committees.

Kumar has been credited with conceiving and implementing merger and acquisitions in the financial sector. He also has to his credit the streamlining of the National Pension System by enhancing the mandatory contribution of the central government, and providing freedom of choice in pension funds and patterns of investment and tax reliefs.

#### At least...

positive environment to accelerate the government's development initiatives.

"Dividends of peace have started reaching the people and they are further getting motivated to preserve and sustain peace", the officer added.

In 2021, security forces eliminated 180 militants, out of which 18 were foreign elements. This was possible due to synchronized intelligence network and support from civil population, he said.

Last year, 495 over ground workers (OGWs) were apprehended, while 87 OGWs were nabbed in the first four months

"Ceasefire violation, infiltration bids or any other misadventure attempted by the adversary will be met firmly and

Mehta and apprised him about the status of the ongoing works on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link

CAO construction Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail way Link (USBRL), A. K. Khandelwal; PCSC NR, A N Mishra;

GM Northern Railway briefed the Chief Secretary about the works that have been finished, or nearing completion, works under progress, and the adherence to the set timelines

to dedicate the project to the people at the earliest. Chief Secretary was informed that it is expected that Kashmir valley would be connected to the Jammu and rest of the country during 2023, providing efficient connectivity to Kashmir valley with other parts of the country by rail. The all-weather and cost-effective connectivity shall be a boon for economy of J&K.

Chief Secretary was informed about the work on the intervening 111 kms of Katra-Banihal section which is going on in full swing despite challenging and inhospitable terrain. While appreciating the Railways for the work done with

respect to connecting the Jammu and Kashmir region with the rest of India, Dr Mehta observed that the railway line will act as a catalyst for the overall development, progress, and prosperity of the region and shall play important role in rapid industrialization, movement of raw materials, boost trade and tourism, besides providing opportunity for employment generation.

Dr Mehta assured all possible support and cooperation from the UT administration to finish the project within the iven timeline.

General Manager NR also thanked the Chief Secretary for the UT administration's support that has been extended to the Railway for executing the several projects and finishing those in a time-bound manner.

#### Anantnag operation...

cordon and search operation.

"It seems the terrorists fled during the initial stages of the operation," a security official said, adding searches were carried out later but no fresh contact was established. Security forces later called off the operation.

Meanwhile, a massive combing operation was underway for a second day in Bandipora district in north Kashmir where a local militant who had infiltrated recently was killed on Wednesday.

A security official said the search was going on in the vast forest area of Salinder to trace the other members of the infiltrating group.

Police said Gulzar Ahmad Ganai who was killed at Salinder was a resident of Wussan Pattan, Baramulla. He had crossed over to Pakistan in the year 2018 and infiltrated back in the last week of April this year.

#### 1400 km road...

like NABARD and CRF by our department," he said. He said the roads constructed/ upgraded under PMGSY Protests were also reported from northern district of and NABARD are maintained mandatorily for five years Baramulla where KPs assembled at Pandit Colony Veerwan after physical completion under one contract by the same

"Around 310.30 kms of Village Roads are being constructed under NABRD and CRF scheme in the current Financial Year by R&B Department," Rafiq said.

He said that the R&B Department is in the process of adopting new emergent Low-Cost Construction Technologies in the field of road development and maintenance with ample use of Additives (e.g Evotherm) and use of Reusable Asphalt Technology to increase the Service Life and Durability of the roads in Jammu Kashmir and decrease the cost of construction of roads.

Questioned on the potholes that developed during rains, especially in Kashmir valley, he said, "Potholes on road surface are developed primarily due lack of care by road users and non-conforming usage of Bitumen Road Surfaces and inadequate surface runoff disposal availability due to geographical condition of the bowl-shaped valley areas which exist at lower elevations than the adjacent basin areas.

He also said that clearance of snow by non-conforming machinery like Loaders and Tractors without rubber rollers in the past also led to damage of roads. "In this regard, Field Functionaries have been directed to use Snow Clearance Equipment with latest technologies for prevention of any coherent damage to road surface and immediate stoppage of using loaders and tractors with shovels lacking rubber rollers/pads for snow clearance," he said.

The Chief Engineer said that in the current financial year, a proposal for procurement of snow clearance attachments for loaders and tractors for each division is under consideration.

Speaking on the complaints received by the department, he said that most of the demands are often presented as a complaint, which gives a different dimension to the issue. "I understand that demands in the shape of complaints generally outnumber the complaints in the real sense. The complaints of road commuters are addressed by the Grievance Cell established in the Direction Office and Circle Offices through offline mode," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that an online grievance portal in the form of the Governor's Grievance Cell is in place in the Union Territory and such complaints forwarded to any Government office on the portal are addressed on a

Rafiq said that a strong Quality Assurance, Control, and Monitoring System is in place. "Quality is assured by specifying the parameters ahead of time, and quality is controlled by performing the necessary tests to ensure that the parameters meet MORTH specifications," he said

#### Police arrest...

their possession. They were identified as Asif Rasool Khan and Arif Ahmad

Najar, residents of Beigpora Kralgund and Muzafar Ahmad Bhat of Kralgund.

Similarly, police intercepted a person at Liddermud crossing of Awantipora in Pulwama, who was moving in a suspicious condition. He was identified as Farooq Ahmad Lone, resident of Kulpora in Pulwama. During checking, one kg Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession.

The accused have been arrested and shifted to police stations. Cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and further investigations have been initiated,

#### Dubai based...

with a share of only three per cent among all fruit crops. Jammu and Kashmir boasts of around 80 per cent share of total apple produced in the country

Al Maya Group, the UAE-based business conglomerate, has more than 50 supermarkets in the GCC countries in addition to other businesses.

#### Govt to reopen...

were closed for a long time. We are trying to reopen 20cinema halls in different parts of the Union Territory and show 50 films in 5 days," Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, told ANI. He said they will show around 40-50 films in the cinema

halls. "This will spread in the entire Union Territory. The film festival will promote local artists. They will get the Training Institute, Jammu, in addition to her own duties, till opportunity of meeting renowned directors, actors, singers & lyricists," he said.

The five-day film festival will be held from June 15-20. "Around 136 countries have registered so far under the three categories of 'feature film', 'non-feature film' and 'music videos'. We have more than 40 award categories," he said.

Kashmir is perhaps the only place in the country where film festivals are being held regularly despite not having a single cinema hall. There were eight single-screen theatres in Srinagar. Of which four were in the sensitive old city. In 1999, the then Farooq Abdullah-led government tried to reopen the Regal cinema in Srinagar. But on the inaugural show, militants attacked the cinema with grenades killing one person and injuring 12 others. The cinema never reopened for the public again.

Later two cinema halls -Neelam and Broadway—tried to reopen amid tight security but they were unable to attract the cine-goers owing to security reasons. As a result, Broadway closed some months later. Neelam Cinema crutched along but finally had to close down in 2010. Cine goers had a narrow escape when militants attacked Neelam on September 7, 2005. Two militants and a policeman were killed in the attack.

Last year, Jammu and Kashmir government notified the Film Policy 2020. The sub-text of the policy is to reopen cinema halls and set up multiplexes

"For promoting film viewing in the cinema halls, it is important to modernize and upgrade the facilities and technologies available in the existing cinema halls. The government of J&K shall encourage the owners of the Cinema Halls to create modern amenities by way of various incentives. All the incentives to such Units shall be governed under the provisions of J&K Industrial Policy 2021," the policy said.

India is the world's largest film producer, producing over ,986 films per year with Tamil (304), Telugu (294), and Hindi (364) being the three largest film-producing languages. India is the 4th largest film market in the world which generates \$2.1 billion of theatrical revenue, contributing 4% to worldwide theatrical revenue in 2015.

#### **NEET-PG 2022...**

is lack of time for preparation for the aspirants". It had said that the aspirants are "confused which is affect ing their mental health too"

Dr Ved Prakash of IMA said "a reasonable minimum one month period" should be given to the students for preparation for exams in view of the number of subjects they have

However, some resident doctors said the COVID-19 situation in the country is under control and conducive for conducting the examination.

"COVID scenario in future is unpredictable. Though NEET-PG 2021 was postponed in view of the second wave of COVID-19 last year, we all have experienced the chaos it led to eventually. While the academic session 2021 got delayed due to various reasons, the current academic session 2022 has already been delayed. The exam was scheduled for March 2022 and was postponed to May 2022. Further postponement should be avoided," a resident doctor said

The Supreme Court is likely to hear on Friday a petition seeking postponement of the NEET-PG examination.

### Regional political parties' attempts to disturb peace in Valley: BJP

Jammu, May 12: BJP general secretary J&K and party in-charge for Kashmir Affairs, Vibodh Gupta Thursday launched a blistering attack on PDP chief Mehbhooba Mufti for making communal remarks to gain her lost ground in the Union territory and asserted that former CM Mehbooba Mufti is trying to ignite communal tension with her statements and speeches in the valley which is presently undergoing from a peaceful and stable phase.

He said this while interacting with media personnel at party headquarters in Kashmir.

Vibodh accused the Opposition parties of trying to divide the society in the name of caste and religion as the central government under PM Narendra Modi and the UT administration under LG Manoi Sinha have successfully fulfilled the aspirations of the people at all fronts.

Gupta referred to the LG administration's quick response and fulfillment of the demand of the JKAS aspirants for the restoration of age relaxation clause in the JKAS exam. He appreciated LG Manoj Sinha for staying connected with grassroots issues of J&K and ensuring good governance. He further said that top BJP leadership in the Union territory also advocated aspirant's demands to the LG office with utmost com-

#### CSC services...

Secretary, Department of FCS&CA, Jugal Kishore Anand, on behalf of the Department and Shahnawaz Rashid, on behalf of the CSC, e-Governance Services India Limited, in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Zubair Ahmad.

Government of India has identified few initiatives for leveraging e-PoS devices of FPSs to promote their financial viability. One such initiative is providing CSC services through FPSs. It is in this backdrop that the J&K Government entered into a MoU with CSC for leveraging e-PoS devices of FPSs to deliver their services.

This step can be seen as a win-win situation for all the stakeholders, particularly FPS dealers and the beneficiaries, as the CSC services will be delivered to beneficiaries at the door step, even to the far off places. The FPS dealers in turn shall earn additional revenue in shape of service-charge against the services delivered through their FPSs. Availing of this initiative has been kept optional for FPSs.

FPS dealers will collect the service-charge from the beneficiaries against each service delivered. The service-charge for each service on Digital Seva Portal has been fixed by the respective departments, while as the service-charge for  $\mbox{PDS}$ services shall be defined by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.

#### Government orders...

been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, against an available vacancy. In her place, Subash Chander, Registrar District Samba shall hold the charge of the post of Program Officer, ICDS, Samba, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Amarjeet Singh, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Accounts) Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department.

Ankur Mahajan, Principal, Excise & Taxation Training Institute, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kathua, against an available vacancy Wasim Raja Dar, Additional Secretary to the Government,

Tourism Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, against an available vacancy.

Sukriti Sharma, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Accounts), Jammu. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Principal, Excise and Taxation further orders, the order reads.

Shakeel Magbool, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (North), Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Recovery). Kashmir against an available vacancy. He shall continue to hold the charge of the post of Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (North), Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till further duties.

#### Snow clearance...

vital wooden bridges with steel bridges for a smooth yatra. Besides, three helipads for choppers from Baltal to the cave are also ready for carrying pilgrims.

