

# HEADLINES TODAY

Vol No:13 • Issue No: 56 • RNI No: JKENG/2011/39231 • Epaper.dailyheadlinestoday.co. • www.dailyheadlinestoday.co • Pages: 08 • Price: Rs 02/-

## News Brief

### Lt Governor extends Holi Greetings

JAMMU, MARCH 06: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Holi. In a message, the Lt Governor said that the festival of colours symbolises the spirit of togetherness and harmony. "Holi inspires us to rejoice in the grandeur of existence and in all its varied colours. May the joy and colour touch the lives of all, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all," the Lt Governor said.

### Advisor Bhatnagar extends Holi greetings

JAMMU, MARCH 06: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Holi - festival of colours. In his greeting message, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this festival heralds the onset of spring season and reflects cultural mosaic of our country. "Holi is an occasion to rejoice in the glory of nature in all its vibrant colours and symbolizes our nation's spirit of unity, harmony and cultural diversity", Advisor said. The Advisor also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

### Police arrests drug peddler in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

Kulgam March 06: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Kulgam arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police party of PC Nilow at a checkpoint established at Main Chowk Nilow intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee after noticing police party but was apprehended tactfully. He has been identified as Abdul Rashid Dar son of Ghulam Nabi Dar resident of Nilow. During checking, 4.2 Kgs of poppy straw concealed in a bag was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 25/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Kulgam and investigation has been initiated.

### Non-local Among 2 Injured in Separate Road Mishaps Succumb

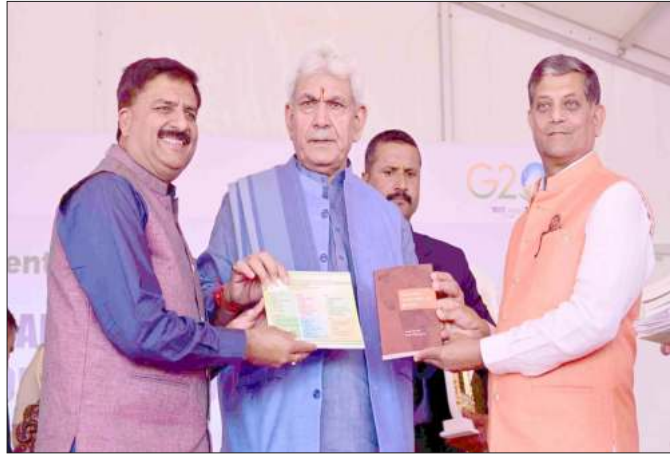
Srinagar, Mar 6 : A 21-year-old non-local was among two persons succumbing to their injuries caused in separate road mishaps in Bijbehara and Sopore. An official told GNS that one Sonu Ansari, son of Riyasat Ansari, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, at present at Bijbehara was fatally hit by a tempo vehicle on Sunday at Sangam in Bijbehara area of Anantnag. The man was evacuated from the site to a nearby hospital, from where he was referred to SKIMS Soura where he succumbed to his injuries this morning, they said. Confirming it, a police official told GNS that they have registered a case into the incident even as having arrested the accused driver. In another such incident, a resident of Baramulla, who had sustained injuries on Sunday, succumbed to his injuries this morning. The deceased has been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Shagoo, a resident of Azad Gunj Baramulla. A police official told GNS that a case has been registered in this regard for further investigations. (GNS)

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## Colonies where PoJK displaced people live to be regularized; PoJK Bhawan in offing: LG Manoj Sinha PoJK integral part of India, no power can keep it away for long

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, Mar 06: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the government has identified land for the construction of PoJK Bhawan for the displaced PoJK people, who have suffered a lot over the past so many decades while as the colonies they are living in will be "regularized shortly." He was quick to add that PoJK was an integral part of India and no power can keep it away from the Union. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event titled special governance for PoJK peo-



ple, in Jammu, the LG, as per news agency—, said that the divisional administration Jammu has identified land where PoJK Bhawan will come up for the displaced PoJK refugees. "These people have suffered a lot and their children are the worst sufferers. We will soon have a PoJK Bhawan and the colonies where these people are living at present will be regularized shortly," he said, adding that the children of displaced PoJK refugees will be given priority in jobs and education. He said that the government is committed to resolve all

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## PM Modi addresses post-Budget webinar on Health and Medical Research

HT NEWS NETWORK



Mar; Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asserted that making treatment affordable in the country has been the highest priority of the government. He said the focus is on the maximum use of technology in the health sector as the role of technology is continuously increasing in making healthcare affordable and accessible. Modi stated this while addressing the post-Budget webinar on Health and Medical Research. He said the Centre has not confined

healthcare to the Health Ministry only, but has emphasized on the whole of the government approach. He informed that over 260 medical colleges have been opened in the past years while the number of

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## Nitish Kumar posted as IG CID, Mahendra Tiwari as IG Armed Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 06: Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered transfer and posting of two senior IPS officers. According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Nitish Kumar (IPS) has been posted as Inspector General of Police, CID, J&K vice Mahendra Nath Tiwari. As per the order Mahendra Nath Tiwari (IPS) Inspector General of Police, CID, J&K has transferred and posted as Inspector General of Police, armed, Jammu, relieving Mukesh Singh, IPS, of additional charge of the posted—(KNO)

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## Mohammad Aslam assumes charge of Joint Director Information Kashmir

M S Nazki

SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: Mohammad Aslam (JKAS) on Monday assumed the charge of Joint Director Information Kashmir in presence of Deputy Director (PR) Srinagar, Bilal Mukhtar and other senior officers/ officials of divisional office at Srinagar. The officers and officials extended warm welcome to the Joint Director on assuming the charge of the division. Mr. Mohammad Aslam has previously served as Project Officer Wage Employment, (ACD) Anant-



nag; Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir and Joint Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir. After assuming charge, the incumbent Joint Director held an introductory meeting with officers and officials of the department during

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## Smart City Projects To Be Completed Before April 15: Div Com

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, 06-Mar; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Biduri today said that several projects being executed under the Srinagar Smart City Mission will be completed before April 15. While speaking to media about the ongoing projects being undertaken under the Srinagar Smart City mission, the Div Com said the upper deadline set for the projects is April 15 and that several projects will be completed before this date. "The upper deadline set for the projects being undertaken under the Smart City mission is April 15 and we are hopeful that several projects will be completed before this date," Biduri said.



Bidhuri stated that work on these projects is going on at night hours also, and they are continuously monitoring the work. "Works on Smart City projects are

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## Govt orders transfer, posting of 2 IAS officers Abid Rashid posted as Administrative Secretary Tourism Department

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 04 The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered transfer and posting of two IAS officers in the Union Territory. According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, IAS (AGMUT:2001), awaiting orders of adjustment, is posted as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor. The order stated he shall also hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji

Shrine Board, in addition to his own duties. "Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, IAS (AGMUT:2012), Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, J&K, is transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department relieving Sarmad Hafeez, IAS, of the additional charge of the post." It reads he shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, J&K, in addition

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## After March, commuters to have safe journey along Sgr-Jmu highway

Two tunnels, bridge to be made functional in Ramban this month: Officials

HT NEWS NETWORK

Ramban, Mar 06: The commuters are all set to have a safe journey along Srinagar-Jammu highway by the end of March month as the authorities here have said that the two important tunnels and a bridge in Ramban district of Jammu



region will be made functional this month. Jammu-Srinagar national highway is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country. Official sources told the news

agency that work on several projects in Ramban district is in progress. "800-metre-long T5 tunnel on Panthaly stretch of the highway is set to be thrown open by March 15 while Jaiswal bridge on Udampur-Ramban section to be made operational by March 20 and Kunfer tunnel is also expected to be completed by March 31, besides double lane of Ramban flyover and Banihal bypass to be completed by April 15 this year,"

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## JKDMA issues avalanche warning in Bandipora dist

Srinagar, Mar 6 (UNI) Authorities on Sunday issued an avalanche warning in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in next 24 hours, officials said. The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) Monday issued a "low danger" level avalanche warning for the people living above 2400 metres above sea level in Bandipora district in the next 24 hours. People living in the specified area have been advised to take precautions

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## Govt orders enquiry against President MC Handwara for alleged misconduct

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 06 In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered an enquiry into the alleged misconduct of the president Municipal Committee, Handwara. In an order, a copy of which has been accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Housing & Urban Development Department has ordered an enquiry into the alleged misconduct of the president of Municipal Committee Handwara. The enquiry has been ordered under section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Council Act-2000 which empowers the Government to remove a president or vice-President from his office on the ground

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## Govt begins process to scrutinize ration card holders falling in AAY, PHH category in Kashmir

Process to verify 7.5 lakh ration card holders be completed in one month : Dir FCS&CA

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 06: The government on Monday said that the process to scrutinize over seven lakh ration card holders falling in the category of AAY and PHH in the Valley. Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, Director Food Civil Supplies and



Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Abdul Salam Mir said that the process to identify the undeserving families who have been categorized in AAY and PHH has been started. "We have directed the officers to complete

the process across Kashmir within the period of one month," he said. He added that a total of 1.5 lakh families fall in AAY category while nearly 5 lakh families fall in PHH category. "We have been identifying the families, who don't deserve to be in AAY and PHH categories and they are accordingly added in APL category," he said. Director FCS&CA further said the employees who are found involved in providing AAY and PHH ration cards to the undeserving families are also being taken to the task. He said in case any family does not deserve for AAY and PHH category, they should voluntarily surrender their ration cards to ensure that the poor families are

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## 1200 quit smoking in Kashmir in last four years Besides counseling, pharmacotherapy sessions held

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 06: About 1200 persons quit smoking in Kashmir in the last four years, official data said. As per the data accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer 147 persons quit smoking in 2022-23 in Kashmir, 642 in 2021-22, 212 in 2020-21 and 194 in 2019-20. The Data said that around 6624 persons received counselling but no pharmacotherapy in 2022-23, 7815 in 2021-22, 5348 in 2020-21 and 791 in 2019-20. It also said 2109 persons received counselling and pharmacotherapy in 2022-23, 5412 in 2021-22, 4231 in 2020-21 and 2267 in 2019-20. Officials claim that slew of measures have been taken to decrease the percentage of tobacco con-



sumption in the UT even as they claim that percentage has started going down due to the efforts of the National Tobacco Control Programme launched by the Gov-

ernment. Notably as per GATS 2 Data 35.2% Men & 5.1% women & 20.8% of all Adults currently smoke Tobacco in J&K. 6.8% Men & 1.5% women and 4.3% of all adults currently use smokeless Tobacco, 39.7% Men & 6.2% women & 23.7% of all adults either smoke tobacco or use smokeless Tobacco. The National Health and Family Survey-5 (NHFS-5) data reveals nearly one-third (32%) of men, but only 1 percent of women, age 15-49 use some form of tobacco. "Tobacco products mostly used by men are cigarettes (27%), bidis (4%), hookah and cigars or pipe (2% each). Among women and men, the use of any form of tobacco is slightly higher in rural areas (1.4% for women and 35% for men) than in urban areas (0.7% for women and 24% for men)," the data adds—

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## Delay imposition of property tax by few years: Bukhari to administration

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 6 (UNI) Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Monday urged the J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to delay imposition of property tax by a few years. He said the people in Jammu and Kashmir are not in a position to pay property tax. "Lieutenant Governor may be correct in saying that the people in other states are also paying the tax, but the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not in a position to pay the property tax by now... I am not trying to browbeat you... if any political party can, they can... we are just requesting you on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, let us delay it for a few years." Bukhari told reporters in Srinagar. Despite uproar, the J&K government is introducing property tax from



April 1, 2023 onwards. Regarding the reports of outsourcing of the Royal Spring Golf course and other properties, Bukhari said that there are good local players in the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir and he would suggest they take a call and bid for these properties which will save them and the jobs to the local youth. He said the government should also

see how much bid they would put for these properties so that a local players can afford it and with which terms and conditions. Meanwhile, Altaf Bukhari on Monday filed his nomination papers for the ensuing Presidential elections of the Apni Party. Bukhari is the founder-president of the Apni party, which was established in March 2020. His present tenure as party president is ending on March 8. Bukhari filed his nomination papers - as the nominee of Apni Party's next president - before the Returning Officer Usman Majid and Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) Noor Mohammad Sheikh today at the Party headquarters in Srinagar. "Vijay Bakaya, Convenor for the party's Election Board, has invited the eligible candidates, who are

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## Students of Amar Singh College Srinagar attend Seed exhibition/Mela at SKUAST

SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: The Department of Botany, Amar Singh College today arranged a field tour for its students to Sher-Kashmir University of Agriculture, Science & Technology- Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on the occasion of Seed Exhibition/Mela to make them aware about the different types of germplasm and different techniques of plant & animal breeding.