The snow clearance on a portion of track from Sangam to Panchtarni is going on at full pace and will be made through within a week or so, the official added. Besides the tile work on the path from Baltal to Domail

has been completed and the work on extension up to Railpathri is also going on. Meanwhile, langer walas are also visiting the base camp

#### in order to take stock of arrangements made for them by listrict administration.

#### SC order...

hailed the SC order of putting on hold sedition Law, terming it historic. The genuine voices and criticism against ong policies of rulers cannot be repressed, Mir said. JKPCC President said that putting sedition law in abey-

ance is a bold step in right direction. A nation can no longer follow the colonial era provisions nor it can afford to supress the genuine voices under the garb of sedition law. There has been reports of abuse of sedition law on various

occasions, putting the law in abeyance is bound to uphold the law of land, besides ensuring that criticism against the wrong policies wouldn't be suppressed anymore, JKPCC President added

### 2 Agri...

case. He said a case was registered on a complaint against the accused on the allegations of demanding bribe of Rs.

It was alleged that the Complainant (a member of agriculture cooperative society engaged in sale, stocking and distribution) had filed an application with the Plant Protection Officer, Jammu for addition of pesticide products of certain firms in the license of his cooperative society.

It was further alleged that the both Plant Protection Officer (PPO) and Field Assistant, demanded bribe of Rs.15, 000 rom the Complainant for approval of his application. Later, the bribe amount was negotiated at Rs. 12,000, he

The CBI, he said laid a trap and caught the accused while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 12,000 from the Complainant.

Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused at Jammu and Kathua respectively. The accused Devinder Sharma, Plant Protection Officer

(PPO) and Raiinder Kumar. Field Assistant were produced in the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases Jammu.

# Diabetes almost doubles risk of death from Covid: Study

London: People with diabetes were almost twice as likely to die with Covid and almost three times as likely to be critically or severely ill compared to those without diabetes, finds a study.

The study conducted by researchers from the University of Aberdeen, UK found patients with diabetes had a significantly higher risk of requiring an intensive care admission and supplementary oxygen or being admitted in a critical condition in comparison to patients without diabetes. However, good control of blood sugar in these patients can significantly reduce this risk.

"We found that following a Covid-19 infection, the risk of death for patients with diabetes was significantly increased in comparison to patients without diabetes," said Stavroula Kastora from the varsity. "We also show that good glycaemic control may be a protective factor in view of Covid-19 related deaths," she added, in the paper published in the journal Endo-

crinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. The team reviewed findings from 158 studies that included more than 270,000 participants from all over the world to de-

termine how Covid affects people living with diabetes. The pooled results showed that people with diabetes were 1.87 times more likely to die with Covid, 1.59 times

patients without diabetes.AA Further, the researchers found that patients in China, Korea and the Middle East were at higher risk of death than



more likely to be admitted to ICU, 1.44 times more likely to require ventilation, and 2.88 times more likely to be classed as severe or critical, when compared to those from EU countries or the US. They suggest this may be due to differences in healthcare systems and affordability of

Diabetes is a serious medical condition where blood sugar levels are too high. In 2021, approximately 537 million adults between the 20-79 years were living with diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation.

The total number of people living with diabetes is projected to rise to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045. While diabetes increased severity of Covid, a recent study published in the journal Diabetologia, also showed people who have had Covid-19 infection are at increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. In light of the ongoing pandemic, strengthening outpatient diabetes clinics, ensuring consistent follow up of patients with diabetes and optimising their glycaemic control could significantly increase the chances of survival following a Covid infection," Kastora noted. "In light of the ongoing pandemic, strengthening outpatient diabetes clinics, ensuring consistent follow up of patients with diabetes and optimising their glycaemic control could significantly increase the chances of survival following a Covid infection," Kastora noted.

### These wet hair mistakes might be damaging your hair



New Delhi: We all take so much pain to take care of our tresses, from using organic, sulphate free shampoos, to getting hair spas every fortnight to doing DIY hair masks to get shiny and flowy hair. But there is one big mistake that we always look over and dont realise which secretly might be damaging our hair.

Most of the time we come out after washing our hair and start combing to detangle our hair. If you are one of those people then you are causing serious damage to your hair. Our hair follicles are the weakest when they are wet, combing them at this point will not only break them but lead to dry and dull hair.

A few wet hair mistakes:
Combing wet hair - that's the first thing we do after dressing up, the hair is too weak and needs gen-tle care. Rather brush your hair before you hit the shower, if you feel that your hair gets tangled after wash, apply a serum or light hair oil and then brush it with a wide-tooth comb. This will make detangling easy. Also, don't wait for your hair to completely dry off and then comb your hair, that makes your hair dry and lose the lustre. Always start from the ends, and work your way up. Hold the section of the hair you are brushing/combing in your hand. Also, remember to use a leave-in conditioner.

Vigorously towel drying - your hair follicles are the weakest when they are wet, they tend to break even at the gentlest stroke, imagine how much damage we cause when we vigorously dry them using a towel. Rather simply dab your hair with a towel and try to squeeze out excess water do not tie your wet hair with the towel it can cause dandruff.

Tying your wet hair - I understand keeping your hair open in summers can be really challenging especially when they are wet, the urge to tie them up in a ponytail or in a bun is irresistible but your tresses are so vulnerable when wet, your hair tie will be full of hair when you remove it and will form a dent in your hair. Avoid doing this at any cost, don't even tie them when they are semi-dry, wait for your hair to be completely dry and you are then free to style them however you wish to.

Using heat tools on wet hair when we are in a hurry, we just blast the blow dryer to dry our hair quickly but that's where we are causing damage to our hair. Wait for the water to drip out, put your dryer on medium heat, and then move on to a higher level to style your hair, just the way you like it. A simple step like this can go a long way. Also, the steam you see while ironing your hair should have major damage written all over it. Do not do this to your hair, this can burn your tresses and make your hair care journey really tough at times irrevocable. Let your hair be com-

### Early self-awareness of autism might lead to better life quality: Study

Washington: Individuals who learn they are autistic at a younger age can have a heightened quality of life and sense of well-being in adulthood. That's the finding of a new study, published in the journal Autism, which also found that those who learned of their autism as adults reported more positive emotions (especially relief) about autism when first learning they were

Findings suggest that telling a child that they are autistic at a younger age empowers them by providing access to support and a foundation for self-understanding that helps them thrive later in life.

For the first time, researchers directly investigated whether learning if one is autistic at a younger age is associated with better adult outcomes. Many autistic people - particularly females, ethnic/racial minorities and people with limited resources - are diagnosed years after the characteristics are first noticed. In many cases, autistic people do not receive their diagnosis until adulthood.

The study was carried out by a team of autistic and non-autistic students and academic researchers.

Seventy-eight autistic university students were surveyed, sharing how they found out they were autistic and how they felt about their diagnosis. Respondents also revealed how they felt about their lives and being autistic now.

One of the co-authors, Dr Steven Kapp, Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Portsmouth, was diagnosed with and informed of his autism aged 13. He said: "Students who learned they were autistic when they were younger felt happier about their lives than people who were diagnosed at an older age. Our study shows that it is probably best to tell people they are autistic as soon as possible in a balanced, personal, and developmentally appropriate way. Learning one is autistic can be empowering because it helps people understand themselves and also helps them connect with other people like them.' However, being given a diagnosis as an adult can often also be empowering.

Dr Kapp said: "Learning about autism at an older age is associated with more positive emotions about a diagnosis - especially relief. This finding makes sense, although emotional reactions are often very complex and unique to each person - there has been a lot of emerging research showing that relief is a common response to an autism diagnosis in adulthood.

### Want to stay young forever? Researchers develop method that reverses ageing in human skin cells by 30 years



UK researchers have developed a method to 'time jump' human skin cells by 30 years, turning back the ageing clock for cells without losing their specialised function. The team from the Babraham Institute at University of

Cambridge has been able to partly restore the function of older cells, as well as rejuvenating the molecular measures of biological age. Though the findings, published in the journal eLife, are at an early stage of exploration, it could revolutionise regenerative medicine.

The new method overcomes the problem of entirely erasing cell identity by halting reprogramming part of the way through the process. This allowed researchers to find the precise balance between reprogramming cells, making them biologically younger, while still being able to regain their specialised cell function.In 2007, Shinya Yamanaka was the first scientist to turn normal cells, which have a specific function, into stem cells which have the special

ability to develop into any cell type. The full process of stem cell reprogramming takes around 50 days using four key molecules called the Yamanaka factors. The new method, called 'maturation phase transient reprogramming', exposes cells to Yamanaka factors for just 13 days. At this point, age-related changes are removed and the cells have temporarily lost their identity. The partly reprogrammed cells were given time to grow under normal conditions, to observe whether their specific skin cell function returned.Genome analysis showed that cells had regained markers characteristic of skin cells (fibroblasts), and this was confirmed by observing collagen production in the reprogrammed cells.

### Ignoring cholesterol, glucose levels at 35 may increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease: Study

ducted by the Boston University of School and Medicine has revealed that lower high-density cholesterol (HDL) and high triglyceride levels measured in the blood as early as age 35 are associated with a higher incidence of AD in the future.

The story was published in the journal, 'Alzheimer's & De-

"While our findings confirm other studies that linked cholesterol and glucose levels measured in blood with future risk of Alzheimer's disease, we have shown for the first time that these associations extend much earlier in life than previously thought," explained senior author Lindsay A. Farrer, PhD, chief of biomedical genetics at BUSM.

The researchers believed that although high LDL has been consistently associated with AD risk in many previous studies, the link between HDL and AD was inconclusive, perhaps because most studies examining these relationships were conducted in persons who were 55 years and older at baseline. This study was conducted us-



ing data obtained from participants of the Framingham Heart Study who were examined in approximately four-year intervals throughout most of their adult lives.

Correlations of AD with multiple known risk factors for cardiovascular disease and di-abetes (including HDL, LDL, triglycerides, glucose, blood pressure, smoking, and body mass index) were measured at each exam and during three age periods during adulthood (35-50, 51-60, 61-70). The researchers found that lower HDL (the good cholesterol) is predictive of AD in early (35-50 years) and middle (51-60 years) adulthood and that high glucose in the blood (a precursor of diabetes) during mid-adulthood is also predictive of AD.

"These findings show for the

risk factors, including HDL which has not been consistently reported as a strong risk factor for AD, contribute to future risk of AD starting as early as age 35," said first and corresponding author Xiaoling Zhang, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at

According to the researchers, careful management of these factors starting in early adultcardiovascular disease and dia-betes, as well as Alzheimer's." Intervention targeting cholesterol and glucose management starting in early adulthood can help maximize cognitive health in later life," added Farrer. Farrer also pointed out, "the

unique design and mission of the Framingham Heart Study, which is a multi-generation, community-based, prospective study of health that began in 1948, allowed us to link Alzheimer's to risk factors for heart disease and diabetes measured much earlier in life than possible in most other studies of cognitive decline and de-

### 'Oral hygiene can stop infections such as periodontitis, gingivitis'

Oral hygiene is of utmost importance and has been highlighted more so post-pandemic. Good oral hygiene not only keeps your smile intact but plays a significant role in avoiding more serious health issues like heart disease, diabetes mellitus, stroke, and respiratory problems.