25 Students of Botany, accompanied by two faculty members, Dr Kousar Parveen and Dr Perwaiz Ahmad Dar visited SKUAST-K Shalimar.

The exhibition had a vast variety of improved germplasm including fruit trees, vegetables, Flowers, ornamental plants, conifers and for other annual and perennial plants besides the animal germplasm and poultry, all put on different stalls for sale. These varieties were developed by the scientific efforts of the scientists of

SKUAST. Animal products e.g. woolen sweaters and silk clothes were also on sale at some stalls. Students witnessed people across the valley purchasing the seed stocks and root stocks with enthusiasm to plant in their private gardens and orchards.

The tour was successful and the students got a thorough insight about the cultivation of different kinds of crops. They were very interactive with the faculty, staff of the SKUAST and the various other stakeholders associated with the exhibition.

It was a very informative tour especially for the students of Bio-Science in order to help them to understand about the improvement of plant and animal varieties. It was a very informative tour especially for the students of Bio-Science in order to help them to understand about the improvement of plant and animal.

# KU to invite online applications for PG entrance test in 3rd week of March

Srinagar, Mar 6: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Monday chaired the Admission Advisory Committee to review the varsity's preparedness for admissions to various PG programmes and other professional courses for the academic session 2023. In her opening remarks, Prof Nilofer said the University's admission process is recognised in academic and social circles as completely transparent and it is therefore important to maintain this benchmark through and through. Asserting that the standard of the admission process has a direct bearing on the reputation and image of the institution, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised the need to make greater use of technological advancements to ease the admission process right from submission of online applications by the aspirants



to declaration of the results. After threadbare discussions on various issues, the Advisory Committee decided that the University's Directorate of Admissions and Competitive Examinations (DACE) will invite online application forms for

admission to all programmes offered through University of Kashmir in the 3rd week of March 2023, following which the Entrance Test shall be conducted in the last week of April, 2023. For convenience of aspirants hailing from far-off areas of

Jammu and Kashmir, the Vice-Chancellor instructed that besides the main campus, the entrance examination shall be conducted at all satellite campuses of the University including South Campus (Anantnag), North Campus

(Baramulla) and Kupwara Campus for the session-2023. "Our endeavor should be to take the admission process to the doorsteps of the aspirants," she said. Calling for close monitoring of the Entrance Test by observers on the entrance test days, Prof Nilofer instructed that efforts should be made to ensure that the entire admission process culminates within the set timelines so that the academic session starts in time and the degrees are eventually awarded to the students in time. The meeting was attended by Dean Academic Affairs Prof F A Masoodi, Dean College Development Council Prof Khurshid A Butt, Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Director Admissions Prof Farooq A Mir, Controller of Examinations Dr Majid Zaman, In-Charge Director IT Dr Maroof Qadri, besides other members of the Admission.

## Meeting on land requirement & availability with departments held at Anantnag

ANANTNAG, MARCH 06: The Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC) Anantnag, Mohammad Ashraf today presided over a meeting of officers from Police, Education, RDD, R&B, Health, KPDCL, Food, Revenue and Municipalities to discuss land requirements for various infrastructural projects.

During the meeting, the line departments presented their demands and the quantum of land required. The Assistant Commissioner Revenue provided detailed information about the available land that could be utilized by the departments.

The meeting was attended by a range of officers, including SDMs, SE R&B, SE KPDCL, Tehsildars, BDOs, Ex En R&B, CAO, CHO, CAHO NTs, DySP headquarters, AD Food, and various others.

## Police arrests 10 gamblers in Pulwama; Huge amount of stake money seized

March 06: Acting tough against social crimes, Police in Pulwama have arrested 10 gamblers and seized huge amount of stake money from their possession.

Acting on a specific information regarding gambling activities in Chewa Kharud, a police party from PS Pulwama raided the gambling site and arrested 10 gamblers. They have been identified as Mohd Ashraf Bhat resident of Prichoo Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Bagi Mehtab Srinagar, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat son of Ab Rehman Bhat resident of Chanapora, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani son of Fatah Mohammad Wani resident of Monghama Pulwama, Feroz Ahmad Malik son of Ab Aziz Malik resident of Chadoora, Ashiq Ahmad Sofi son of Gh Mohd Sofi resident of Rainawari Srinagar, Mehraj Ahmad Malla son of Khazir Mohammad Malla resident of Sumbal, Anwar ul Haq son of Akbar ud Din resident of Tangpora Srinagar, Tariq Ahmad Sheikh son of Sonaulah Sheikh resident of Shalpora Aloch Bagh and Younis Ahmad Zarger son of Nazir Ahmad Zarger resident of 90 feet Soura.

Officers have also seized stake money of 3,96,200 and playing cards from the gamblers. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 45/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pulwama and further investigation has been initiated.

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

## Police seizes illicit timber in Ganderbal, accused arrested

Ganderbal March 06: Police in Ganderbal have seized illicit timber and arrested the accused person involved in the commission of crime. Acting on a specific information regarding timber smuggling, a police party led by SHO PS Gund under the supervision of SDPO Kangan raided the upper reaches of forest cover at Compartment No.36 Sindh Range Kangan and seized the illegally dumped forest timber dumped in the compartment. Besides, arrested the smuggler identified as Muneer Ahmed Bijran son of Dilpazeer Bijran resident of Hilpati Gund. During preliminary questioning, it came to the surface that the accused person had cut down forest trees and kept them hidden in the forest compartment with the intention to sell the illicit timber. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 08/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Gund and investigation has been initiated. The drive against timber smugglers will continue to ensure protection of green gold. Our consistent actions against anti-social elements should reassure the community members that we are making every effort to keep our society free of crime. Police have resolved to act as per law against those who indulge in criminal & anti-social activities.

## JKNC slams JK govt for hiring blacklisted, 'tainted' APTECH company to conduct JKSSB exams

Srinagar, Mar 6: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar on Monday slammed the government on selection and the award of contract to 'tainted' and blacklisted APTECH Company for conducting the upcoming Jammu Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) exam(s). Echoing the public rage over the decision, Imran, as per GNS, said "The Company has been penalized by the Supreme Court and is on the blacklists of various states including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In J&K also the company was accused of blatant irregularities and violations of the law in altering the tender's terms and conditions. Why is such a company being selected which has consistently failed to provide transparency and accountability in conducting such an exercise? This question begs to be answered. The board instead of addressing the genuine concerns and fear of the educated, skilled local youth seems hell bent on destroying their future.

## Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari files his nomination papers for the party's upcoming Presidential election

Reyaz Badana

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Monday filed his nomination papers for the ensuing Presidential elections of the Apni Party. Pertinently, Mr. Bukhari is the founder-president of the party, which was established in March 2020. His present tenure as party president is ending on March 8. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari filed his nomination papers — as the nominee of Apni Party's next president — before the Returning Officer Usman Majid and Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) Noor Mohammad Sheikh today at the Party headquarters in Srinagar. He was accompanied by the party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Provincial President, Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Media Advisor Farooq Andrabi, and Senior leaders and Chairman DDC Srinagar Aftab Ahmad Malik, Provincial President for the party's Women Wing Dilshada Shaheen, Provincial president of the party's Youth Wing Khalid Rathore, Constituency In charge, Pulwama, Dr. Mir Sami Ullah, and others, a press note said.



"Vijay Bakaya, Convenor for the party's Election Board, has invited the eligible candidates, who are desirous to contest for the office of party President, to submit their application by March 7, 2023. The polling, if required, will be held on March 11, 2023." The press note added. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Monday filed his nomination papers for the ensuing Presidential elections of the Apni Party. Pertinently, Mr. Bukhari is the founder-president of the party, which was established in March 2020. His present tenure as party president is ending on March 8. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari filed his nomination papers — as the nominee of Apni Party's next president .

## Training/ Orientation Prog for Promotion of Millets & Nutri- Cereals held at GDC

Farooq Rather

FAROOQ RATHER. Kulgam, 06-Mar: One day District level orientation cum training programme on "Promotion of Millets & Nutri-Cereals in the UT of J&K" was today held at Govt. Degree College by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department in collaboration with KVK, Kulgam. During the programme Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam Sartaj Ahmad Shah highlighted the initiatives taken by Govt. of India in promoting the cultivation, processing and marketing of millets. The United Nations General Assembly at the behest of the Government of India, has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets to raise awareness about the health benefits and sustainable production and consumption of millets. He thrusted upon the field functionaries to revive these ancient



grains for doubling farmer's income, maintaining sustainability and safe guarding the food & nutritional security in J & K. District Resource Person, Shabeer Ahmad Mir delivered a detailed presentation on scenario, health benefits of Millets, their role in mitigating the consequences of climate change, food and nutritional insecurity, enhancing soil fertility and productivity, minimizing the risk to biotic and abiotic factors and crop diversification through inter-cropping or mixed-cropping. The said project is aimed to promote cultivation of millets, increase their value addition and generate entrepreneurship opportunities for farmers besides to generate awareness regarding the nutritional value of millets, which are rich in Proteins, Micronutrients, Vitamins, Dietary Fiber and Phytochemicals, Gluten free and low Glycemic Index (GI). He said the due to high nutritional quality millets are now called as 'Nutri Cereals' or 'Super-grains' and due to their resilience to climate change millets are known as the 'Miracle grains' or "Crops of the future". They can grow in drought prone areas, degraded soils and do not require large amounts of water or external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, making them an ideal crop for Rainfed areas of J & K.

# DC Kulgam reviews progress on implementation of ABDP Instructs BDOs & other concerned to register young volunteers for formulation of Youth Clubs.

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 06: In order to review the progress made with regard to implementation of Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Manzzgam and D. K. Marg blocks, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here. At the outset, the DC took a detailed sector wise review of the activities being carried out by the concerned Departments in both the Blocks under ABDP based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects of Poverty, Health, Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block. The DC exhorted upon

the officers of line departments to work more efficiently to bring improvements on key indicators of development in these two nominated blocks of the district. He further asked the concerned Departments to adopt best practices to get tangible results on ground in a time bound manner. The DC directed departments to achieve 100 percent saturation of individual beneficiary schemes, besides, covering the scope of other welfare schemes of different departments. During the meeting, an effective mechanism for timely collection of data and other aspects of APDP for Aspirational panchayats was also discussed. The DC instructed BDOs and other concerned to register young volun-



teers for formulation of youth clubs. He said these

Youth Clubs provide an opportunity for the young

generation to contribute to society and achieve self-growth under Mission Youth initiative. As energetic and vibrant partners of Panchayats and District Administration, these clubs are ensuring that governance effectively reaches to the grass-roots level, DC added. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rafter; ADC, Vigar Ahmed Giri; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; ACR, ACD, Mohammad ACP, CMO, Ex-Engineers of Jal Shakti, REW and PDD, Dy.CEO, BDOs and other officers. In order to review the progress made with regard to implementation of Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Manzzgam and D. K. Marg blocks, a meeting was held today under

the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here. At the outset, the DC took a detailed sector wise review of the activities being carried out by the concerned Departments in both the Blocks under ABDP based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects of Poverty, Health, Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block. The DC exhorted upon the officers of line departments to work more efficiently to bring improvements on key indicators of development in these two nominated blocks of the district. He further asked the concerned Departments to adopt best practices to get tangible results.