Good oral health also enhances your appearance besides giving you overall positive health and confidence. Lt Gen Dr Vimal Arora, Chief Clinical Officer, Clove Dental, emphasizes, "Oral health holds more importance than one might realize. Timely dental care also often takes a back seat until problems start to appear as most people tend to ignore the importance of maintaining oral hygiene." Sharing his views on the

importance of oral health, Lt. Gen. Dr. Vimal Arora, Chief Clinical Officer of Clove Dental, said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has had a deep impact on overall health and wellbeing, disproportionately affecting oral health and access to care. We have partnered with brands



like Hero Moto Corp., Signature Global, Maruti, Sapient, and LG to extend our Dental Care Programs far and wide benefitting million-plus cus-Dr Vimal Arora further add-

ed that ICICI & Reliance Care are insurance brands helping in dentistry insurance for their patients

Dr Vimal Arora stressed, "Oral hygiene should never be taken for granted and travelling can never be an excuse to neglect oral care. With corporate travel on the rise post-Covid, Clove Dental has taken steps in the right direction to raise dental care awareness amongst people besides offering onthe-go dental services to the public at large."

"Thorough oral hygiene can stop plenty of infections such as periodontitis and gingivitis which would eventually avoid further diseases from making their way into the body," he added. Keeping accessibility and af-

fordability at the core of patient care.

### Parental domestic violence in childhood linked to mental illness in adulthood: Study

ccording to a new study by the University of Toronto, adults exposed to chronic parental domestic violence have an elevated prevalence of depression, anxiety and substance abuse disorders, and lower levels of social support than their peers who do not experience childhood adversity.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Family Violence'. The study found that one-fifth (22.5

percent) of adults who were exposed to chronic parental domestic violence during childhood developed a major depressive disorder at some point in their life. This was much higher than the 9.1 percent of those without a history of parental domestic violence. "Our findings underline the risk of long-term negative outcomes of chronic domestic violence for children, even when the children themselves are not abused," said author Esme Fuller-Thomson, Director of University of Toronto's Institute for Life Course and Aging at the University of Toronto and Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW).

"Social workers and health professionals must work vigilantly to prevent domestic violence and to support both survivors of this abuse and their children," added Fuller-Thomson.Parental domestic violence (PDV) often occurs in the context of other adversities, including childhood physical and sexual abuse, making it challenging to examine the mental health outcomes associated solely with parental domestic violence in the absence of childhood abuse.

To address this problem, the authors excluded anyone in their study who had experienced childhood physical or sexual abuse. The study's nationally representative sample ultimately included 17,739 respondents from the Canadian Community Health Survey-Mental Health, of whom 326 reported having witnessed PDV more than 10 times before age 16, which was defined as 'chronic PDV'

One in six adults (15.2 percent) who had experienced chronic PDV reported that they later developed an anxiety disorder. Only 7.1 percent of those who had not been exposed to parental violence also reported experiencing an anxiety disorder at some

point in their life. Many children who are exposed to their parent's domestic violence remain constantly vigilant and perpetually anxious, fearful that any conflict may escalate into assault. Therefore, it is not surprising that decades later, when they are adults, those with

a history of PDV have an elevated prevalence of anxiety disorders," said co-author Deirdre Ryan-Morissette, a recent Masters of Social Work graduate from the University of Toron-

More than one-quarter of adults (26.8 percent) who were exposed to

chronic PDV in childhood developed substance use disorders, compared to 19.2 percent of those without exposure to this early adversity.

However, the findings were not all negative. More than three in five adult survivors of chronic PDV were in excellent mental health, free from

any mental illness, substance dependence or suicidal thoughts in the preceding year; we were happy and/or satisfied with their life and reported high levels of social and psychological well-being, despite their exposure to such harrowing experiences in childhood.

Although the prevalence of flourishing mental health was lower among those exposed to chronic PDV in comparison to those whose parents were not violent with each other (62.5 percent vs 76.1 percent), it was still much higher than the authors had expected.

"We were encouraged to discover that so many adults overcame their exposure to this early adversity and are free of mental illness and thriving," said co-author Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz, Professor at Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare. "Our analysis indicated that social support was an important factor.

Among those who had experienced PDV, those who had more social support had much higher odds of being in excellent mental health."

165 countries to get Ayurve-da treatment," the minister

Mr Mandaviya urged every-one to share suggestions to strengthen the medical tour-ism sector and make India a 'Global Medical Hub' in

line with the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava', the statement

According to the Medical Tourism Index 2020-21 by

the Medical Tourism Asso-

ciation, India is currently

at the 10th position out of the top 46 countries, 12th in world's top 20 wellness

tourism markets, fifth out of

10 wellness tourism markets

in the Asia-Pacific region,

The treatment costs in In-

dia are 65 to 90 per cent

less than the cost of treat-

ment in America, it said.

In India, there are 39 Joint Commission International and 657 National Accredi-

tation Board for Hospitals

accredited hospitals, which

is equal to or better than

Global Quality Standards

and benchmarks.

the statement said.

### 'One Step' Portal Will Be Set Up For The **Convenience: Health Minister**

New Delhi: Seeking to give a thrust to medical tourism, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday suggested establishing facilitation centres at Indian embassies across the world for people wanting to travel to India for treatment.

Addressing a roundtable conference with senior IFS officers on Building Brand India, he also said that a 'One Step' portal will be set up for the convenience and to provide credible information for those from abroad who want to avail treatment in India.

Mr Mandaviya noted that India, with its high-end healthcare ecosystem and world-class medical facilities, has become an attraction for the whole world, a Health Ministry statement said.

"Today, people from different countries of the world are coming to India for treatment in large numbers. With an aim to further boost medical tourism, the Government of India has launched 'Heal in India' program under the leadership of the PM. Similarly, we have started the 'Heal by India' program. This will provide an opportunity for our medical workforce to travel all over the world and contribute towards a healthy global society," Mr Mandaviya said.

"We are committed to making India a global medi-cal value hub by further strengthening our traditional medicine industry and boosting 'Heal in India' and 'Heal by India' initiatives", he stated.

Highlighting the need to take steps to further strengthen medical value tourism, Mr Mandaviya suggested establishing facilitation centres at Indian embassies across the world for those wanting to travel India for treatment.

In addition, a system to get feedback or testimonials from people who are getting treated in India can be instituted. This will help us in making medical tourism, 'Brand India'.

Stressing on forging agreements with other countries



in the medical sector, the Union Health Minister noted that India has an agreement with Japan to provide skilled

Such agreements have also been made with other countries for skilled medical manpower. He said these kinds of possibilities should be explored to promote medical value tourism, the statement said.

"In the last few years, medical value travel has gained a lot of popularity and India is now one of the fastest growing medical tourism centres in Asia", he added. Highlighting the importance of the traditional system of medicines, the Union Min-ister noted, "India has established itself as the focal

point of AYUSH. Recently,

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has announced to launch 'AYUSH mark'. This will provide authenticity to AYUSH products in India and promote the traditional medicine industry".

A Special Visa Category has

been made for those coming to India from other countries for Ayurveda treatment. "The provision of medical visa and medical attendant

visa has been made with

### **Indian Army To Buy 12 More Weapon-Locating Radars For China Border**



New Delhi: The Army is looking to acquire 12 made-in-India weapon locating radars, which would add significantly to its defences along the China front.

The system, called the Swathi, enables soldiers to automatically detect the location from where enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets are being fired upto a distance of 50 kilometres. The system is capable of simultaneously detecting multiple projectiles which have been fired towards friendly positions. Knowing the location of enemy weapons such as artillery guns enables the Army to launch a counter-strike to take them out.

The Swathi radars, which have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and built by Bharat Electronics Limited, will likely cost the ex-chequer Rs.1000 crores if the acquisition is cleared by a high-level Defence Ministry meeting. The Indian Army has been using weapon locating radars for its operations along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The newly developed Swathi system was given for trials in the Army in 2018.

The Defence Ministry has prioritised the acquisition of Indian made weapons systems as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat project in a bid to cut down on imports while developing a domestic eco-system for high-tech weapons manufacture.

#### **Elections to 57 Rajya Sabha seats** on June 10

New Delhi: Elections to 52 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 15 states will take place on June 10, an Election Commission official has said. These elections will be crucial in terms of the Presidential elections due in July. Seven seats of nominated MPs are also vacant.

The maximum number of seats, 11, lies in Uttar Pradesh. It is followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu -- six seats are up for election in each state.

Elections will also be held on five seats from Bihar, four each from Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, three each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, two each from Punjab, Jharkhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Telangana and one seat from Uttarakhand. Of the 57 seats, the BJP has 23 seats and eight are held by

the Congress. The rest are divided between the BJP and other parties. After this phase, the strength of MK Stalin-led DMK and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party are set to increase. The terms of several Union ministers -- including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi -- are set to end and they will be up for re-election The tenure of many Congress veterans, like P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Jairam Ramesh and Ambika Soni are also set to end. Last month, the BJP managed to cross the 100 mark in the upper house of parliament following the biennial elections, becoming the first party to do so since 1990.

The party won three more seats -- one each from Assam, Tripura and Nagaland -- ending up with 101 MPs in the Upper

The Rajya Sabha has 245 members, the majority mark stands

### **Jharkhand Mining Secretary, Arrested In Money Laundering** Case, Suspended From Work

Ranchi: Jharkhand mining secretary Pooja Singhal earlier arrested and remanded to the custody of the ED in a suspected money laundering case was suspended by the Jharkhand government on Thursday, an official said. The ED had produced her before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court of Prabhat Kumar Sharma after two consecutive days of questioning by the central probe agency on Tuesday and Wednesday. She was sent to Birsa Munda Central Jail, Hotwar, on Wednesday night after the ED took her on remand for five days."The government has suspended Pooja Singhal with immediate effect under the provisions of All India Services (Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1969),

### **Supreme Court Issues Notice To Uttarakhand** On Bail For Hate Speech Accused

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to the Uttarakhand government on a plea of Jitendra Narayan Singh Tyagi, formerly known as Wasim Rizvi, against the High Court order rejecting his bail in connection with the investigation into the hate speeches at the Hardiwar Dharam Sansad held in December last year.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath sought the State's response on the bail plea of Jitendra Tyagi while observing that they are "spoiling the whole atmosphere"

"Before they ask to sensitise others they have to sensitise themselves first. They are not sensitised. This is something which is spoiling the whole atmosphere," the bench said while referring to the controversial Haridwar



Dharam Sansad event. Mr Tyagi, who was once the chief of UP Shia Waqf Board before accepting Hindusim, has challenged the March 8 order of the Uttarakhand High Court which

denied him bail. "File the counter. We are not concerned about what happened, we have to take the totality of matter, punishment, period of custody, etc.," said the top court.

During the hearing today, the bench asked senior advocate Sidharth Luthra appearing for Mr Tyagi, "What is the Dharam Sansad by the

Mr Luthra responded saying, "I am an Arya Samaji, I don't know. I have seen videos, people in Bhagwa kapdas got together and gave speeches".

To this, Justice Rastogi said, "Spoiling the atmosphere." Stay together peacefully, enjoy life."

Hearing the case, the top court also said that the maximum punishment for the offence he is charged with is three years and he has been in jail since January.
"For four months he has al-

ready been in custody. What further investigation do you want from him? It is already complete," the bench said. Mr Tyagi was arrested on January 13 in a case registered for offences under Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) and 298 (uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings of any person) of the Indian Penal Code. The High Court had refused him bail observing that he had made derogatory remarks.

#### Girl "Humiliated" On Stage By Cleric, Says Kerala Governor, **Ouestions 'Silence' Of Leadership**

Thiruvananthapuram: A day after slamming a Muslim scholar who allegedly reprimanded organisers of an event in Malappuram for inviting a girl on stage to receive a reward, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Thursday said he was "disappointed" by the silence of the political, social, and economic leadership of the country on the issue.