## Widespread criticism, anger in J&K after govt awards contract to Aptech company for conducting SSB exams

Srinagar, Mar 06 The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha led administration in Jammu and Kashmir came under widespread criticism after selecting the blacklisted Aptech, a Mumbai-based recruiting agency for conducting Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) exams.

Citing the reason that the company is blacklisted by many states including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, many political parties, JKSSB aspirants and other civil society members have expressed their displeasure over its selection by the government and demanded Sinha-led J&K administration to scrap the contract with the firm.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), appealing the government to save the future of students, Rafeeq Ahmad, a twitter user said that youth are under utter shock and frustration as

JKSSB has scheduled exams in J&K with Aptech as exam conducting agency which is a fraud and scammer agency having a track record filled with scams.

Mir Rayees, another student says that the government is committed to ruin the future of deserving aspirants of JKSSB by doing this move. "Why did the JKSSB and LG-led administration hire a fraud company like APTECH," he asked.

"Hiring dubious Aptech exam conducting agencies for the state level recruitment is a sheer fraud with the aspirants. Aptech Blacklisted tampered with Central level exams and one can imagine the susceptibility of JKSSB exams. Restore the merit system, save the meritorious youth of J&K," says Deepika Pushkar Nath.

"We demand offline exams, JKSSB has conducted such exams in the past and can still do that. Should stop hiring private blacklisted companies.

## Govt identifies 10 tourism properties to be outsourced

Srinagar, Mar 06: After setting up a panel for outsourcing tourism properties, the Jammu & Kashmir government has so far identified 10 assets for which they have floated tenders. A top official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the administration has identified 10 properties of the tourism department for which they have floated out the tenders for their outsourcing.

"As of now, the Request for Proposal (RFP) of only 10 tourism properties has been rolled out for outsourcing, and bids have been invited through a tendering process," the official said.

He informed that the tourism properties to be outsourced are almost equal from both Kashmir and Jammu provinces.

Asked if more tourism properties are to be outsourced, the official said they are examining it. "More properties are likely to be outsourced in the future," he said.

Meanwhile, according to a letter by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) to the Secretary of Royal Springs Golf course Srinagar, the J&K administration has also proposed to 'outsource' the famed Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC) through public-private-partnership (PPP) mode.

In a letter to the Secretary RSGC, the Managing Director of JKTDC said some properties of the corporation and Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Kashmir are proposed to be outsourced on a PPP mode.

"Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) has also been included in the list of outsourcing," the letter reveals.

However, the officials confirmed to KNO that the Request for Proposal for RSGC has not been issued as of now and that tendering/bidding process of only 10 tourism properties has been initiated.



# DC Kupwara inaugurates Mega Job Fair at Town Hall Urges youth to become job providers instead of job seekers; get benefits of government schemes

KUPWARA, MARCH 06: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today urged upon the youth of Kupwara district to register themselves with District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Kupwara and get benefits of various Self Employment schemes (SES), adding that self employment is the sole option to coup up with the unemployment problem.

The DC was addressing a district level mega job fair, organised by DECC in collaboration with the District Administration Kupwara at Town Hall Kupwara.

The job fair was attended by Nodal Officer DECC, Nizamudin Wani; District Information Officer, Mohammad Yousof Mir; Young Professionals, Employers (Representatives of Companies), Youth Clubs and a large number of educated unemployed youth.

The DC said that he has personally observed that the youth of Kupwara district possess enough talent to become job providers instead of job seekers.

He asked educated unemployed youth to work hard with persistence to compete in competitive exams, but do not wait years together to get a government job, instead go for self employment with strong will and be-



come the torch bearers for others. He added one highly qualified youth can take two or more less educated persons with them and can earn their livelihood with dignity. While addressing, DC interacted with 3

youth Basharat Bashir, MBA; Sanam Sana, PG, B.Ed and M.Ishfaq Mir, BA and guided them individually who can start their own ventures and excel. Dr. Sagar appreciated the organizers for

holding such a mega job fair and wished that such employment fairs should be held at mass level. He asked the youth of the district to participate vigorously in these fairs to gain updated knowledge about the new and innovative schemes. He said 85 schemes/trades have already been identified who the unemployed youth can opt for.

Later, the DC said that over 8000 youth have been identified under various employment generation schemes under PMEGP and now more things are coming under Mission Youth. He said employment generation for youth is the first priority of the LG Government and district administration.

The DC said that 100 jobs are being provided in this job fair as about one dozen companies are here to conduct the interview of the candidates. He said in the earlier months a number of employers have visited the district to conduct the interview of the candidates.

He said that concerted efforts are on from the Administration to give skill training to youth to make them able to get suitable jobs in the private sector.

The Nodal Officer, DECC and other experts also spoke on the occasion and gave detailed knowledge about various employment generating schemes.

# Nuzhat Ishfaq lays Foundation Stone for upgradation of 4.80 km road at Ganderbal



GANDERBAL, MARCH 06: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq today laid foundation stone for upgradation of 4.80 Km road to be constructed at the cost of Rs 280.58 lakh from Wahidpora to Lar in Ganderbal under PMGSY phase III.

Speaking on the occasion Nuzhat Ishfaq congratulated PMGSY division Ganderbal for taking this vital road project and hoped that the said road will be completed in a stipulated time frame.

The locals also hailed the efforts put in by the DDC Chairperson for sanctioning the road.

Pertinently the said road is the first road taken under PMGSY Phase-III and will be completed in the financial year 2023-24.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Ganderbal, local PRI and other officials of PMGSY were present on the occasion.

## Chairman DDC Budgam distributes orders among AAYAS/Helpers at Harda-Panzoo



BUDGAM, MARCH 06: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan today distributed appointment orders among AAYAS and Helpers in a function conducted at Govt Higher Secondary School Harda-Panzoo, here.

16 Appointment orders were distributed among the eligible beneficiaries on the occasion.

The Chairman DDC while addressing the gathering said that appointment of AAYAS and Helpers in the schools will ensure the saturation of all welfare schemes in the School Education Department including Mid Day Meal Scheme etc.

"Government is ensuring quality education and effective infrastructure in the schools and every effort should be taken to ensure all facilities are provided to the students so that the loss incurred during previous years is compensated at an earliest", Khan added.

The Chairman DDC earlier in the day also participated in a function at Govt High School Aripanthan and took a review of the facilities being provided to the students.

Chief Education Officer Budgam, Member DDC Sukhnag, BDC Chairperson Sukhnag, senior officers of the Education Department, PRI members were also present during the function.

# Awareness programme on ULPIN and LRIS held at Town Hall Tangmarg

SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: An IEC (awareness) programme regarding ULPIN and LRIS (Aap Ki Zameen Aap Ki Nigrani) was today held at Town Hall Tangmarg under the overall supervision of Regional Director Survey and Land Records (S&LR) North Kashmir, Khurshid Ahmad Shah in collaboration with Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg.

Besides Tehsildar Tangmarg, Tehsildar Kunzer and Tehsildar Kawarhama, a huge number of people including PRIs and Lumberdars participated in the awareness camp.

While throwing light on the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the Regional Director S&LR (North Kashmir) apprised that under the said programme the UT of Jammu & Kashmir has achieved an important milestone to provide the most transparent and accountable services to the common people.

He further informed the audience that so far 5063982 documents have been scanned, 1047 Jambandies

digitized and 993207 parcels of Mussavies digitized.

Shah said that as part of the programme, now the ULPIN is being developed by the government in order to construct an effective Land Information System.

He further described that the goal of putting ULPIN in place was to improve the accessibility of land related information and Longitude/ Latitude coordinates of a land parcel are used to identify a land parcel for ULPIN. ULPIN also aids in the prevention of land related frauds. The Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Tehsildar Tangmarg and other revenue field functionaries including Naib Tehsildars and GQs also spoke on the occasion wherein they provided vital information to the audience regarding providing of revenue services to the applicants at their door steps. A PPT showcasing the revenue services provided to the applicants in online mode was also presented before the public which was applauded and appreciated by the audience. The PRIs including

the farmers/ villagers present in the programme.

On the occasion, various land passbooks were distributed among the rightful landowners by the Regional Director S&LR North Kashmir. Besides Tehsildar Tangmarg, Tehsildar Kunzer and Tehsildar Kawarhama, a huge number of people including PRIs and Lumberdars participated in the awareness camp. While throwing light on the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the Regional Director S&LR (North Kashmir) apprised that under the said programme the UT of Jammu & Kashmir has achieved an important milestone to provide the most transparent and accountable services to the common people.

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## Director Agri inaugurates distribution of Vegetable Seedlings raised under Hi-tech polyhouses



SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated distribution of vegetable seedlings raised as per scientific lines under hi-tech poly house conditions at vegetable farm Kupwara.

Speaking to the farmers, the Director Agriculture said that the department is vigorously pursuing the ambitious target of providing seedlings of different vegetable crops to the farmers of the valley and in this direction the department has already introduced many initiatives.

Director Agriculture appreciated the efforts of the concerned officers/officials of vegetable farm Kupwara and asked the concerned officers to organize farmers awareness cum training programmes

with the focus on vegetable cultivation so that more and more farmers, Educated youth could adopt this on commercial lines.

Iqbal said that valley wide seedling distribution will continue in a phased manner. He said demand for vegetable seedling is increasing every year as backyard farming and kitchen garden cultivation is increasing which is an encouraging trend for the overall development of the agriculture sector.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by Chief Agriculture officer Kupwara Ghulam Mohammad Dhoobi, District Agriculture Officer Kupwara Tej Pal Singh and other senior officers of the department.

Awareness camp (IEC) regarding ULPIN and "Aap Ki Zameen Aap Ki Nigrani" at Town Hall Tangmarg.

# Weeklong workshop on Research Methodology begins at NIT Srinagar

Review of literature vital for research, students should not resort to shortcuts: VC CUK

Srinagar, Mar 06: A Week-long Workshop on "Research Methodology" organized by Department of Humanities Social Sciences and Management began on Monday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah, while Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Rakesh Sehgal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Abdul Liman and Head HSSM Department Prof. (Dr.) Neyaz Ahmad were Guest of Honor on the occasion.

Prof. M.F. Wani Dean Research & Consultancy, HOD HSSM, Prof. Neyaz Ahmad Sheikh are Chairman of the weeklong workshop. Dr. Jaspeet Kaur, Associate Professor at Pearl Academy and Dr. Neeraj Kaushik, Associate Professor NIT Kurukshetra will be the experts of the workshop.

In his key address, VC CUK, Prof. Shah said that over the past several decades there has been significant change in conducting the research. As compared to the past, now there has been a structural process, programs that tell people how to go for research, he said.

"Our research should be impactful so that it can prove beneficial and bring positive changes in the society. Unfortunately our students have resorted to



shortcuts that have impacted quality research," he said.

Prof. Shah said the first and foremost thing that students should do is to select the area where they have intent to conduct the research. In case students have no idea, then they need to conduct an extensive review of literature," he said.

"I have found in most of the dissertations, people make excessive use of statistical techniques due to which they are unable to interpret their research in a good way," he said.

Prof. Shah said unfortunately students without understanding their research area; they straightway

choose their topic, which is a dangerous trend.

"Your research should begin and end with literature review. If the students are writing the last chapter of the research, it is a lifeline for the entire research process," he said.

On the occasion, Director NIT, Prof. (Dr.), Rakesh Sehgal appreciated the HSSM Department for organizing a fourth workshop on research and methodology during the past 3 years.

While sharing his research journey with the participants, he said research plays a crucial role in advancing our understanding of various phenomena and developing new knowledge in various

fields.

Prof. Sehgal said research methodology provides students with the necessary knowledge to undertake better research and conceivably become successful career researchers.

In his message, Institute's Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari (who could attend inaugural session due to medical emergency) said the primary aim of such workshops is that participants will be updated with the latest trends in research methodology," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said this workshop is designed to appeal to different learning styles, with an emphasis on active interactive participation through lab sessions running along the theory sessions.