He also said he was sad at the silence of the leadership in Kerala."I am so deeply disappointed that the whole political leadership is silent about it. And not just the political leadership, even the others are silent about it. I appeal to the national leadership of every party to come forward and protect the honour and dignity of our daughters," Mr Khan said while speaking to reporters here."I believe I have said much more (than them)," he said of the silence of the leadership in the state. When a reporter pointed out that the person in question was a leader of Samastha which has around ten thousand madrasas in Kerala, Mr Khan responded that their numbers did not matter in a democracy or rule of law and it was not going to make him suppress his conscience."They might be having a hundred thousand madrasas. But because of their strength, I am not going to keep my conscience suppressed. They might be very powerful, but they have no right to humiliate, to insult, and to offend the modesty of a young talented girl."They might have any number, these numbers do not matter. You are in a democracy, in a rule of law. Be you ever so high, the law is above you. This is not merely a violation of the clear cut commands of the Qur'an. It is clear cut violations of the provisions of the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution," Mr Khan said.

### The number of districts in the state is increasing

At the inauguration of the renovated town hall. Chief Minister gave a certificate to the bureau-

State WBCS announces special allowances for officers. Mamata Banerjee praised the BDO and district governors from the stage. He especially praised the district governors of Purulia, Birbhum and East Midnapore. Mamata said, "The WBCS officers have done a very good job since the Ecovid period. Bureaucrats are the real face of the government. I keep an eye on who is working and how. The number of districts may increase from 23 to 46, "Mamata hinted at the annual general meeting of In Mamata's 'Now there are 23 districts in the state, then there may be 46. He needs more officers. Infrastructure is needed. We have the infrastructure, but "he said. Chief Minister Mama-ta Banerjee has said, There will be no more difference in the allowance of WBCS officers with IAS officers. The minimum special allowance for WBCS officers was earlier Rs 1,200. It is increasing to 3000 rupees. The Chief Minister has made special announcements for the officers who have reached the upper pay scale. They will be given a special allowance of Rs 10,000. In addition, WBCS officers will be examined every year

### Taj Mahal's 22 Doors Stay Locked, "Issue Should Be Left With Historians": Court

New Delhi: The Allahabad High Court today rejected the petition seeking an inquiry into the "history" of Taj Mahal. The court dis missed the petition which asked for opening of the doors of its 22 rooms to see "the truth, whatever it is." "The issues lie outside court and should be done by various methodology and should be left with the historians,' the court said. The plea was filed by Rajneesh Singh, a BJP youth media in-charge, before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court



that sought the directions to the Archaeological Survey of India to probe the 22 closed doors in the Taj Mahal to ascertain the presence

of the idols of Hindu deities. The petitioner had said that false history about the Taj Mahal was being taught, and hence the doors should such debates are meant for the drawing room and not the court of law. The Mughal-era monument is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the tomb of his wife Mumtaz. The constriction of the marble monument began in 1632 and took 22 years to finally be completed in 1653. The architectural magnum opus was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982.

be opened to ascertain the

truth. The court said that



historical Town Hall, Kolkata. May 12,2022.H.T Photo by SOURAV DUTTA

### Keashur's Milk Products

- Direct from the farm
- Pasturized and not boiled to have the composition of milk undisturbed
- Free from skimmed milk and export milk from other states like Gurdaspur, Punjab
- No chemical preservatives added
- Single source
- Best for babies
- Shelf life of 4 days.
- Glass bottle packaging prevents from any harm caused by plastic packaging





SRINAGAR, MAY 13,2022 Friday

HT WORLD HEADLINES TODAY

# **Every heatwave enhanced by climate change: experts**

PARIS: All heatwaves today bear the unmistakable and measurable finger-print of global warming, top experts on quantifying the impact of climate change on extreme weather said on Wednesday.

Burning fossil fuels and destroying forests have released enough green-house gases into the atmosphere to also boost the frequency and intensity of many floods, droughts, wildfires and tropical storms, they detailed in a state-of-science report.

"There is no doubt that climate change is a huge game changer when it comes to extreme heat," Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute, said.

Extreme hot spells such as the heatwave that gripped South Asia in March and April are already the most deadly of extreme events, she added.

"Every heatwave in the world is now made stronger and more likely to happen because of human-caused climate change," Otto and co-author Ben Clarke of the University of Oxford said in the report, presented as a briefing paper for the news media.

Evidence of global warming's impact on extreme weather has been mounting for decades, but only recently has it been possible to answer the most obvious of questions: To what extent was a particular event caused by climate change? The most scientists could



say before is that an unusually severe hurricane, flood or heatwave was consistent with general predictions of how global warming would eventually influence weather.

News media, meanwhile, sometimes left climate change out of the picture altogether or, at the other extreme, mistakenly attributed a weather disaster entirely to rising temperatures.

With more data and better tools, however, Otto and other pioneers of a field

known as event attribution science have been able to calculate — sometimes in near realtime — how much more likely or intense a particular storm or hot spell has become due to global worming.

Otto and colleagues in the World Weather Attribution (WWA) consortium, for example, concluded that the heatwave that gripped western North America last June — sending temperatures in Canada to a record 49.6

C (121 F) — would have been "virtually impossible" without human-induced climate change.

A heatwave that scorched India and Pakistan last month is still under review, Otto said, but the larger picture is frighteningly clear.

"What we see right now in terms of extreme heat will be very normal, if not cool, in a 2-degree to 3-degree Celsius world," she said, referring to average global temperatures above preindustrial levels. The world has warmed nearly 1.2C so far

That increase made record-setting rainfall and flooding last July in Germany and Belgium that left more than 200 dead up to nine times more likely, the WWA found.But global warming is not always to blame.A two-year drought in southern Madagascar leading to near famine conditions attributed by the UN to climate change was in fact a product of natural variability in the weather, experts reported. That increase made record-setting rainfall and flooding last July in Germany and Belgium that left more than 200 dead up to nine times more likely, the WWA found.

But global warming is not always to blame. A two-year drought in southern Madagascar leading to near famine conditions attributed by the UN to climate change was in fact a product of natural variability in the weather, ex-

### A Big Day For Sri Lanka After President Warns Of Anarchy



Colombo: Many Sri Lankans thronged buses in the main city Colombo on Thursday to return to their hometowns with leaders of political parties due to meet after the Prime Minister quit and went into hiding and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa warned of anarchy.

Hundreds of people thronged the main bus station in the commercial capital after authorities lifted an indefinite curfew at 7 am. The curfew will be reimposed at 2 pm.

The island nation, battling its worst economic crisis since independence, was gripped by violence earlier this week after supporters of former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the president's elder brother, attacked an anti-government protest camp in the commercial capital Colombo on Monday.

Days of violent reprisals against government figures aligned to the powerful Rajapaksa clan followed. In total, 9 people were killed and more than 300 injured during the clashes, police said.

Protesters sprayed graffiti over Mahinda Rajapaksa's home in a southern town and ransacked a museum dedicated to his father. They have vowed to keep up the protests until the president also quits Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down after the fighting erupted and is in hiding in a military base in the northeast of the country. His brother said on

Wednesday he will appoint a new prime minister and cabinet this week "to prevent the country from falling into anarchy as well as to maintain the affairs of the government that have been halted".

On Thursday, streets in the main city Colombo remained quiet, with some people venturing out to buy essential supplies. Later in the day, leaders of political parties were to meet the speaker of the country's parliament to discuss the current situation. President Rajapaksa has repeatedly called for a unity government to find a way out of the crisis, but opposition leaders say they will not serve until he resigns over his handling of the crisis.

Hit hard by the pandemic, rising oil prices and tax cuts by the populist Rajapaksa government, the island nation is experiencing its worst financial crisis since independence in 1948.Useable foreign reserves stand as low as \$50 million, inflation is rampant, and shortages of fuel have brought thousands onto the streets in more than a month of anti-government protests, that had remained predominantly peaceful until Monday.Sri Lanka's central bank governor said on Wednesday failing to find a solution to the crisis in the next one to two weeks would lead to power cuts of up to 10 to 12 hours per day, as well as his own resignation.

# Pakistan, US hold security talks ahead of FM Bilawal's visit

WASHINGTON: Pakistan and the United States completed their security level talks in Washington on Wednesday, days before a scheduled meeting between their foreign policy chiefs is scheduled to be held in New York.

held in New York.
Inter-Services Intelligence Director-General (DG ISI) Lt-Gen Nadeem Anjum spent three days in Washington this week, meeting senior security officials, including US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and CIA Director William J. Burns.

Neither side disclosed the details of these meetings, but the talks are believed to have focused on bilateral security concerns and the situation in Afghanistan, as

the US believes that Pakistan can help stabilise the war-torn country.

The last security level talks between the two countries were held in July 2021, when then-National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf met Mr Sullivan at White House. The Pakistani delegation had also included former ISI chief Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed.

Later, Mr Sullivan said in a tweet that their talks focused on 'regional connectivity and security, and "the urgent need for a reduction in violence in Afghanistan." The current ISI chief's visit followed an unprecedented deterioration in Pakistan-US ties, triggered by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's claim that

Washington conspired with opposition leaders to topple his government.

At a news briefing on Tuesday, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price rejected Mr. Khan's claims as speculations and lies, adding that the United States will not let "lies get in the way" of its bilateral ties with Pakistan, a relationship, he stressed, the US values.

"We are not going to let propaganda, misinformation, and disinformation — lies — get in the way of any bilateral relationship we have, including with the bilateral relationship we have with Pakistan, one we value," he said while responding to a question about Mr. Khan's claims.

### **US backs new South Korea leader on North**

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday voiced support for South Korea's new president's outreach to North Korea and reiterated that it was ready to talk to Pyongyang on rising tensions.

President Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative expected to take a harder line on the North, in his inaugural address on Tuesday called on his neighbor's leaders to give up nuclear weapons in return for economic aid.

"We have a new partner — a new president — in South Korea that is determined, working with the United States, to be very clearly engaged in deterring and sending a strong message of partnership between Seoul and Washington," said Kurt Campbell, the top White House official on Asia.

"And on that basis, I think we're prepared for any kind of diplomacy or engagement with North Korea," he said at the US Institute of Peace. Campbell acknowledged that North Korea has not responded to outreach by President Joe Biden's administration for dialogue.

"Recently we've seen a number of steps — military steps — and tests that we view as provocative," Campbell said.



The United States said last week that it saw signs North Korea could be planning a nuclear test, its first since 2017.

Yoon's predecessor Moon Jae-in pursued a policy of engagement with Pyongyang, brokering summits between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then US president Donald Trump. But the talks produced no lasting agreement and North Korea has shown little interest in dialogue with lower-ranking US officials under Biden.

## Half Of Covid Survivors Show 1 Symptom Even 2 Years After: Lancet Journal

New Delhi: Two years after getting infected with COVID-19, half of people hospitalised with the infection have at least one symptom, a follow-up study by the medical journal The Lancet has said. The Lancet Respiratory Medicine in a study said evidence shows that a considerable proportion of people who have recovered from COVID-19 have long-term effects on multiple organs and systems. "Regardless of initial disease severity, COVID-19 survivors had longitudinal improvements in physical and mental health, with most returning to their original work within 2 years; however, the burden of symptomatic sequelae remained fairly high," the Lancet said in the sum-

mary of its study.

had a remarkably lower health status than the general population at 2 years. The study findings indicate that there is an urgent need to explore the pathogenesis of long COVID and develop effective interventions to reduce the risk of long COVID," it said. It said long Covid could persistently last to 2 years acute infection, indicating that ongoing longitudinal follow-up is urgently needed to better characterise the natural history of long Covid and to establish when Covid survivors will fully recover. "Future studies should further explore the pathogenesis of long COVID and develop effective intervention strategies to reduce the risk of long COVID," the Lancet said.