HOD HSSM, Prof. Neyaz Ahmad Sheikh said the department was established in 1960 as one of the founding departments. We offer multiple doctorate and postgraduate programmes. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is being offered in various areas of English Language & Literature, Economics, and Management, he said.

"During the workshop, participants will be provided with a sample data set to analyse so that they may gain confidence and expertise in conducting research in their respective subject domains, especially in the area of social sciences," he said.

# DC Kulgam reviews progress on implementation of ABDP

Instructs BDOs & other concerned to register young volunteers for formulation of Youth Clubs

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 06: In order to review the progress made with regard to implementation of Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Manzgam and D. K. Marg blocks, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed sector wise review of the activities being carried out by the concerned Departments in both the Blocks under ABDP based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects of Poverty, Health, Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block.

The DC exhorted upon the officers of line departments to work more efficiently to bring improvements on key indicators of development in these two nominated blocks of the district.

He further asked the concerned Departments to adopt best practices to get tangible results on ground in a time bound manner.

The DC directed departments to achieve 100 percent saturation of individual beneficiary schemes, besides, covering the scope of other welfare schemes of different departments.

During the meeting, an



effective mechanism for timely collection of data and other aspects of APDP for Aspirational panchayats was also discussed. The DC instructed BDOs and other concerned to register young volunteers for formulation of Youth Clubs. He said these Youth Clubs provide an opportunity for the young generation to contribute to society and achieve self-growth under Mission Youth initiative.

As energetic and vibrant partners of Panchayats and District Administration, these clubs are ensuring that governance effectively reaches to the grassroots level, DC added.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; ACP, ACD, Mohammad ACP, CMO, Ex. Engineers of Jal Shakti, REW and PDD, Dy.CEO, BDOs and other officers. At the outset, the DC took a detailed sector wise review of the activities being carried out by the concerned Departments in both the Blocks under ABDP based on 10 performance indicators covering various aspects of Poverty, Health, Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure development of the concerned Block.

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# Prashant Goyal inaugurates first ever Startup leadership conclave at JKEDI

SRINAGAR, MARCH 6: Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Prashant Goyal, today inaugurated the first-ever Startup leadership conclave at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The keynote speaker on the occasion was self-made billionaire Pyare Zia Khan, who is the CEO of Ashmi Group and an inspiration for budding entrepreneurs across the country. In his inaugural address, Principal Secretary said that the Startup India initiative of the Government of India has been a game changer for the country. It has provided a platform for upcoming startups and has been instrumental in positioning India among the top performers on the global stage, he added.

He said that the UT government is fully committed towards providing an enabling platform for startups to strengthen and flourish their businesses. Revision of the Startup policy of 2018 is one such effort to create an all-inclusive and sustainable startup ecosystem in J&K. This policy will be in tune with the latest developments happening across the globe, he added. He congratulated the JKEDI for working towards strengthening the startup ecosystem in J&K.



Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, highlighted the importance of organizing this event and how this will benefit the youth of J&K. "The startup ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir is growing steadily taking a cue from the country's rising startup culture. Under the guidance and support of Principal Secretary, the UT is witnessing a sea change", he maintained. He has been instrumental in creating

a robust startup ecosystem in J&K. Our guest of honour, Pyare Zia Khan, is an inspiration for us and a product of arduous hard work and persistence. There is a lot to learn from him. I am sure the startups present here will take this learning and implement it in their businesses. In the future, The Institute will organize more such events for the benefit of startups," the Director added.

The keynote speaker, Pyare Zia Khan, enlightened the audience about his journey from a slum dweller to a successful entrepreneur. "I had no money and was from a poor family but my passion to do something big always kept me on the path. Initially, I was a rickshaw driver, but now I own a transport business worth around 600 crore. IIM Ahmedabad did a case study on me. At first, I was

apprehensive and avoided them as I had never been to college in my life. That challenge was later won by me. I have won more than 150 awards globally. If I can be a successful entrepreneur, then anyone can do it. The conclave was attended by more than 200 startups and entrepreneurs from various sectors across the UT. Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, columnist and social activist shared his experience and lauded the efforts of Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director JKEDI for organizing this conclave for startups. The Conclave hosted mentoring sessions and round table discussions where startups and aspiring entrepreneurs interacted with Pyare Zia Khan and other industry leaders. The sessions were on how to launch a start-up, ecosystem support and on funding where startup founders learned about various avenues to raise funds among other valuable sessions. It highlighted the journeys of the speakers and the challenges that they overcame in their pursuit of bringing change to society. The idea behind the conclave largely rests on providing direction and hope to budding entrepreneurs from various walks of life and instilling in them the belief that no matter how difficult their goals might seem,

there have been individuals that have found a way to realize their ambitions. This has brought significant changes to the lives of others. The keynote speaker, Pyare Zia Khan, enlightened the audience about his journey from a slum dweller to a successful entrepreneur. "I had no money and was from a poor family but my passion to do something big always kept me on the path. Initially, I was a rickshaw driver, but now I own a transport business worth around 600 crore. IIM Ahmedabad did a case study on me. At first, I was apprehensive and avoided them as I had never been to college in my life. That challenge was later won by me. I have won more than 150 awards globally. If I can be a successful entrepreneur, then anyone can do it. The conclave was attended by more than 200 startups and entrepreneurs from various sectors across the UT. Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, columnist and social activist shared his experience and lauded the efforts of Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director JKEDI for organizing this conclave for startups. The Conclave hosted mentoring sessions and round table discussions where startups and aspiring entrepreneurs interacted with Pyare Zia Khan and other industry leaders.

## Director Horticulture Jammu launches Fruit Plantation Drive at Akhnoor



JAMMU, MARCH 06: As the spring season is suitable for planting of fruit plants, the Department of Horticulture Jammu is making all out efforts to generate awareness among the farming community about the plantation of fruit crops during the season. The Department of Horticulture Jammu under the chairmanship of its Director, Ram Savak, today conducted One Day Farmers' Awareness cum Interaction Programme at village Sayal, Nardi, Akhnoor covering an area of 60 kanals. He urged farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail the benefits of different components viz: Bore Well, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Mechanization, Protected cultivation, Tools & Implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status. Further, he impressed upon them to form Self Help Groups (SHG's) for setting up of small fruit and vegetables processing units with the financial assistance from the department, henceforth which can play an important role in enhancing the family income. Earlier, Ram Savak, as a Prabhari of Panchayat Lower Narayna of block Khour, chaired a review meeting regarding the decisions taken in the Back 2 Village 4 Programme.

farmers' income. He also discussed in detail the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) and its execution with the PRI members. Later, the Director Horticulture Jammu launched a plantation drive by planting a sampling of Citrus plant for compact plantation in a farmers' field at village Sayal, Nardi, Akhnoor covering an area of 60 kanals. He urged farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail the benefits of different components viz: Bore Well, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Mechanization, Protected cultivation, Tools & Implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status. Further, he impressed upon them to form Self Help Groups (SHG's) for setting up of small fruit and vegetables processing units with the financial assistance from the department, henceforth which can play an important role in enhancing the family income. Earlier, Ram Savak, as a Prabhari of Panchayat Lower Narayna of block Khour, chaired a review meeting regarding the decisions taken in the Back 2 Village 4 Programme.

## Dr Samoon reviews draft agenda of 4th Governing Council meeting of JKSDM

JAMMU, MARCH 06: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today convened a meeting to review draft agenda for preparatory 4th Governing Council meeting of JK Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Threadbare discussion was held on various components of draft agenda points of 4th preparatory meeting of Governing Council of JKSDM to be held later, besides decision taken in previous meetings of Governing Council of Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission.

Among others the meeting was attended by Special Secretary, SDD, Mohammad Ashraf; MD JKSDM, Leena Padha; Professor Muqbil Burhan, IIM Jammu; FA/CAO SDD, Yasir Sharief, Incharge JKSDM Jammu Office, Neelanjana Manwati and other concerned officers while Incharge JKSDM Srinagar Office, Shafqat Ara participated online.

The concerned officers briefed the Principal Secretary about the agenda set up for 4th Governing Council meeting which included various issues and present status



of working of Skill Development Mission in JK UT.

During threadbare discussion, Principal Secretary gave several directions to concerned officers to further improve work-

ing of Skill Development Mission. He said that JKSDM envisions empowering the youth of J&K with appropriate skills for continual career progression, entrepreneurial opportunity and sustainable em-

ployment. The Mission strive to enhance employability and sustainable growth by means of measurable and meaningful skill development.

Principal Secretary also stressed upon the concerned officers to clear all bottlenecks in the draft agenda points. He directed them to take up the matter of UCs with DCs regarding the funds already transferred to them so that further course of action could be taken accordingly.

The meeting also discussed and reviewed different aspects of Centrally Sponsored Schemes including PMKVY, SANKALP and India Skill competition besides deliberating on physical and financial status. Principal Secretary also stressed upon the concerned officers to clear all bottlenecks in the draft agenda points. He directed them to take up the matter of UCs with DCs regarding the funds already transferred to them so that further course of action could be taken accordingly.

The meeting also discussed and reviewed different aspects of Centrally Sponsored Schemes including PMKVY, SANKALP and India Skill competition.

## ARTO suspends more DLs, RCs & Permits for Bovine smuggling, other offences at Reasi

REASI MARCH 06: Continuing the drive against habitual offenders, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Reasi, Rajesh Gupta suspended two each driving licenses, Route Permits and Registration Certificates of persons involved in Bovine smuggling. Acting tough against different violators, a detailed report was prepared regarding their involvement in Bovine smuggling and other offences.

On the recommendation

of SP Ramban for their involvement in serious offences, ARTO Reasi suspended licenses bearing the number JK02-20180004502 & JK2020150001017 for violation under Motor Vehicle Act and the Registration Permit and Registration Certificate of the vehicles bearing Registration Number JK20A-9835, JK20B-6546, JK20-8510 & JK20B-1603.

In addition to this show cause notices have been served to violators for vio-

lations of various MV Act/ Rules and their driving licenses will be suspended after completion of codal formality.

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## DC distributes Emergency Response Kits among trained Aapda Mitra volunteers at Ramban



RAMBAN, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam, who is also chairman of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), today distributed Emergency Response Kits among 100 trained Aapda Mitra volunteers of the district. DDC Councillor Ramsoo, Bashir Ahmed Naik; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The volunteers have completed a 12 day training programme under Disaster response at Central Training Institute Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. The Deputy Commissioner distributed Emergency Response Kits among these Aapda Mitra volunteers here at the District Administrative Complex. The DC outlined the scope and mandate of the trained volunteers who shall be in readiness to tackle and rescue the people during any natural disaster. He said more such training programmes would also be held in near future to train and sensitize the volunteers and for the benefit of people in real time, he added. The Deputy Commissioner distributed Emergency Response Kits among these Aapda Mitra volunteers here at the District Administrative Complex. The DC outlined the scope and mandate of the trained volunteers who shall be in readiness to tackle and rescue the people during any natural disaster.

## DM, SSP review law & order situation in Doda District 'All Outsiders, Tenants, Domestic workers to register in local police station'

DODA, MARCH 06: A meeting of Magistrates and Police officers was held here today to review the law and order situation in the district.

The meeting was chaired by District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti; ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir; ASP Bhadarwah, Kameshwar Puri; ASP Headquarter Doda, Shakeel Bhat; ACR, Sanjeev Kumar; SDMs; SDPOs; Tehsildars; Dy.SPs; and other concerned officers and officials.