The medical journal said given the huge number of individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 up to now, the sequelae after recovery from acute COVID-19 are undoubtedly a great health concern and might cause a big medical and socio-

economic burden.
A UK had in late April said not even one in four people have completely recovered from Covid a full year after being hospitalised with the disease, warning that long Covid could become a common condition."The

limited recovery from five months to one year after hospitalisation in our study across symptoms, mental health, exercise capacity, organ impairment and quality-of-life is striking," study co-leader Rachel Evans of the National Institute for Health

said. The most common long-Covid symptoms were fatigue, muscle pain, poor sleep, slowing down physically and breathlessness. "Without effective treatments, long Covid could"

and Care Research had

become a highly prevalent new long-term condition," said study co-lead Christopher Brightling of the University of Leicester. "The limited recovery from five months to one year after hospitalisation in our study across symptoms, mental health, exercise capacity, organ impairment and quality-of-life is striking, study co-leader Rachel Evans of the National Institute for Health and Care Research had said. The most common long-Covid symptoms were

fatigue, muscle pain.

# US Democrats throw down gauntlet with symbolic vote on abortion



WASHINGTON: Democrats in the US Senate were due to lead a vote on Wednesday to codify the right to abortion into federal law in a bid to pin down Republicans on the deeply divisive issue ahead of crucial midterm elections, even though they expect the measure to fail.

The move comes amid a political firestorm ignited by a leaked draft opinion that showed the Supreme Court's conservative majority prepared to overturn Roe v. Wade, a landmark 1973 ruling guaranteeing abortion access nationwide.

Chuck Schumer, the leader of the Senate's Democratic majority, told colleagues the vote would be "one of the most consequential" in decades, describing the draft opinion as "one of the worst court decisions ever." "Before the day is over, every member of this body will make a choice: vote to protect the fundamental rights of women across the country, or stand with five conservative justices ready to destroy these rights in one fell swoop," he said.

destroy these rights in one fell swoop," he said.
The House-passed Women's Health Protection Act
would create a federal statute assuring health care
providers have the right to provide abortions and
patients have the right to receive them.

But the 60 votes needed to advance the debate towards a final yes or no vote in the evenly-divided, 100-member Senate are not there.

Even if they were, the Democrats don't have the 51 votes required to pass the legislation since Democrat Joe Manchin is opposed to abortion rights, and told reporters in Congress Wednesday he would be voting no.

The only two Republican supporters of abortion rights — senators Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — opposed a near-identical earlier version along with Manchin.

The move is seen as significant, however, with abortion rights set to be a hot button issue for November's midterm elections, when control of both the House and Senate will be at stake.

A new Politico/Morning Consult poll has 53 percent of voters saying Roe should not be overturned, up three percentage points since last week, while 58 percent said it was important to vote for a candidate who supports abortion access.

"Generally, the people who vote and turn out based on abortion policy are those who support more restrictions on abortion rights," said Shana Gadarian, professor of political science at Syracuse University. "By striking down Roe, this is likely to create a new constituency of pro-choice voters who are activated to turn out and donate in ways that they would not normally in a midterm election."

normally in a midterm election."
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has suggested a federal abortion ban is "possible" if Roe is overturned.

He later rowed back slightly, telling reporters that no abortion vote in the Senate had ever achieved the 60-vote threshold. But Democrats seized on the initial remark, arguing that highlighting their disagreement with Republicans could help them in the midterms, with the majority of Americans supporting abortion rights.

"If we are not successful, then we go to the ballot box," Senator Amy Klobuchar told ABC on Sunday. "We march straight to the ballot box, and the women of this country and the men who stand with them will vote like they've never voted before." Meanwhile, activism around the issue is becoming increasingly acrimonious, with angry protesters in favor of abortion rights gathering at the homes of Supreme Court justices in Washington.

# Israel says Iran tried to recruit agents via Facebook

JERUSALEM: Israel's internal security agency on Monday accused Iran of using a fake Facebook profile to try and get Israelis to collect information and harm people in their country.

Shin Bet's allegation comes days after Israel claimed that the Islamic republic of Iran had plotted to assassinate an Israeli diplomat in Turkey, as global powers seek to revive a nuclear deal with Tehran. According to the Shin Bet, the profile of a young Jewish-Canadian woman called Sara Puppi with ties in Israel was fake and belonged to an Iranian agent using the social network to befriend primarily Israelis.After contact was made, Puppi would use the WhatsApp messaging app to try and persuade her new friends "to gather information on Israeli figures while gauging their willingness to harm them, using pressure and promising thousands of dollars", the Shin Bet said. "Emotional and romantic manipulations were also used," the agency added in a statement.It said that Shin Bet agents had posed as "friends" of Puppi — whose account had more than 2,000 friends before disappearing on Monday and received a Bitcoin payment from her. "The Iranian operative behind the account used a business cover story to give various missions," the Shin Bet said.Puppi expressed a will to harm LGBT people as well as "business representatives and diplomats from Arab countries operating in Israel", it said. Those behind the account also tried to damage

Those behind the account also tried to damage Israel's ties with Russia by encouraging people to criticise Russian President Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war, the Shin Bet said. The Shin Bet said they could link the account to Iran with intelligence they obtained. Meanwhile, Israel claimed on the weekend it had "foiled" alleged bids by Iran "to assassinate a US general in Germany, a journalist in France and an Israeli diplomat in Turkey". The plots "were ordered, approved and funded by the senior leadership of the Iranian regime and were intended to be executed by the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps)", said a statement from the prime minister's office.

HT BUSINESS HEADLINES TODAY SRINAGAR, MAY 13,2022 Friday

### Sensex Crashes 1,158 Points **Ahead Of Retail Inflation Data,** Nifty Settles Below 15,850

New Delhi: Indian equity benchmarks dropped more than 2 per cent on Thursday, dragged by banking, financial and metal stocks. The domestic indices extended their fall for the fifth straight session today.



Investors remained worried ahead of April's retail inflation data, which is likely to stay at an 18-month high. A broader decline in global stocks following U.S. consumer price data also dented investor sentiment. The U.S. consumer price index rose 8.3 per cent from a year ago, slower than March's peak of 8.5 per cent, but still near the highest level in over 40 years.

Back home, the consumer price-based (CPI) inflation figure is scheduled to be released at 5:30 pm.

Further, the Indian rupee plunging to a fresh record low against the dollar turned market participants jittery. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,158 points or 0.51 per cent to close at 54,088, while the broader NSE Nifty moved 359 points or 2.22 per cent down to settle

Mid- and small-cap shares finished on a weak note as Nifty Midcap 100 dived 2.33 per cent and small-cap slipped 1.87 per cent.

All of the 15 sector gauges -- compiled by the National Stock Exchange -- settled in the red. Sub-indexes Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Metal underperformed the index by falling as much as 5.39 per cent, 3.05 per cent and 3.70 per cent, respectively. On the stock-specific front, Adani Ports was the top loser as the stock cracked 5.82 per cent to ₹ 715.70. Industrial Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel and JSW Steel IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel and JSW Steel were also among the losers.

The overall market breadth stood negative as 763 shares advanced while 2,599 declined on BSE.

On the 30-share BSE index, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HDFC twins (HDFC and HDFC Bank), Titan, L&T, SBI, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Reliance Industries were among the

top laggards.
In contrast, Wipro and HCL Tech finished in the green.

#### **Wadura Camps of SKUAST-K** celebrates International Day of Plant Health

DR.AB QAYOOM



Sopore, May, 12: HT-Reasearch center of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology of Kashmir SKÚAST-K held an event to commemorate International Day of Plant Health-2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura. Every year International Day of Plant Health is celebrated on May 12 with an aim to raise awareness for the safety of plants. On International Day of Plant Health, we come together to educate each other on how protecting plants can have effect on reducing poverty and hunger, protecting biodiversity, and promoting employment. This year's Inter-national Day of Plant Health can highlight measures to prevent diseases for several food crops. Mankind is still unaware of these harms and this day is to raise awareness about the same. International Day of Plant Health event was organized by the University's Biodiversity Club in collaboration with division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura under the ICAR-World Bank funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) SKUAST-K.(HT) Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Raihana H. Kanth in her inaugural address said that general public should be aware of the risks involved in bringing plants and plant products across borders that may harbor pests and diseases. We need to be careful when ordering plants and plant products through channels such as e-commerce with postal services that bypass regular phytosanitary controls. It is important to purchase from reputable companies that provide international phytosanitary certification for safe trade of plants and plant products. Prof. Raihana believed that farmers can prevent the spread of pests by using only certified pest-free seeds and seedlings, and regularly monitoring, controlling and reporting the occurrence of unusual pests on their farms. They should adopt environmentally friendly pest management practices, including those based on biological approaches that do not kill pollinators and use beneficial insects and organisms.

### **Rupee Falls 15 Paise To Settle** At 77.40 Against US Dollar

Mumbai: Snapping its two-day winning streak, the rupee slumped by 15 paise to end at 77.40 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, following risk-off sentiments amid increasing concerns over inflation globally. Weak domestic equities, surging US dollar in overseas markets and persistent foreign fund outflows also weighed on the rupee which plunged to its alltime intra-day low of 77.63 against the US dollar, forex traders said. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened steeply lower at 77.52 against the greenback and moved in a range of 77.36 to 77.63 in the day trade. The rupee finally ended at 77.40, down by 15 paise over its previous close. The rupee had settled at 77.25 against the US dollar on Wednesday.On May 9, the domestic unit had closed at the record low of 77.44 against the greenback. Global equity markets

### **Retail Inflation Surges To 7.79% In April, Highest Since September 2014**

New Delhi: India's retail inflation surged to 7.79 per cent in April, largely driven by rising fuel and food prices, government data showed on Thursday. The consumer price-based inflation figure stayed well above figure stayed well above Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance limit for a fourth consecu-tive month. RBI has been mandated by the Centre to keep the retail inflation between 2 per cent to 6 per cent.

Last month, the CPI infla-tion expanded at its highest pace since September 2014. It stood at 6.95 per cent in March.

Food inflation, which accounts for nearly half the consumer price index (CPI) basket, reached a multi-month high in April and can remain elevated due to higher vegetable and cooking oil prices globally. RBI mainly considers the retail inflation figure while arriving at its bi-monthly policy deci-



The elevated price outlook pushed RBI to hike its repo rate for the first time in four years, lifting it by 40 basis points (bps) to 4.40 per cent in an off-cycle meeting earlier this month. Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commer-

cial banks. On the global front, U.S. Federal Reserve also increased its interest rate by 50 bps, the highest in 22 years. Central banks have also indicated future rate hikes to bring down surging inflation. The elevated price outlook pushed RBI to hike its repo rate for the

first time in four years, lifting it by 40 basis points (bps) to 4.40 per cent in an off-cycle meeting earlier this month. Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks. On the global front, U.S. Federal Reserve also increased its

### **Crypto Billionaires' Vast Fortunes Destroyed In Weeks Amid Sell-Off**

It's been a long few weeks since the crypto crowd was partying in Miami.

Coinbase Global Inc. founder Brian Armstrong had a personal fortune of \$13.7 billion as recently as November and about \$8 billion at the end of March. That's now just \$2.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billion-aires Index, after a selloff in digital currencies from Bitcoin to Ether triggered a precipitous decline in the market value of Coinbase, the largest US cryptocurrency exchange.