The officers of civil and police administration gave detailed feedback to the DM and SSP about the basic concerns of the people in their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on various issues with regard to the security measures and decided to formulate an action plan to maintain peace in the district. Retrieval of government land, illegally occupied by encroachers was also discussed and the stakeholder departments were asked to ensure the maintenance of the possession of the retrieved land. Mea-



sures to fight drug menace, prevention of bovine smuggling and maintaining communal harmony and peace in the district were discussed in detail. Keeping a close

check on illegal constructions, illegal mining, and intensifying anti encroachment drives was also stressed upon. The DM instructed to seize the vehicles

used in the illegal activities, keep track of history sheeters and initiate strict action against violators of restrictions imposed under Section 144 Cr.PC and other sections by the authorities. The Magistrates were asked to check the schools, health institutions, and other offices and take action against malpractices in exams, absenteeism, and corrupt practices. He ordered for registration of beggars/ donations collectors, sadhus from outside the district. He further directed to get the complete details of tenants, domestic helpers and other Outsiders residing in the district. The DM informed that a mega Youth Festival 'Youthon' would be held on March 18, 2023. He asked the officers to ensure the dissemination of information among youth for greater participation. The SSP stressed on addressing and keeping an eye on the small social and other kinds of issues to avoid law and order situations. He laid emphasis on maintaining close coordination between police and civil administration for eradicating social evils and efficient tackling of law and order situation, including drug addiction/ trafficking in the district.



## DC Kathua reviews implementation of tribal schemes/ activities

KATHUA, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey, chaired a meeting of officers to review physical and financial status of tribal schemes/activities being implemented in the district.

At the outset, the DC was apprised by XENs of PWD (R&B) Basohli and Kathua, XEN PHE, AEE REW that financial and physical progress of all taken up works are nearing completion except few which are at their final stages.

It was also given out in the meeting that the School Education department has completed all approved projects in the current fiscal year.

The DC called upon the executing agencies to make all out efforts to complete the works taken up to improve the socio-economic conditions of Tribal Community in



the district. He called for achieving financial progress of all approved projects within set timelines to rule out forwarding of liabilities to the next financial year.

The meeting was attended by CPO, District Sheep Husbandry Officer and other concerned officers. At the outset, the DC was apprised by XENs of PWD (R&B) Basohli and Kathua, XEN PHE, AEE REW that financial and physical progress of all

## Kathua admin gears up to host Chaitra Navratra Festival ADC calls for promoting use of environment friendly material

KATHUA, MARCH 06: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Atul Gupta, today chaired a meeting of officers of different departments to review the arrangements being put in place for the celebration of Chaitra Navratra festival to be observed in the district from March 22, 2023.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized upon the administrators and Pujaris of the Temples and shrines to ensure environment protective measures during the Navratra festival. He asked for installation of QR Code at prominent places for the convenience of the Yatis willing to donate.

During the meeting, issues including road connectivity, cleanliness, uninterrupted electricity, regular drinking water supply, security, medical facilities, traffic management, check on the rates and quality of food items and deployment of fire tenders etc. were discussed in detail.

The ADC directed the engineers of PWD, RDD, Jal Shakti and JPDCL to make necessary arrangements for uninterrupted services well in advance. He asked the Police authorities to make foolproof security arrangements by deploying an adequate number of personnel at all religious places.

For the maintenance of sanitation and



cleanliness at Shrines/ Mandirs, the ADC directed Municipalities to take proactive measures with the help of Temple/ Shrine Committees.

The ADC directed Traffic authorities to formulate an elaborate regulation plan for effective management of traffic during the event and place signboards

at prominent places for the convenience of the devotees. The enforcement departments were asked to keep a check on rates and quality of food items being sold during the festival. The Health Department was directed to organise Health Camps for Yatis and keep sufficient provision for Medicare for the visitors.

Calling for use of eco-friendly stuff, the ADC called upon representatives of Mandir Committees to switch to traditional Pattal-Doona for Langar and Prashads and avoid Single Use Plastic.

The Motor Vehicle Department was directed to keep a strict check on overloading and overcharging by transporters.

Earlier, representatives of Mandir committees of Mata Balasundri, Jasrota Mata Mandir, Sherkotla Mandir, Ashapurni Mandir, Mata Balasundri Nagri etc. projected issues and demanded immediate attention of the administration.

The ADC passed on the spot instructions to the concerned department to redress the issues before the start of Navratra festival.

ASP, Suresh Kumar Chib; ADC, Billa-Var Vinay Khosla; ADC, Basohli Ajeet Singh; CEO BBDA, CEO BBDA, SDM Hiranagar, SDM Bani and officers of other concerned departments were also present.

## Reasi gets Rs 42 Crore project for promotion of round the year Mushroom Cultivation

REASI, MARCH 06: A training session on Mushroom cultivation and farm Mechanization was held today here under the chairmanship of Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi, Harbans Singh.

In his inaugural address, the CAO said that Reasi district has bagged an Rs 42 crore project which will be implemented in next three years for promotion of round the year mushroom cultivation for sustainability and profitability. As many as 26 pasteurised compost making units, 10 spawn production labs and 72 controlled conditioned cropping rooms (2000 bags capacity) would be established in three years under the project, he added. He informed that the focus of the project under farm Mechanization is to raise the level of farm power availability from 1.74 kw/ha to 2.5 kw/ha.



Head KVK, Reasi, Banarasi Lal highlighted the importance of Mushroom cultivation and Farm Mechanization in generating the income as well as employment among the farming community. SMS Reasi, Kewal Krishan Sharma deliberated in detail on constraints, objectives, outcome of round the year production of Mushrooms and scope of med-

ical mushroom. Topics like value addition and marketing of mushrooms were also discussed.

Farm Manager, KVK Reasi, Arvinder Kumar, through PowerPoint Presentation, covered different aspects of Farm Mechanization. He said Embellishment of CHCs/ FMBs, Promotion of Area specific machinery, Precision Agriculture are the focus points of the

Project.

Others who participated in the training included District Agriculture officer (Extension), Rajesh Verma, SMS DL, Amit Sharma, ASCO, Varinder Dogra, and Sub division Agriculture officer Dharmari, Rupinder Pal Singh Bedi, SDAO Reasi, Vinod Khajuria, SMS, AEOs and other field functionaries.

## Rattan Lal bats for restoration of statehood, Assembly polls in J&K

### Says people fed-up with lies-riddle policies, misrule of BJP

REASI, March 6: Provincial President, National Conference, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta has reiterated the demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and also sought early Assembly polls to ensure justice to the people of the region.

The senior NC leader was speaking at the day-long workers convention held at Reasi today. Under the Chairmanship of its District President Reasi Babu Jagjeevan Lal.

Rattan Lal Gupta, while condemning forcibly implementation of property tax without consulting the elected public representatives, said that the so-called Achhe Din of Bjp. He asserted that the imposition of property tax was not in the mandate of last local bodies



elections held in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Provincial President lamented that the development has come to a complete halt in Reasi District under the present dispensation and the bureaucrat-centric administration is least bothered to address the issues of the common people in absence of a duly elected representative gov-

ernment in place in this Union Territory. He said the government is interested in only imposing taxes instead of providing basic amenities to the common masses.

He maintained that the people of Gool, Arnas, Dharmadi, Pouni and other several areas of Reasi District are decrying for basic amenities as the whole district is facing

acute shortage of health services, government ration, power and water supply and poor road connectivity. Besides, the youth of Reasi district are highly disappointed due to lack of any policy for their bright future, he said, adding that J&K is top among the states in which unemployment and corruption at peak.

The Provincial President asserted that the Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a difficult phase and need of the time is to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to steer it to peace, progress and development. He appealed to the people of whole Reasi District to teach BJP a lesson by extending full support to the National Conference in the forthcoming.

## Lt Governor's Special Governance camp for displaced persons of POJK: DC Rajouri discusses arrangements for smooth conduct of events



RAJOURI, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the successful conduct of Lt Governor's Special Governance camp for the displaced persons of the Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

In the meeting, detailed deliberations were held regarding various arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the camps for the displaced persons at designated locations. Speaking at the meeting,

the DC underlined the objective of the camps, emphasizing that the primary focus of these camps is to ensure that all the displaced persons of POJK are registered under various schemes and programs of the Union and UT Government.

He also asked the concerned stakeholders to work in tandem and synergise their efforts for the smooth and successful conduct of the camps to achieve the desired objectives of the camps.

The DC stressed on the importance of effective coordination among var-

ious departments and agencies involved in the arrangements, such as the health department, police, transport department, and local administration.

He also emphasized on the need for proper communication with the displaced persons to ensure that they receive adequate support at the camps.

The Lt Governor's camp for displaced persons of POJK will be held shortly at designated locations in Rajouri district. The camps aim to provide basic facilities and assis-

tance, including health checkups, medical aid, counseling, and support for education, employment and livelihood opportunities, to the displaced persons from POJK.

ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; DDE, Qadeer UI Rehman; DSHO, Dr Sarfraz Naseem Chowdhary; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## AJKPC Protests Against Rural Development Department AJKPC Alleges Bureaucracy in J & K is Conspiring Against PRIs

JAMMU, MARCH/2023: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) a registered organization working for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions in J & K today held a strong protest outside Press Club in Jammu against the Rural Development Department alleging to undermine the authority and autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Over 100 elected Panchayat members and senior members of the AJKPC led by its president Anil Sharma held protest raising slogans against the Rural Development Department for its order to revoke and retract amount of Rs 200 Crore that was actually available at the disposal of Panchayats under 14th Finance Commission.

Agitating PRI members informed that earlier also around 2 months ago a similar order to rescind funds under 14th FC was issued but later the Rural Development department after severe criticism and condemnation from the elected Panchayat members had assured that it would not fiddle with the



available funds and the Panchayats would be allowed to use these funds till 31st March and they shall be allowed to make payments against the completed and started developmental works in the Panchayats that have the approval of the Gram Sabhas.

Anil Sharma, the President of the AJKPC while addressing the media person stated that despite assurance from Lieutenant Governor that the Panchayat would be allowed to use the funds under 14th FC till 31st March, the RDD has again issued a dictatorial order dated

01/March/2023 and has issued instructions to the J & K bank not to allow Panchayats to use these funds and instead transfer the money in the 14th FC award account maintained by J & K RDD.

Sharma termed this order of Rural development department as direct assault on the autonomy of the Panchayats and warned the officers there to respect the grass root level democratic institutions that are elected by the people through a legal and democratic mean. Explaining supremacy of PRIs, AJKPC President further stated that after

73rd amendment of Constitution of India, the elected Panchayats draw their power directly from the constitution of India and states of the respective states and Union Territories therefore the Bureaucrats must not undermine these basic institutions of self governance rather contribute in strengthening them.

All the protesting PRI members urged the Government of India and Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to caution the Bureaucrats to stop infringement and contravention of the Panchayati Raj Act.

## DC Kathua review preparations for LG's Special Governance Camp for displaced persons of PoJK

KATHUA, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey today chaired a meeting to review preparations regarding the conduct of the Lieutenant Governor's Special Governance Camp for displaced persons of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The meeting was attended by officials from the Revenue Department, Health Department, Education Department and Social Welfare Department. The objective of the meeting was to review the preparations made so far and to discuss ways to improve the arrangements for the upcoming camp.

The Lieutenant Governor's Special Governance Camp for displaced persons of PoJK is aimed at providing different government services/ schemes, such as Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, domicile certificates, and health

services to the displaced persons. The camp will also provide an opportunity to the displaced persons to interact with government officials and voice their concerns.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made for the smooth conduct of the camp. He also emphasized the need for proper coordination among the various departments involved in the organization of the camp.

The DC said, "The Lieutenant Governor's Special Governance Camp is an important initiative of the government, aimed at ensuring saturation of all the services to the displaced persons of PoJK. We are committed to ensuring that the camp is organized smoothly and efficiently, and that all the needs of the displaced persons are met."



The meeting concluded with the officials being instructed to expedite the preparations for the camp and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place.

Pertinently, the Lieutenant Governor's Special Governance Camp for displaced persons of PoJK is scheduled to be held on March 19, 2023 in Kathua district. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey today chaired a meeting to review preparations regarding the conduct of the Lieutenant Governor's Special Governance Camp for displaced persons of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

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# HEADLINES TODAY

## HT EDITORIAL

### And the wait is Over ; Ramadhan is Round the Corner

**R**AMADHAN; One of the Holiest months of Islamic Calendar is about to begin. Cleaning out the closet feels great. You go through all of your stuff, throw away whatever you don't want, and give away things you don't need. In the end, you know you are left with more space, a clean area, and peace of mind.