The firm's shares have tumbled 84% since their first day of trading in April 2021, closing Wednesday at \$53.72 after the company warned that tradpany warned that trading volume and monthly transacting users were expected to be lower in the second quarter than in the first.

raised questions about Coinbase's ability to withstand the sharp decline in crypto prices, forcing Armstrong to take to Twitter to defend the company. There is "no risk of bankruptcy" even amid a "black swan" event and users' funds are safe, said Armstrong, the firm's chief executive officer.

Then there's Michael Novogratz. The CEO of crypto merchant bank Galaxy Digital has seen his fortune plummet to \$2.5 billion, from \$8.5 billion in early November. He's been a champion of TerraUSD, the algorith-



mic stablecoin that's now at risk of a complete collapse amid a breakdown in the price of a crypto token in the same écosystem, Luna.

"I'm probably the only guy in the world that's got both a Bitcoin tattoo and a Luna tattoo," Novogratz said at the Bitcoin 2022 conference in Miami on April 6. Billionaire crypto fortunes that swelled over the last two years are disappearing after a selloff that began with tech stocks spilled over into digital money. Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, and Ether have both fallen more than 50% since their record highs late last year.

While almost all crypto holders have suffered declines, some wealth of the biggest and most visible losses are concentrated among founders of exchanges, where traders buy and sell dig-

ital currencies. At least on paper, Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of close-ly held Binance, has lost an even larger fortune than Armstrong or No-vogratz. He debuted on the Bloomberg wealth index in January with a net worth of \$96 billion, one of the world's largest. By Wednesday that had shrunk to \$11.6 bil-lion, using the average enterprise value to sales multiples of Coinbase and Canadian crypto firm Voyager Digital as a basis for the calculations.

Crypto exchanges in the US appear to be suffering more of a downturn than their global competitors. Trading volumes at Coinbase have steadily fallen since the beginning of the vear. while more internationally focused Binance saw an uptick in volume last month. Binance's US-focused business, by comparison, experienced

than Coinbase's.

Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, co-founders of rival crypto exchange Gemini, have each lost about \$2.2 billion -- or roughly 40% -- of their wealth this year. The fortune of Sam Bankman-Fried, CEO of crypto exchange FTX, has fallen by half since the end of March to about \$11.3 billion

also plunged, recently trading in line with some of the riskiest junk-rated notes. Armstrong isn't the only Coinbase billionaire losing money. Co-founder Fred Ehrsam, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. trader, is currently worth \$1.1 billion, down more than 60% this year. Armstrong owns of Coinbase and controls 59.5% of its voting shares, according to the company's 2022 proxy statement, while Ehrsam has a 4.5% stake.

Armstrong isn't the only Coinbase billionaire losing money. Co-founder Fred Ehrsam, a former

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. trader, is currently worth \$1.1 billion, down more than 60% this year. Armstrong owns 16% of Coinbase and controls 59.5% of its voting shares, according to the company's 2022 proxy statement, while Ehrsam has a 4.5% stake and controls 26% of its voting stock.

"Threat Of Stagflation Is Coinbase's bonds have **Transitioning Into Baseline** Scenario": Sources

**RBI Will Continue To** 

**Intervene To Curtail Rupee's** 

"Jerky Movements": Sources

The Reserve Bank of India has intervened in the open market to stem the rupee's losses in recent times and

is likely to continue to do so, albeit the intervention will

Regarding currency depreciation worries for India, sources told NDTV that the RBI would participate in

the market "to smoothen the impact" and "curtail jerky

While the rupee has gained to 77.25 per dollar from new all-time lows beyond 77.50 hit on Monday, it is

still above the previous weak record levels of around

Traders said the RBI may have intervened - through

state-run banks' selling dollars in the open market - af-

People familiar with the matter said the latest exchange

Indeed, the sell-off in risky assets, including the rupee,

has been driven by traders looking at safe-haven investment opportunities on surging inflation, higher interest rates and slowing economic growth worries. In addition, a tightening lockdown in China, Europe's plan to be a Russian oil in response to its war

on Ukraine, in its third month, and slowing economic growth risks from spiralling commodity prices have boosted the safe-haven appeal of the US dollar. The US Federal Reserve is poised to hike interest rates ag-

gressively, which has also driven the dollar to two-de-

Capital outflows from emerging markets are the fall-out of aggressive US monetary policy. Investors tend to shelter in American assets during a rate hike cycle

in anticipation of the resultant slowing in economic ac-

Like other emerging market nations, India has witnessed sharp outflows from its capital markets, which have hurt the rupee and the country's foreign exchange

India's forex reserves have fallen below \$600 billion for

the first time in a year, declining for eight consecutive weeks, weighed by persistent capital outflows and the rupee's weakness driven by the dollar's broad surge in

'The RBI will be careful to fight cavalier speculators and not the Fed. That is to say, prudence warns

against trying to defy broad-based dollar trends. After

all, a \$600 billion-plus reserve coffer is harder to build than it is to burn," Bloomberg quoted Vishnu Varathan, head of economics and strategy at Mizuho Bank, in

Indeed, the country took over a year to build its FX reserves to over \$630 billion and in just a touch over

two months, or since Russia invaded Ukraine late in

February, India's import cover war chest has declined

by nearly \$34 billion, or about 5.4 per cent.

ter the rupee plunged to 77.44 on Monday.

rate movement is part of a broader trend.

be to keep the currency range-bound.

movements in the rupee.

77 in March.

cade highs.

reserves in recent weeks.

recent months.

The "threat of stagflation is transitioning into a baseline scenario," sources told NDTV and added that there are "no instruments globally against stagflation. A day ahead of April retail inflation, sources told NDTV

that the Reserve Bank of India's inflation forecast would likely be revised higher at the June Policy Review. Last week, after an emergency meeting, the RBI hiked its key interest rates to fight runaway inflation even as they acknowledged the economic output loss from the

pandemic would take India many years to recover. Until last month, the central bank was focused on supporting the nascent economic recovery from the COVID-19-led restrictions on business activity, but has since shifted its policy plans to curb surging inflation.

While the Russia-Ukraine war has accentuated those growth concerns, it has at the same time caused runaway inflation globally, distorting supply chains which were already disrupted by the coronavirus-led lock-

That points to a technical definition of stagflation - high inflation and slowing economic growth simultaneously. A Reuters report shows Morgan Stanley has lowered its forecasts for India's economic growth in the next two fiscal years, saying a global slowdown, surging oil prices and weak domestic demand would take a toll on Asia's third-largest economy.

On Wednesday, people familiar with the matter told NDTV that the threat of stagflation also looms large along with inflation. "In the words of Egyptian-American economist, 'the threat of stagflation is transitioning into a baseline scenario' globally," the sources said.

And they added that there are "no instruments globally against stagflation." Still, the sources said, "aim to get rid of all pandemic-led policy measures."

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das last week went to great lengths to justify that the off-cycle hike was a reversal of the emergency rate cut as a pandemic-support measure. But spiralling inflation is a significant worry for the RBI at the moment.A Reuters survey of economists on April's retail price report showed inflation - based on the consumer price index - accelerated further to 7.5 per cent from a year ago, compared to a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent in March.

And if the Reuters poll consensus of 7.5 per cent is realised, it would mark the highest inflation rate since October 2020 and well above the RBI's upper limit of its 2-6 per cent target band for the fourth straight month. Forecasts in that poll of 45 economists for the data.

### "Can't Give Any Interim Relief": Supreme **Court Refuses To Stay LIC IPO**

New Delhi: In a big relief to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stay the ongoing initial public offering (IPO) of the country's top insurer. LIC is likely to finalise the share allotment of its mega IPO by the end of today.

'We can't give any interim relief in this matter. There are more than 73 lakh applicants already subscribed to the IPO. This is a matter of investment and we can't give any relief in it," the top court stated.

However, the court has issued notice to the government on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of certain sections' provisions of the Finance Act, 2021 and LIC Act 1956, seeking a reply in four weeks The decision was taken by a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and PS Narasimha.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed against the LIC's mega IPO. The petitioners challenged the legality of the government's move to pass the decision to launch the LIC's IPO through a Money Bill. The country's largest-ever IPO was oversubscribed 2.95 times as six days of bidding came to an end on May 9.The price range for the issue was between ₹ 902 and ₹ 949 per share. LIC is likely to be listed on May 17. The Centre expects to raise up to ₹ 21,000 crore - a third of its original target - from selling a 3.5 per cent stake in the country's top insurer.The 66-year-old company dominates India's insurance sector. with more than 28 crore policies

LIC was the fifth-biggest global insurer in terms of insurance premium collection in 2020, as per the latest year for which statistics are



available.

Few grey market data showed that the LĬC shares would list ₹ 15 below their issue price. However, policyholders and employees would still make a profit as they have got discounts in the public offer.n a big relief to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stay the ongoing initial public offering (IPO) of the country's top insurer. LIC is likely to finalise the share allotment of its mega IPO by the end of today.

"We can't give any interim relief in

this matter. There are more than 73 lakh applicants already subscribed to the IPO. This is a matter of investment and we can't give any relief in it," the top court stated.

However, the court has issued notice to the government on petitions

challenging the constitutional validity of certain sections' provisions of the Finance Act, 2021 and LIC Act 1956, seeking a reply in four weeks The decision was taken by a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and PS Narasimha.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed against the LIC's mega IPO. The petitioners challenged the legality of the govern-ment's move to pass the decision to launch the LIC's IPO through a Money Bill.

The country's largest-ever IPO was oversubscribed 2.95 times as six days of bidding came to an end on May 9.

The price range for the issue was between ₹ 902 and ₹ 949 per share. LIC is likely to be listed on May 17. The Centre expects to raise up to ₹ 21,000 crore - a third of its original target - from selling a 3.5 per cent stake in the country's top insurer. The 66-year-old company dominates India's insurance sector, with more than 28 crore policies The country's largest-ever IPO was oversubscribed 2.95 times as six days of bidding came to an end on May 9.

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### "Second Alia Bhatt": **Woman's Video Creates Frenzy On Internet**

'Second Alia Bhatt': Woman's Video Creates Frenzy On InternetAlia Bhatt's doppelganger in the video posted on her Instagram handle. Internet is very efficient in finding potentially viral stuff. It is now showering praises on the performance of a woman who looks just like actor Alia Bhatt. The woman, who has a handle by the name of Celesti Bairagey on Instagram, recently posted a film 'Dil Toh Pagal

from the the video, she recre-Hai'.For ated Alia Bhatt's 'Gangubai di' look. Watch the Kathiawavideo bewhite saree print, on a remixed Tak Chup added jhum and

ed off the look sunglasses - Alia Bhatt's signature style statement in Gangubai. The actor's fans were surprised by the woman's uncanny resemblance to Alia Bhatt."Aaaiiiilllaaaaa Aliya," an Instagram user commented. "2nd Aliya bhat," another commented. The video has received more than three lakh likes. The woman is quite famous as Alia Bhatt's doppelganger. She belongs to Assam, and has been regularly posting videos on her Instagram handle. In November last year, her video from the streets of Rajasthan became quite famous on the internet. Alia Bhatt got married to actor Ranbir Kapoor on April 14 in an intimate ceremony attended by their family and friends. On the work front, she has several films in her kitty - Karan Johar's directorial Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani with Ranveer Singh and Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra with husband Ranbir Kapoor. Alia Bhatt is also set to make her Hollywood debut with Netflix's Heart Of Stone co-starring Gal Gadot. She will also star in Darlings, which she is co-producing with Shah Rukh Khan.