Now that Ramadan is around the corner, this is a great time to take account of ourselves and go through a very similar process with our soul. What negative feelings or thoughts hide in the shadows of our hearts? Are we even aware of how this "stuff" spreads toxicity throughout our soul, which then seeps into our relationships? When we rid ourselves of emotional "baggage" we free up space in our hearts to soak in all the positive outcomes of Ramadan.

To begin this spring cleaning, it is helpful to reflect on the following verse:

"O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow – and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." (Surah Al Hashr, 59:18)

It is only when we allow ourselves to truly take account of what is in our hearts that we are able to process what we find. Who are we avoiding? What grudges do we hold? What negative thoughts do we ruminate over? Once we are able to face what lurks within, we can figure out ways to get over them. Actually writing down the answers to the above questions has been proven to be a helpful way to start tackling the toxic thoughts we store in our main processing center. Next, let us think about how Allah, Exalted is He, prescribes the process of purification.

"Those who spend in the way of Allah both in affluence and hardship, who restrain their anger, and pardon others. Allah loves such good-doers." (Surah 'Ale Imran, 3:134) Why does Allah mention giving money, first in the time of ease, then in the time of difficulty, before addressing two emotional strengths? And even then, why does Allah mention exercising control over anger before excusing others (a higher level of forgiveness)?

Perhaps practicing gratitude in times of prosperity prepares one for the ability to acknowledge blessings, even during times of hardship. What effect does this type of training have on one's understanding? We may consider the possibility that engaging in a constant state of gratitude develops satisfaction. Additionally, gratitude in the form of donation fosters a sense of compassion – being able to connect with others by connecting with something similar within ourselves. Gratitude, which leads to satisfaction and compassion creates an environment in which anger is less likely to develop, since anger is a reflection of turmoil that exists within the individual. So in a way, satisfaction despite life's challenges allows one to engage with others from a place of peace within. We see a very inspiring application of part of this verse in the following exchange between Ali bin Al-Husain (also known as Zayn Al-Abideen), the great-great grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and his servant, Abdur-Razzaq As-San'ani (d.211 AH) said: A slave-girl of 'Ali bin Husain was pouring water on him while he was preparing for prayer. Accidentally the jug slipped from her hands and fell on his face causing his face to be injured. He raised his sight towards her in anger. She recited 1. He said to her: 'I have restrained my anger'. She then recited 2. He said: 'I have forgiven you'. She further recited 3. He said: 'Go now you are free'. Imagine that – spending in the way of Allah, is a demonstration of gratitude which promotes satisfaction and compassion. That compassion, in turn, prevents the early sprouting of anger and rage. Keeping anger at bay facilitates the ability to think rationally and process possible reasons why someone may be worthy of your forgiveness. These three qualities of being charitable, controlling anger, and forgiving others put us on the path of ihsan (excellence). And Allah loves those who exhibit ihsan (as mentioned in the verse above, 3:134). So let's recap spring cleaning for the soul. First, take stock of your negative feelings towards aspects of your life and towards others. Sometimes this process makes us feel uncomfortable, so we shut down the introspection and abort it prematurely. Allow yourself to sift through these nagging negative thoughts and try to evaluate them. Are these negative thoughts really worth the mental and spiritual drain? Do others really deserve the old grudge?

# INTERCONNECTION OF TEMPORARY LIFE WITH THIS PERMANANT WORLD, WHAT IS THIS IN ACTUAL SENSE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW?



NAME: SHAHNAZA RAFIQ

**I** will give you a unique definition of "LIFE". Life is to living in fixed entry, living in false environment, & living in frame of emotions, that means, when you will leave, you will not be able to enter again. All over the world, inanimate objects show homo-sapiens practically about the life, but regrettably, a person cannot comprehend everything, even after percept with their own eyes. A human always comes from entry point, & goes out from exit point, it has not been feasible till now, that a person can return by the same route as he/she goes. When a human being is born, from whom is he/she born? born from a human soul, & she is called as mother in this entire world, when they leave, they leave from the world, but not from the mother, that means different entry & exit point.

The world can make people cheerful through its beauty, the world will forever show its beauty to such people, but not show its beauty to one generation, but many generations, the sun, moon, & stars shines & are light giver forever, people of the same generation cannot see these things forever, on the contrary, people of different generations will be able to see it all. A human wants to live forever in this world, but all this is not possible, a person doesn't want to deliberate the reality of life, rather they want to live their life with illusion, because the deception of the eyes keep them happy, but not the reality, because it brings anxiety. Allah has created millions of species all over the world, eg. Homo-sapiens ( Human Species ), Kingdom Plantae ( Plant Species ), Kingdom Animalia ( Animal Species ) Aves ( Bird Species ).

Why do some species fight & what is the word "Competition"? I will explain this word "Competition" in my own psychological point of view, game in between two strong parties in parallel & in directly proportional, but not in non-parallel & in inversely proportional, that's what it means, whenever there is a competition, first of all they will be nominated, after that, competition starts again in between them, that's, those who are nominated, they all are in power. I can give example of homo-sapiens ( Human species ), there seems to be a competition between homo-sapiens, some win & some lose or there is a fight between two people, one wins the battle of life & other loses the battle of life, but only in an illusory way, only one wins but not both, at the end, in reality both of



them loses the battle of life from this world. What is "Mirage" ( Nazru Ka Dhoka ), in reality, a person is under the earth, but he/she thinks that i am above the earth, as the tree is on the ground, we see it in the water, this should always be remembered, not everyone in the world can be a bagger, there is also a bagger among baggers, which is not a bagger but a wild beast, that destroys the entire society within milliseconds. Long live the name/biography of human, what is this? In this world, only the name of the person remains still alive, but not the person, that's, a person leaves this world after giving something, but the person doesn't take anything from the world, he/she takes nothing from the world, on the contrary only record remains collected in different museums. "Dr. BR Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar" was the 1st 'Law Minister of India' died on December 6, 1956, New Delhi, he is no more in this world, but his name is still alive, i have won an award named after him ( DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR RATNA AWARD 2023 ) with Certificate, gold medal, & gold plated big momento & ( MOTHER TERESA MEMORIAL AWARD 2023 ), she is also no more, she was an "Albanian-Indian Catholic nun", started the "Missionaries of Charity & won the Nobel Peace Prize", but her name is still alive.

When someone people wrong a person without any justification, then he/she want to introduce about him/herself, when the same person comes to point & power, so he/she doesn't need to introduce about him/herself, because, the world would have already introduced with him/her, why doesn't that person take revenge at that time, what is the reason behind it? This is the only reason, those who are

in the opposition have no value in front of him/her. Why is our Kashmir behind, what is the reason behind it, who gets abused the most in our Kashmir?. Because there are some people in our Kashmir, who used to waste their time on other people, discuss about people, search about people. Anyone who thrives in our society faces various abuses, recently a girl qualified KAS exam, she told in her interview, i used to be abused before & still, so they can't do anything themselves & abuse other people too, that is, the people who have gone have a biography of someone. Some people are so stupid in our society, who do not recognize\* Gold & Silver\* at all, when there's recognition at the end like a donkey, so they fight to get that thing, neither they get \*Gold nor they get Silver\*, on the contrary they get in-between only \*Ash\*, so why they do fight at that time, & for what?. Actually it all comes down to psychiatric disorders & psychological threat.

There are some stupid people in our society, those who get it wrong concept, that we have so much money, we can buy everything in the world, yes they can buy absolutely everything with money, but something's they cannot buy at all, what are those things?, it has peace, honour & love, people with such thinking get nothing, but there is a slap in the society. Recognizing something in the world is not the task of an ordinary person only that person who has a lot of power of intelligence recognizes it.

If all people had humanity, may be no one is crazy in this world, because there are a lot of lunatics among the lunatics, those who were made crazy by mankind. 90% people in our Kashmir are like this, who went mad because of the society. When a person comes in this world, he/she doesn't come with anyone but alone. Every human being is a free bird in his/her personal life, but why the strangers interfere without any right or reason & for what, even parents have no rights in someone's personal life, let alone a stranger's, yes off course parents can give them suggestions.

It seems to be competition, all over the world, someone say I win, someone says no i win, there is fighting & noise everywhere, what do they actually want to win?. They want to have everything in the world, but in reality, the world doesn't give them anything, they do not win over people, but even over the people, the world kickoff them forever.

**Name: Shahnaza Rafiq**  
**D/O: Rafiq Ahmad Pir**  
**R/O: Panzgam Kralpora Kupwara**  
**Former BSC student of Govt women's college MA road Srinager.**  
**Registered Dental Assistant from GMC Srinager.**  
**Mental Health counsellor**

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## Concept of E-Learning...



Vijay GarG

**T**he concept of e-learning is not new to the education sector. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 has fuelled schools' need to leverage the technology platforms to drive learning initiatives. There is heightened demand for schools to provide learning solutions to students using online platforms as the advantages far outweigh the demerits. In simple terms, e-learning is the act of learning or educating via digital resources such as software programmes, mobile devices and the internet.

The use of digital platforms for learning is vividly changing our education system. Traditional classroom training days are slowly coming to an end due to high-speed internet and technology advancement. The pandemic has grown the importance of e-learning globally.

Any crisis makes room for experimentation, and it is time to realise the full potential of technology for learning. In the wake of the medical emergency, school stakeholders are endorsing online learning for student's safety and enhancing the quality of education.

As part of the coordinated worldwide education response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank had surveyed National Education Responses to school closures. The first round of the survey conducted in 118 countries and the second in 149 countries revealed that almost every country included online learning in its education response to the ongoing crisis. 89% of the countries introduced at least one measure to enhance access to online learning devices and connectivity.

The survey is enough to indicate the significance of e-learning, specifically after 2020. As per a World Bank study, the school closure has led to a shift to e-learning, with about 700 million students still studying from home. E-learning is so ubiquitous and massive that it is difficult to articulate a brief outline that indeed does justice to it. Unlike the conventional chalk and board teaching method, online learning makes learning convenient, where lessons can be accessed remotely from anywhere.

"Technology is not a silver bullet. It's only as good as the teachers ... using it as one more tool to help inspire, and teach, and work through problems."

How is LEAD making E-Learning effective? The Purpose of E-Learning redefined  
The word e-learning is used as a synonym for online education. It is revamping the style of providing and receiving education. With a year of COVID-19 outbreak, e-learning has made its place firmly in the sector, transforming the education sector. The idea behind electronic learning is to empower learners to study without attending the



school with better organisation and quality curricula.

Psychologists also believe that this audio-visual form of learning is effective in engaging students. It is versatile and plenty to suit all learning methods. The Global Education Monitoring Report of 2020 by UNESCO indicates the significance of technology. The study shows that technology has considerable but largely unused potential to support inclusive education. E-learning is accessible to all and can reach even the remotest areas.

A drastic shift to electronic learning after the pandemic has brought limitless advantages to students. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology identifies online learning as an essential tool for imparting education. The advancement of technology has made access to information quicker.

Let's decode how e-learning is creating an impact in the education sector:

Accommodates the needs of every student  
Online learning caters to the needs of each student. The digital revolution has led to remarkable changes in how we access content. Students can learn on the go irrespective of their location.

Access to lectures any number of times  
Unlike classroom teaching, students can access the e-learning content any number of times. It is beneficial when preparing for the exam. Through online learning, you can access the lecture whenever you want

as per your convenience and revisit lessons any number of times.

Updated Content  
The e-learning platforms provide access to updated content. It makes sure that you are in synchrony with the modern learners.

Quick Delivery of Lessons  
Post-2020, students have adapted the e-learning concept completely. One of the reasons for it is quick access to lessons. In comparison to the traditional teaching mode, online learning has relatively faster delivery access. The time required to learn through online lessons is reduced to 25% to 60% of what is the need in traditional learning.

Scalability  
Online learning helps students to create and communicate new ideas. You get the chance to uplift your skills and gain knowledge apart from school education. One of the prime importance of e-learning is that it helps students and teachers develop advanced skills.

As per the KPMG report, India's online education industry will see a growth of about 6 times by 2021. Surprisingly, the number of users enrolling in e-learning may touch 9.6 million users by 2021, from 1.6 million users in 2016. Estimates indicate that the eLearning market worldwide will grow immensely to the tune of more than 243 billion U.S. dollars by 2022. These forecasts indicate that eLearning is all set to become a global trend, and more and more people may go for it over traditional classroom settings.

LEAD Teacher

How is LEAD making E-Learning effective? LEAD is the only platform in India that makes learning interactive and fun for young minds. LEAD-powered schools impart lessons via world-class teachers through an app with detailed audio-visual resources. Being not just 'smart' but the 'best', LEAD ensures perfect sync between teachers, students and parents to reach the unified goal of a child's academic excellence.

In the LEAD system, students get to learn via three modes of teaching: Through videos and slides that teachers show from their teacher app

Through activities, they do use material from the School Excellence Kit And through books and workbooks they get from LEAD

The education space was considered to be the most stable sector for decades. However, it screeched to a halt recently, giving way to reliable education modes such as an integrated academic system.

**Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab**

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR LIVES



Jaswinder Pal Sharma

*Human beings are social creatures, and as such, relationships are an integral part of our lives. From the time we are born, we begin to develop relationships with our parents, siblings, and other family members. As we grow older, we form friendships, romantic relationships, and professional connections. The importance of relationships in our lives cannot be overstated, as they provide us with a sense of belonging, support, and fulfillment. One of the primary benefits of relationships is that they help us to feel connected to others. When we have strong relationships, we are less likely to feel isolated or alone, and we have people we can turn to when we need help, support, or just someone to talk to. This sense of connection is essential for our mental health and well-being, as it helps us to feel grounded and secure in the world.*

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One of the primary benefits of relationships is that they help us to feel connected to others. When we have strong relationships, we are less likely to feel isolated or alone, and we have people we can turn to when we need help, support, or just someone to talk to. This sense of connection is essential for our mental health and well-being, as it helps us to feel grounded and secure in the world.

Another important aspect of relationships is that they provide us with a source of support. Whether we are going through a difficult time or just need someone to talk to, our relationships can be a valuable source of comfort and guidance. A strong support system can help us to cope with stress, manage our emotions, and navigate challenging situations.

Furthermore, relationships can provide us with a sense of



purpose and meaning. When we have people in our lives who care about us and whom we care about, we are motivated to work harder, take on new challenges, and strive for personal growth. Our relationships can inspire us to be our best selves and to pursue our dreams and aspirations.

In addition, relationships can be a source of joy and happiness. Spending time with people we love and care about can bring us a sense of fulfillment and pleasure that we might not be able to find elsewhere. Whether it's sharing a meal with friends, spending time with a partner, or simply enjoying the company of family

members, our relationships can bring us a sense of joy and contentment that is hard to replicate in other areas of our lives.

Finally, relationships are important because they can teach us important life skills. Whether we are learning how to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, or build trust, our relationships provide us with opportunities to develop and hone these skills. By learning how to navigate relationships successfully, we can improve our ability to interact with others in all areas of our lives, from our personal relationships to our professional ones.

In conclusion, relationships

are an essential part of our lives, providing us with a sense of connection, support, purpose, joy, and personal growth. Whether we are building new relationships or nurturing existing ones, it's important to prioritize our connections with others and to invest time and energy into building strong, meaningful relationships that will last a lifetime.

**SS Master GSSS Hakuwala  
Sri Muktsar Sahib Punjab  
79860-27454**

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## On false hopes and broken promises: Behind the scenes of the UN statement on Palestine



By Ramzy Baroud

Rarely does the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations make an official remark expressing happiness over any UN proceeding concerning the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Indeed, the Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour is "very happy that there was a very strong united message from the Security Council against the illegal, unilateral measure" undertaken by the Israeli government.

The 'measure' is a specific reference to a decision, on February 12, by the far-right government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to construct 10,000 new housing units in nine illegal Jewish settlements in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank.

Expectedly, Netanyahu was angered by the supposedly 'very strong united message' emanating from an institution that is hardly known for its meaningful action regarding international conflicts, especially in the Palestinian-Israeli case.

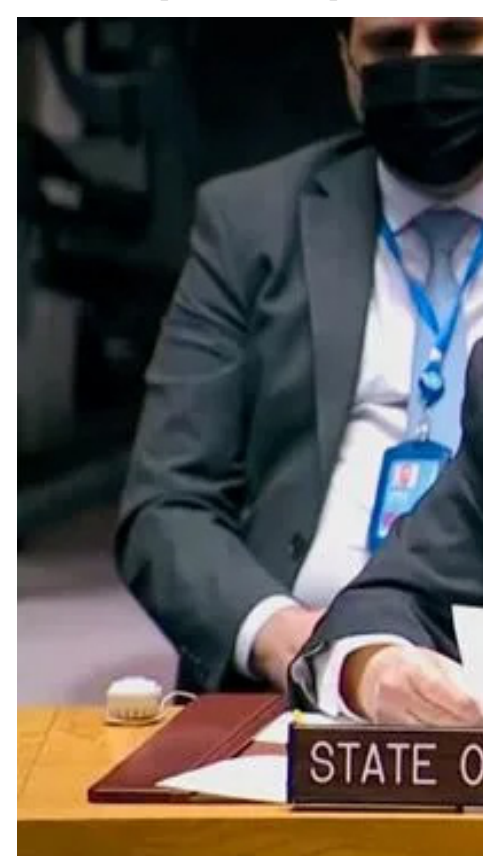
Mansour's happiness may be justified from some people's perspective, especially as we seldom witness a strongly worded position by the UNSC that is both critical of Israel and wholly embraced by the United States. The latter has used the veto power 53 times since 1972 – per UN count – to block UNSC draft resolutions that are critical of Israel.

However, on examination of the context of the latest UN statement on Israel and Palestine, there is little reason for Mansour's excitement. The UN statement in question is just that: a statement, with no tangible value and no legal repercussions. This statement could have been meaningful if the language had remained unchanged from its original draft. Not a draft of the statement itself, but of a binding UN resolution that was introduced on February 15 by the UAE Ambassador. Reuters revealed that the draft resolution would have demanded that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory." That resolution – and its strong language – was scrapped under pressure from the US and was replaced by a mere statement that "reiterates" the Security Council's position

that "continuing Israeli settlement activities are dangerously imperiling the viability of the two-state solution based on the 1967 lines."

The statement also expressed "deep concern", actually, "dismay" with Israel's February 12 announcement. Netanyahu's angry response was mostly intended for public consumption in Isra-

el, and to keep his far-right government allies in check; after all, the conversion of the resolution into a statement, and the watering down of the language were all carried out following a prior agreement among the US, Israel and the PA. In fact, the Aqaba conference held on February 26 is a confirmation that that agreement has indeed taken place. Therefore, the statement should not have come as a surprise to the Israeli prime minister.



Moreover, US media spoke openly about a deal, which was mediated by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The reason behind the deal, initially, was to avert a "potential crisis", which would have resulted from the US vetoing the resolution. According to the Associated Press, such a veto "would have angered Palestinian supporters at a time that the US and its western allies are trying to gain international support against Russia." But there is another reason behind the

too late. For Israel, it was an unforgivable betrayal. To appease Tel Aviv, the Trump Administration gave the UN post to Nikki Haley, one of the most ardent supporters of Israel.

Though another US veto would have raised a few eyebrows, it would have presented a major opportunity for the strong pro-Palestine camp at the UN to challenge US hegemony over the matter of the Israeli occupation of Palestine; it would have also deferred the issue to the UN General Assembly and other UN-related organizations.

Even more interesting, according to the Blinken-mediated agreement – reported by AP, Reuters, Axios and others – Palestinians and Israelis would have to refrain from unilateral actions. Israel would freeze all settlement activities until August, and Palestinians would not "pursue action against Israel at the UN and other international bodies such as the World Court, the International Criminal Court and the UN Human

Rights Council." This was the gist of the agreement at the US-sponsored Aqaba meeting as well.

While Palestinians are likely to abide by this understanding – since they continue to seek US financial handouts and political validation – Israel will most likely refuse; in fact, practically, they already have.

of promises that justice will eventually arrive through US-mediated talks have culminated in nothing, thus Palestinians are developing their own alternative resistance strategies.

The UN statement was marketed by PA-controlled media in Palestine as a victory for Palestinian diplomacy. Thus, Mansour's happiness. But this euphoria was short-lived.

*The Israeli massacre in Nablus left no doubt that Netanyahu will not even respect a promise he made to his own benefactors in Washington. This takes us back to square one: where Israel refuses to respect international law, the US refuses to allow the international community to hold Israel accountable, and where the PA claims another false victory in its supposed quest for the liberation of Palestine.*

*Practically, this means that Palestinians are left with no other option but to carry on with their resistance, indifferent – and justifiably so – to the UN and its 'watered-down' statements.*

*– Dr. Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of six books. His latest book, co-edited with Ilan Pappé, is 'Our Vision for Liberation: Engaged Palestinian Leaders and Intellectuals Speak Out'. His other books include 'My Father was a Freedom Fighter' and 'The Last Earth'. Baroud is a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA). His website is www.ramzybaroud.net*

*The Opinion / Views expressed by the Author are his own and daily Headlines Today doesn't Own, Acknowledge or Support the same.*



## Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals; Police arrests 09 persons, seizes 09 vehicles in Budgam, Baramulla

Budgam March 06: Acting tough against the individuals involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have arrested nine persons and seized nine vehicles in Budgam & Baramulla.

A police party of Police Station Chadoora at a checkpoint established at Magraypora Bapora intercepted 06 vehicles (Dumpers) carrying illegally extracted minerals. Consequently, all the vehicles have been seized and drivers have been arrested. They have been identified as Anayatullah Khan resident of Ladoo Khrew, Abdul Qayoom Wani resident of Batapora Ladoo, Abid Mush-taq Lone resident of Shar-Shali Pampore, Arfat Ashraf Khanday resident of Mage Pampore, Aejaz Ahmad Ganai resident of Ladoo Pampore and Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar resident of Ladoo Pampore.



At another checkpoint established at Bugroo Khansahib, a police party of Police Station Khansahib intercepted a tractor carrying illegally extracted minerals from Nalla Shali-Ganga.

The tractor has been seized & driver has been arrested. He has been identified as Ishaq Ahmed Bhat resident of Shamasabad Khansahib. In a similar action, a police party

of PP Kungamara during patrolling at Khore Sherabad seized 01 Tipper & 01 Tractor for illegally extraction & transportation of minerals. The drivers identified as Ajaz Ahmad Wani resident of Khore Sherabad & Manzoor Ahmad Teli resident of Bungam Kunzer has been arrested.

All the accused drivers have been shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigations have been initiated.

Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt with as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

## World Water Day Institution of Engineers Jammu invites Presentations

JAMMU, MARCH 06: The Institution of Engineers (India) Jammu Local Center, Channi Himmat intends to celebrate the World Water Day on 22 March 2023 with the theme "Accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis." It would host seminar/paper presentation/Technical activity to disseminate awareness among the masses that there is an urgent need to accelerate change — to go beyond 'business as usual' as Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centres, farms, and factories are being held back because their human rights to water and sanitation still need to be fulfilled. "The interested corpo-

rate members, colleague Engineers and engineering students are requested to submit the papers along with Powerpoint presentations on iejam-mu@gmail.com latest by 18th March, 2023 so that the same are listed for presentation after evaluation by panel," the organisers said in a communiqué. The presented papers shall be evaluated for awards to be given on Engineers Day on the basis of the criterion: 25% Elocution, 25% PPT and 50% for the originality of the content of the manuscript.

Powerpoint presentations without the manuscript (not more than 750 words) shall not be taken up for evaluation and presentation thereof.