### **Laal Singh Chaddha Song Main Ki Karaan?: Aamir Khan's Recollection Of First Love**

On the official Instagram handle of Aamir Khan Productions' page, a poster from the song was shared. The caption on it read: "Thank you in Wright). Sonu, Pritam, Amitabh for giving our film, Laal Singh Chaddha, a song like Main Ki Karaan? Click like if

you feel the same, along with the hashtags #First-Love, #SonuSingsForAamir #Music-First With-LaalSingh-Chaddha. is the Hindi remake of Tom Hanks' Forrest Gump. The film has directed by Advait Chandan. Laal Singh Chaddha is collaborativebeing produced by Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao and Viacom 18 Motion

Pictures. In Laal

Singh Chaddha,

will be seen

Khan

Aamir

sharing screen space with his 3 Idiots co-stars Kareena Kapoor and Mona Singh. It will also star Naga Chaitanya. The film marks the Telugu star's Bolly-

The classic Forrest Gump showcased the story of a man (Tom Hanks), who

does extraordinary things in his life. However, his only purpose is to be with his childhood love Jenny (Rob-

The film is slated to hit the screens on August 11, this year. Aamir Khan was last seen in the 2018 film Thugs Of Hindostan. New Delhi: If Ka-

haani is the soul of Laal Singh Chad-dha, then Main Ki Karaan? is the heart of it. The makers shared the second track from the film on Thursday, titled Main Ki Karaan? and it all about first The song, which has been released sans a video, begins with a voiceover by Aamir Khan, where he talks about not recalling the day he was born (obviously), or the first bite of his paratha, or his very first Diwali. But the one thing that he remembers vividly is his first love - the first time he heard the voice of the one he loves

dearly. The song is a recollection of Laal Singh Chaddha's first love. The track has been beautifully sung by Sonu Nigam, accompanied by Romy, composed by Pritam and with lyrics by Amitabh Bhattacharya

### **Doctor Strange 2: Charlize Theron unveils first** look of 'Clea' from her Marvel Studios debut



Washington: After six days of the premiere of 'Doctor Strange in Madness's Multiverse,' Charlize Theron unveiled her first official look as 'Clea,' with her character appearing in the film's mid-credits scene of the Marvel Studios

As per Variety, Theron's casting as Clea had been rumoured for the last few weeks but her recent post marks the first time the Oscar-winning actor has acknowledged that she's playing the character. On her Instagram account, Theron shared two photos, showing off her looks as the MCU's character 'Clea.' In one of the photos, she showed a glimpse of the fun makeup she wore in the movie. The second image shows her in a superhero costume alongside Benedict

Cumberbatch's 'Doctor Strange.

Theron's Marvel debut came as a big surprise during the film's post-credits scene. Since it was evident that she was going to play the character of 'Clea,' comic book fans were thrilled to see how the character would develop in the coming 'Doctor Strange' movie.She previously teased her character's entry into the Marvel Universe by sharing her photo from an award show, captioning the post 'The cat is out of the bag,' wearing a purple dress that matches her suit in the movie. Theron is next set to appear in the Netflix film 'The School for Good and Evil,' directed by Paul Feig and co-starring Kerry Washington, Michelle Yeoh, Ben Kingsley, Rachel Bloom and Laurence Fishburne.

### John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor starrer 'Ek Villain Returns' to release on July 29

ow: Wearing a with pink floral

version of 'Kab

Baithe'. She also

kas and bindi,

danced



New Delhi: The release date of the much-awaited sequel of the 2014 hit film 'Ek Villian', 'Ek Villian Returns' has been changed. The upcoming thriller which was originally scheduled to be released on July 8 will now hit the theatres on July 29 Filmmaker Mohit Suri on Tuesday took to his Twitter handle and shared the update. He wrote, "#EkVillainReturns gets a new release date, 29th July 2022." Mohit Suri had earlier said in a statement, "Ek Villain' was my passion project and a labour of love. The kind of love that I still receive for 'Ek Villain' overwhelms me. I am sure with 'Ek Villain Returns', the love is only going to grow bigger. And while I cannot reveal much about the film, I can assure that it is going to be a thrilling

Directed by Mohit Suri and jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms, the movie stars John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani and Tara Sutaria in lead

Mohit Suri has directed films such as 'Half Girlfriend', 'Aashiqui 2', 'Murder 2' 'Zeher' and 'Kalyug'. 'Ek Villain Returns' is the first collaboration between John Abraham and the director. Arjun Kapoor previously worked with Mohit on 'Half Girlfriend'. Disha Patani starred in Mohit's last directorial film, 'Malang'. The release date of the much-awaited sequel of the 2014 hit film 'Ek Villian', 'Ek Villian' Returns' has been changed. The upcoming thriller which was originally scheduled to be released on July 8 will now hit the theatres on July 29. Filmmaker Mohit Suri on Tuesday took to his Twitter handle and shared the update.

He wrote, "#EkVillainReturns gets a new release date, 29th July 2022." Mohit Suri had earlier said in a statement, "Ek Villain` was my passion project and a labour of love. The kind of love that I still receive for `Ek Villain` overwhelms me. I am sure with 'Ek Villain Returns', the love is only going to grow bigger. And while I cannot reveal much about the film, I can assure that it is going to be a thrilling rollercoaster ride."Directed by Mohit Suri and jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms, the movie stars John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani and Tara Sutaria in lead roles.

### **Sonal Chauhan Is Straight Out Of A Dream** In A Summery Pastel Green Lehengaa

Sonal Chauhan knows how to make our hearts flutter with her outfits. Be it ethnic wear or Western numbers, she has a penchant for playing around with colours, fabrics and accessories to create one of a kind look. She dropped some pictures from her latest photoshoot where she could be seen acing a traditional number. Sonal looked beautiful in a stunning pastel green lehenga with elaborate floral designs in dark green and pink all over it. However, her stun-ning floral blouse with wide straps and a plunging neckline added a bold twist to her ethnic wear. She completed her monochrome look with a dupatta. For accessories, she took traditional dangler earrings and a bangle. Her minimal makeup included defined brows and pink lips. She pulled half of her hair backward. Sonal Chauhan is a pro at dishing out major ethnic goals for her fans. She dazzled in a lehenga that featured elaborate embroidery work in blue, pink green floral patterns on the base colour cream. Her ethnic wear also showcased embellishments that added a bling to the attire. Also, there's a beautiful pink tassel attached to the lehenga on the side. She wore it with



an embellished sleeveless blouse and took a contrasting hued dupatta on her shoulders. Choker set and her straight hairstyle seemed on point. Sonal Chauhan's ethnic wardrobe is replete with scintillating lehengas. She looked dropdead gorgeous in a wine red lehenga. It is just perfect for the wedding season. The bridal pick showed intricate embroidery work in silver resham thread. For this one, she chose a midriff-baring wine-red blouse along with a dupatta with zari and silver mirror work. A heavy choker set and half her hair tied at the back gave a sense of completion.

## real jail, says 'no one knows the humiliation there'

Munawar Faruqui has crowned the winner of reality show 'Lock Upp' He said that winning the show was super easy compared to spending

time in a real jail New Delhi: Munawar Faruqui has won the reality show 'Lock Upp' and considering the fact that the comedian was arrested and spent time in a real lock-up, he says it was comparatively

Munawar, started his career as a stand-up comedian and YouTuber, and he became national news when he was arrested in Bhopal on January 2,



up was tougher to deal with, the comedian told

IANS: "Well compared to the real lock-up, this was not even half per cent...no one knows the humiliation there. This was a game!"

Fans got to know several insights about Munawar and some of the incidents also made everyone emotional. Recalling his childhood trauma and his mother's suicide was one such memory. Asked his reason to come on the show, and he said, "Yes on social media I have huge followers who religiously followed my content and story. But with the platform of a reality show.

# Lock Upp winner Munawar Faruqui compares show to

easier for him.

2021 for a comedy show that he didn't even perform. Later on February 6, he was granted bail. Just after winning the show, and holding the trophy, Munawar had a quick chat with IANS. When asked which lock-

# the untitled biopic on Abhinav Bindra.

Padukone Being On Cannes Jury jury, that you decide whose performance was better).' ery time, I am her designated cheerleader. Whether it's Time magazine, or it's Cannes.

### Badhaai Do review: Stretched narrative makes for tedious viewing

Bold themes reflecting the changing reality of our society are slowly but surely making their way

into Hindi films. While the honesty and intention are laudable, Harshavardhan Kulkarni's 'Badhai Do' is forcefully stretched to make this point palatable to the audience. Also, somewhere down the line, the message loses its impact and earnestness. Shardul Thakur (Ra-jkummar Rao) and Sumi Singh (Bhumi Pednekar) come from middle-class families where societal norms are expected to be complied with. The two of them

however are 'different' They belong to the queer community, and discovering a common goal, enter into a marriage of convenience, wherein each one leads his or her life freely while keeping up pretences of being a happily married couple.

The societal pressure of having a

baby, and elders in the family try-ing hard to make it happen, make things spiral out of control, and a chance discovery of Sumi with her partner, Rimjhim (Chum Darang), causes the Pandora's Box to be opened. How they explain to their families that they are born to be different and are not suffering from a 'disease' forms the crux of the film.

Rajkummar Rao, as the policeman, fixated upon fitness and body-building, flaunting his sixpack abs and an enviable physique, every inch looks his part. But somewhere, in his bid to be different and not use stereotypical mannerisms, as he essays this character, he tries too hard and fails to impress. One does not empathise with him and one cannot feel his predicament. Bhumi Pednekar as Sumi, a Physical Education teacher, scores over Rao in her realistic portrayal and seems



to be more comfortable portraying her bold character. Yet, somewhere, neither of them is deeply convincing. The supporting cast of veteran actors deliver what is expected of them. The scene on the terrace where Shardul's mother

(Sheeba Chaddha) embraces her sobbing son in acceptance is poignant. The plot is linear, with the narrative having a single-minded focus on delivering this message to its audience. The length of the film and the lacklustre chemistry contrast. The LGBTQ+ rally to-wards the end, to reiterate their liberation and acceptance of who they are, is one of the several uncalled-for instances in the film, which merely adds to its length, not its gravitas. Also, the sensitivity of the issue and the societal reactions, particularly those of middle-class families, are made to look trite, and with the several forced attempts to highlight the struggles of this community, somewhere along the way, the seriousness of the message is lost. The music meshes well with the theme of the film. 'Atak Gaya' by

Arijit Singh, in particular, encap-

sulates the essence of the film.

between the lead cast, however,

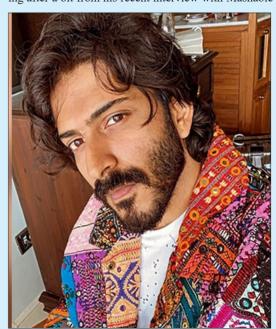
dilute this impact.
The setting of the film -- mid-

dle-class small-town families and societal expectations -- are a

tad exaggerated, merely to drive home the point and heighten the

### Actor Harsh Varrdhan Kapoor Trolled For The "Sad Reality Of My Life"

New Delhi: Actor Harsh Varrdhan Kapoor began trend-



India's The Bombay Journey went viral. Harsh Varrdhan, son of actor Anil Kapoor, during the interview, stated that he was trying to buy a pre-owned Lamborghini that cost ₹ 1 crore instead of purchasing a brand new one that would cost him about ₹ 3 crores. The actors comment about "the sad reality" of his life and his parents not paying for his purchases did not go down well with a section of the Internet. During the interview, the actor said, "I hate to break it to the audience, but the reality is that my parents have no interest in paying for my sh\*\*. So, I wish you all were right and I was wrong. I would have had ten times more than what I have but I buy my own stuff. It's the sad reality of my life. Otherwise, you don't think I would have had five cars as opposed to just one. You don't think I would have had 30 watches. It doesn't work like that." This tweet was with reference to the statement actor Ananya Panday made during Rajeev Masand's talk show The Newcomers Roundtable 2019, where she said, "My dad (Chunky Panday) has never been in a Dharma film, he never went on Koffee With Karan. So, you know it isn't as easy as everyone says it is. Everyone has their own journey." To which Siddhant Chaturvedi replied: 'I think everybody has their own struggle. Sabka struggle alag hota hai. Difference yahi hai ki jahaan humare sapne poore hote hain, wahan inka struggle shuru hota hai (Everybody has their own struggle. The difference is where our dreams come true, their struggle begins)." Harsh Varrdhan Kapoor is the son of veteran actor Anil Kapoor and jewelry designer Sunita Kapoor. His sister Sonam is a Bollywood actor, while his other sibling Rhea Kapoor is a film producer and entrepreneur. Harsh Varrdhan made his Bollywood debut with the film Mirzya and he is best known for starring in films

"Mera Number Kabhi Ayega Kya?": Ranveer Singh On Wife Deepika

like Bhavesh Joshi Superhero and AK vs AK. He was

also a part of the Netflix anthology Ray, which was directed by Vasan Bala. The actor was last seen in Netflix's Thar, co-starring dad Anil Kapoor and actor Fati-

ma Sana Shaikh. Harsh Varrdhan will next be seen in

New Delhi: Deepika Padukone is on this year's Cannes jury and her husband Ranveer Singh couldn't be more excited. In an interview with Film Companion, Ranveer said, "I am so happy I had to break out into a dance. I was like waah yaar, people want you to be the person who decides which is the better film. That's huge." The actor jokingly added, "I mean I thought to myself yaar, mera kabhi number aayega kya. Mujhe kabhi bithayenge kya jury-vury pe? Aaj tak kisi ne bulaya nahi hai, kisi jury pe, ki aap decide karo kiska better hai performance (will it ever happen to me? Will they ever make me be part of a jury. No one has ever invited me, on any Ranveer Singh added during the interview: "But Cannes I mean, like that's huge. Baby is deciding from the best films in the world at the time- which is the better one. It's so crazy. I was like wow, this is just too amazing. I am very proud of everything that she achieves. EvSRINAGAR, MAY 13,2022 Friday

HT SPORTS HEADLINES TODAY

# YSS Cup Cricket In Full-swing

Srinagar May 12: In the ongoing Inter district UT level cricket tournament being organized by the Department of YS&S at 4 different venues in here. Many matches of the tournament were played on Thursday as well. The Tournament is being played on league cum knockout basis. 19 teams from 19 districts of the UT are participating in the mega tournament. The Department of YSS has deputed about 200 officials for the successful conduct of the tournament and directions have been passed on to the field officials on duty to keep a close track of the performance of the players as the better ones would be groomed further with the help of advanced coaching by the Department of YS&S. Venue Kashmir University: The first scheduled match at this venue was played between Udhampur and Jammu. Udhampur after winning

the toss elected to bat first and kept target of 146 runs to their opponents. Sahil made fantastic 45 runs in 35 balls while as Ganesh could manage 34 runs In 26 balls. From district team Jammu, Kulbeer took 3 wickets in 3 balls. Aneel Singh and Vishal, each took 2 wickets. Trying very hard to chase the target, Jammu team was not lucky enough to touch the mark and collapsed on 141 runs. Sagar from this team made 47 runs in 28 balls while as Amandeep made 29 runs in 19 balls. Ganesh took 3 while as Davindar and Rahul, each took 2 wickets for their team. Ganesh was declared as man of the match. Udhampur won this interesting match by a small margin of 4 runs. In other match played by Kuthwa and Samba. Samba won the toss and elected to bat first. Samba scored 242 for 7 wickets. Sahil, Vikram and Ankush scored 37,



35 and 3 runs respectively. Katwa got all out on just 99. Rajat took 5 wickets and made 22 fast runs. He was declared man of the match. In another scheduled match played

at Amar Singh College ground, shopian out played Budgam by 26 runs. Shopian after winning the toss chose to bat first and scored 145 for 3 wickets. Ruhaid Rasheed from the team scored impressive 67 runs. At SP College ground, Rajouri locked horns with Gandarbal. Gandarbal won the toss and elected to bat first. Gandarbal while showing some excellent play on ground set a huge target of 189 for their opponents. Toufeeq Ahmad, the all rounder, batted very well and scored meaningful 53 for his team. He took 3 wickets as well. Sahil scored 51 while as Ashfaq's 36 runs also helped the team to score 188. Rajouri struggled to chase the target and were bowled out for just 132. It was Rashid Khan who stood very firm and scored 40 runs for his team Rajouri. In other scheduled match for the day Pulwama out shined poonch by a huge margin of 99 runs. Pulwama, after winning the toss decided to bat first and set 171 on score board. At Eidgah play field, Reasi won the Toss and Elected to bat. Rea-

si scored magnificent 141 runs in allotted 20 overs on the loss of 9 wickets. Ganesh scored 34 runs in 24 balls. Ramban won the match in 18th over on the loss of 4 wickets. Amir was the highest scorer from the team. In another match held at Amar Singh College between Udhampur and Shopian, Udhampur scored 115 runs while as Shopian could only chase 100 runs against them. Udhampur won the match by 15 runs. At the same venue, Match between Samba and Rajouri was held. Samba scored 179 runs for 2 wickets, in which Sahil and Rajat was able to score 80 and 74 respectively. Rajouri scored only 122 and lost by 57 runs. Few other matches were in progress when this report was filed by the Media and Publicity Wing of the Department Of Youth Services & Sports J&K.

### "Has Typhoid Or Something Like That": Rishabh Pant On Prithvi Shaw

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant on Wednesday said his opener Prithvi Shaw could be suffering from typhoid. Speaking after the Capitals' eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals, which kept their IPL playoffs hopes alive, Pant said they missed Shaw at the top of the order. "We miss him but we can't control that. He has typhoid or something like that is what the doctor told me," Pant said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Shaw was on Sunday admitted to a hospital due to a high fever. He had himself shared an Instagram post from his hospital bed, saying he is hopeful of coming back soon. Srikar Bharat, who was played in place of Shaw, failed to open his account.

About the crucial victory, Pant, who had opted to field after winning the toss said, "It was close to a perfect game as I believe there is



always space for improvement. On these kind of wickets where there is little turn, you can go either way. "I am happy we bowled first. I thought 140-160 was a good score and said so at the toss. And we got there. Destiny is always on your hands, you can look to give 100 percent. The fielding could be better, but this was close to a perfect game." RR captain Sanju Samson said his team fell a few runs short of what would have been a challenging target.

# "Can Only Pray For Him...": Pakistan Star Mohammad Rizwan Has This To Say On Virat Kohli's Struggles

Mohammad Rizwan has happy memories from the 2021 T20 World Cup. Not only did the Pakistan cricket team star score over 280 runs in six matches in the showpiece event, but he was also part of the side that beat Indian cricket team for the first time in a World Cup game. Pakistan started the tournament with a 10-win over India, as Rizwan scored an unbeaten 79\*. After the game, then India captain Virat Kohli could be seen walking up to the 29-year-old Rizwan and congratulating him for his brilliant knock.

That gesture left a mark on Rizwan, who is currently playing the County Championship for Sussex. India's Cheteshwar Pujara is one of his teammates. Rizwan has been following Kohli's recent performances too.

"Virat Kohli is a champion player but the stage he is currently going through, we can only pray for him. Because he is a hard woker.



Every player goes through such phase. There are good times and then there are bad times. All good players who have scored centuries, have been out for zero. This is a cycle of life," Rizwan told Cricwick in an interview. "I am hopeful that with his hard work, he will be able to control things once again." Talking about Pakistan's win over India in the T20

World Cupm he said: "I

have never seen such scenes in the dressing room. All the players were so happy. Our media manager told me that he had been getting congratulatory messages. Even Shaheen Afridi said that. I have never been part of such big matches. So, it was a new experience for me." Mohammad Rizwan has happy memories from the 2021 T20 World Cup. Not only did the Pakistan

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## SL name women's cricket squad for Pakistan tour

COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) selection committee named a 15-member squad for the Pakistan tour, while also naming an additional five players on standby, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on its website on Wednesday.

The two sides will first play three T20Is, followed by as many ODIs between May 24 and June 5 in Karachi.

The three ODIs will form a part of the ICC Women's Cham-

The three ODIs will form a part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 in which Pakistan finished fifth in the last cycle, ahead of New Zealand, West Indies and Sri Lanka. The visitors finished at the bottom and will be hoping to better their performances in the upcoming cycle. All the matches will be played at Karachi's Southend Club

All the matches will be played at Karachi's Southend Club—Pakistan's first international series at the venue since they hosted West Indies for three T20 Internationals in December 2018. The two sides will first play three T20Is, followed by as many ODIs between May 24 and June 5 in Karachi. The three ODIs will form a part of the ICC Women's Cham-

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Squad:

Chamari Athapaththu (captain), Hasini Perera, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Imesha Dulani, Prasadani Weerakkody, Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Kanchana, Achini Kulasuriya, Inoka Ranaweera, Udeshika Prabodhani, Sugandika Kumari, Sachini Nisansala, Oshadhi Ranasinghe, Anushka Sanjeewani.

# CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR کینسر سوسا ئیٹی آف کشمیر

#### Subject :-

### Notice inviting Tenders for ACC Blocks with Masonray work & other allied items.

For & on behalf of Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir Tenders are invited from registered contractors for Supply & masonary work of Air ACC Blocks of reputed companies/brands along with other allied items in newly constructed building of Cancer Society Building at Lalnagar Chanapora Srinagar.

- The tenders shall be accompanied with CDR for an amount equal to 02% of the value of the work pledged to cancer society of Kashmir without which tenders shall not be accepted.
- 2. The last date of tenders is fixed as 21-May-2022 upto 04:00Pm & after the fixed date & time no tender shall be accepted. The details of items (Approximately) is enclosed as Annexure "A" to this notice.
- Cement shall be provided by the society.
   The guidelines prescribed by manufacturing companies of Air ACC Blocks shall have to be

The guidelines prescribed by manufacturing companies of Air ACC Blocks shall have to be followed strictly in ACC Blocks masonry.

### Note Below:-

# The interested parties can contact office for copy of NIT along with enclosures on any working day during office hours. Annexure "A"

#### **Detailed Estimate of Quantities**

	No.	Description of Item	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount	Remarks	Genuin
	1	Air ACC Blocks in cement mortar. 1:6 mix						Ge
	A	8° thick (625x250x200)mm	cft	10600 chs				
	В	4" thick (625x250x100)mm including wire mesh & channel grout, beam & column	cft	160 cfts				
Ì		Roc linte I including shuttering , bending & binding						
Į.	2	of steel including binding wire etc.	cft	280 cfts				
	3	RCC Bond Beam/ Coping beam including stuttering- bending of steel including binding wire etc.	cft	150 cfts				

(SYED MANZOOR AHMAD) Chairman Finance, Cancer Society of Kashmir.