Engineers from all the government departments/ disciplines senior engineers, corporate members/industrial/ professional organization, engineering students are requested to attend the seminar. "The interested corporate members, colleague Engineers and engineering students are requested to submit the papers along with Powerpoint presentations on iejam-mu@gmail.com latest by 18th March, 2023 so that the same are listed for presentation after evaluation by panel," the organisers said in a communiqué. The presented papers shall be evaluated for awards to be given on Engineers Day on the basis of the criterion: 25%

## Free medical camp held at Village Chillypaien in Gandoh

DODA, MARCH 06: A free mega medical camp was held today at Village Chillypaien in Medical Block Gandoh District Doda as a part of public outreach programme.

The camp was organized by the District Health Society on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Doda under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme and Ad-bhut Doda's initiative of District Administration.

The medical camp was organized with the aim to provide quality medical care and free medicines to the poor and needy people of the area besides to reach out to them at their door steps.

A team of doctors and paramedical staff including staff from MMU Doda rendered their services to more than 110 patients who had come from different areas. Free medicine was also distributed among patients.

The Health Department appealed the general public to come forward and take maximum advantage of all the health schemes meant for them.

## Farmers' Training programme organised at Zone Kandani in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, MARCH 06: A One-day Farmers' training programme was today organised at Zone Kandani under the component "Within the District training of farmers" of Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE), a Central scheme.

The farmers were imparted awareness about different departmental schemes besides training them about weed control, disease management,



Farm Mechanization. Sub Division Agricul-

ture Officer Padder, Sahil Gandotra briefed the

participating farmers about activities of the Agriculture department in the district. He informed them about the future course of action towards the uplift of the farming community.

AEO Kandani, Lorine Kouser imparted training to 25 female registered farmers in this programme. Around 50 other farmers from different parts of Drabshala participated in the training programme.

## Power shutdown

JAMMU, MARCH 06: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Basohli, Bani, Bhoond, Marth-Nargota, Duggan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Billwar, Tandhi, Baggan, Machddi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 08 from 2 pm to 4.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Mahanpur, Rairpur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Mohinder Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Canal Road, Krishna Nagar, Jain Colony and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 08 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Bomal, Devipur, Palwan, Jad, Jourian, Bakore, Rakh, Muthi, Sohal Bhalwal, Brahmana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 08 from 9 am to 3 pm.

## Rana lauds philanthropic organizations for serving humanity, sustaining biodiversity

JAMMU MARCH 06: Lauding the philanthropic effort of non-governmental, voluntary and socio religious organizations in serving humanity and sustaining biodiversity, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today called for a greater role in minimizing human sufferings.

"Philanthropic organizations can play their vital role in harmonious growth of the society", Mr Rana said while interacting with a delegation comprising representatives of various social, religious and other organizations under the aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Gauraksha Samiti here this afternoon.

Mr Devender Rana said that service to humanity is service to God and keeping this spirit alive will inspire generations to mitigate sufferings of the people, sustain biodiversity and maintain ecology. He said in the present day materialistic age, working for fellow human beings is laudable.

Mr Rana also complimented the delegation, saying their contribution will inspire others to come forward for the ser-



vice of humanity. He said it is heartening that these organizations remain always in the forefront to shoulder social responsibilities and contribute towards the betterment of the society at large. "This spirit is to be promoted in a big way and, I am sure, those associated with philanthropic causes will play their crucial role in this regard", he maintained.

The delegation listed various issues for being taken at appropriate forums in the government for earnest consideration and favourable directions.

They have been demanding waiver of Property Tax on the institutions being run by various

Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) and Trusts, which work for welfare of the society. Such organizations already enjoy exemptions under Section 80-G of the Income Tax ACT, 1961.

In this backdrop, the delegation sought waiver of Property Tax on the Gausshalas, Vriddh Ashrams, Orphanages, Schools for specially-abled children being run by Gau Raksha Samiti and Non-profit organizations.

Mr Devender Rana assured the delegation that the issue will be taken up at the appropriate forum for.

The delegation comprised of Mahant Rajesh Giri, Chairman, Chath

Darshan Sadhu Samaj and Chairman Radha Madhav Trust, Mahant Sanjay Shastri, Raj Kumar Gupta, President, Gau Raksha Samiti, Krishi Pandit, Dr. GD Bakshi, Gau Raksha Samiti, Rajouri, Sanjay Ghai, President Antarrashtriya Hindu Mahasabha, J&K, Vikas Dogra, Secretary Antarrashtriya Hindu Mahasabha J&K, Ramesh Hansa, District Vice President Samba, Antarrashtriya Hindu Mahasabha, Rohit Bah-jrang, Sangathan Mantri Bharat Raksha Manch & Central Working Committee Member Rashtriya Hinduvahin, Satish Bharti, Vice Chairman Kisan Council J&K and others.

## 'International Women's Day' celebrated at Baramulla

Safeena Beigh presides over the programme; highlights the role of Women in Nation building

BARAMULLA, MARCH 06: In connection with International Women's Day, the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Baramulla in collaboration with District Administration today organised a colourful function at Dak Bungalow here to mark its celebration.

The function was presided over by the Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safeena Beigh as chief guest.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Chief Education officer Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina besides Women participants from ICDS, Education, Health and Sports were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the role of women in nation building. She also threw light on the rights of women and discussed various centrally sponsored women centric welfare schemes that are aimed at providing hand-holding to the women to make them self-reliant and urged the female folk to avail benefit of these schemes.

Safeena Beigh highlighted the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in creating awareness about these schemes at grassroots level so that more females are empowered



by these schemes. She asserted that the economically independent women is the first major step towards empowerment of women and urged the females to avail benefit of schemes aimed for establishing their own income generating unit.

ADDC while speaking on the occasion sought support of PRIs in creating awareness regarding women specific schemes besides assured full support from district administration in implementation of these schemes. He also highlighted various steps taken by the district administration towards women empowerment.

During the function, various speakers while highlighting the significant role played by women in social, economic, political, educational and

judicial fronts said that mass awareness about the rights of women and to acknowledge their achievements is the need of the hour.

Meanwhile, a felicitation ceremony was organized to felicitate and honour the female mates who have shown exemplary services in different fields. A good number of Women were given certificates of appreciation along with mementos.

Later, the Chairperson DDC Baramulla in a separate meeting with all district and sectoral officers took a holistic and sector wise review of all developmental works taken up under the Area Development Plan (ADP) and other schemes of the Rural Development Department (RDD).

On the occasion, the

Chairperson DDC took a comprehensive and scheme wise review of all the works wherein the concerned officers briefed the chair about the current physical and financial position.

During the meeting, the status of works allotted, tendered, taken up and completed so far under PRIs, BDCs/DDC Grants were discussed with the chair.

After taking a thorough review, the Chairperson DDC directed the officers to scale up efforts and put extra energy for completing all ongoing work well within the stipulated time frame. She also set a fixed timeline for completion of some of the works and applauded some of the officers who had achieved their targets within the set time.

### Public Notice

My parentage In my passport under no K5107803 wrongly entered as Syed Ghulam Mohd shah while in actual it is Syed GH.Mohd shah.i want to make correction if anybody has any objection he may file same to the passport office srinagar within a period of 7 days.After that no objection will be entertained

Syed Irfan Ahmad  
S/o : Syed Gh.Mohd shah  
R/o: Pachhar pulwama

### Public Notice

In my passport under no. K5106932 my name and my parentage wrongly entered as Shah Altaf Ahmad insted of Syed Altaf Ahmad, parentage wrongly entered as Syed Ghulam Mohammad shah while in actual it is syed Gh.Mohd.Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard he may contact passport office srinagar within 7 days.After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Altaf Ahmad  
S/o: Syed Gh.Mohd  
R/o: Pachhar pulwama

### Public Notice

I have applied for pesticides and fertilizers licence the name and style Asif pesticides and fertilizers (waripora bala).if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file in Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar and Chief Agricultural Officer Baramulla within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Proprietor  
ASIF GULL S/O GULAM DIN WAZA R/O  
FRASHTAR TILGAM TEHSIL KREERI

### Public Notice

I have applied for pesticides licence the name and style N A Traders near Horticulture office Kreeri .if anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file in Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

NISAR AHMAD DAR  
S/O AB AHAD DAR  
R/O SURIPOORA KREERI

### Public Notice

#### CHANGE OF NAME IN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

The Electricity connection with Consumer ID No 0206050000358 Registered in the name of Mohd Qasim DarR/o GundHassi Bhat Srinagar is to be transferred in the favour of Gh Mohammad Dar S/O Mohd Qasim DarR/o GundHassi Bhat Srinagar

Anybody having any objection,May Contact Assistant Executive Engineer PDD Sub DivisionZanakote H M T Srinagar within a period of 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained in any case.

Gh Mohammad Dar  
S/O Mohd Qasim Dar  
R/o GundHassi Bhat Srinagar

## J&K Bank launches "Digit ALL-Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality" at Amar Singh College

SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank today launched a special campaign on digital on-boarding of female customers under "DigitALL-Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality" initiative in commemoration of the celebration of International Women's Day at the college.A large number of females amongst the teaching and non teaching staff and female students of the college attended the programme.

Commenting on the importance of the Digital Banking, Principal of the college, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather, said that

digital banking is the part of the digital India initiative launched by the Government of India to make the banking hassle free and is time efficient in the way that it allows us to access most banking services from the comfort of our homes. The students showed their utmost enthusiasm and obtained on the spot debit cards from the bank officials. The programme was coordinated by Convener, Women Development Cell, Prof. Sabreena Syed.The Bank officials present on the occasion applauded the role of the college for the success of the programme.



## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## LG

issues being faced by the PoJK refugees. "PoJK will come up as per the aspirations of refugees," the LG said, adding that the divisional administration and the revenue officials will hold deliberations with the displaced PoJK people before setting the ball rolling for the PoJK Bhawan.

He said that PoJK is an integral part of India and no power on earth can keep it away from the Union for long. "I urge all the PoJK people including women and youth to play their part in building a strong India and Vibrant India," he said.

He said PoJK will benefit from every scheme of the government. "Industrial boom is coming up in J&K. Rs 13000 Cr work related to Industries have already started and more is in the offing. There was a shortage of land bank which is being looked into," the LG said.

He said that the way a huge list of KP youth have been received the administration for entrepreneurship, similarly, PoJK should follow the suit. "Register your youth in the camps and administration will provide all support for your youth to become entrepreneurs who can provide employment to five other youth," he said, adding that these camps will be organized in every district.

He said that 50 lakh youth took part in sports related activities as huge investment was made to upgrade the sports infrastructure across the UT. He said large number of people were deprived of their rights and it was for the first time after the historic decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, these people got all their rights. "These people are living a dignified life now," he said.

He said that the administration has directed all the banks to provide all support to youth who are coming forward to start their own ventures—(KNO)

## MOHAMMAD ASLAM

which he took overview of the functioning of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, he impressed on the employee to ensure punctuality and regularity in duty, besides, he also asked them to perform their assigned work with vibrant attitude and dedication.

## ALTAZ BUKHARI

desirous to contest for the office of party President, to submit their application by March 7, 2023. The polling, if required, will be held on March 11, 2023." The press note added.

## JKDMA

and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further directions.

## MODI

medical seats has doubled after 2014. He added that the opening of 157 new nursing colleges near medical colleges is a big step for medical human resources.

The Prime Minister said the Ayushman Bharat scheme has saved 80 thousand crores from being spent. He also said, special emphasis has been given to the nursing sector in this year's Union Budget to fulfil the future requirements. Modi highlighted that the government is focusing on developing test facilities near citizens' homes, and better facilities for first aid.

Talking about COVID-19, he said the way India's pharma sector has gained trust of the whole world during the pandemic is unprecedented. He said the pandemic has taught that supply chain has become a very important matter.

The Prime Minister also noted that the government is constantly trying to minimize India's dependence on foreign countries in the health sector. He urged all the stakeholders of the health sector, especially of the Ayurveda, to strengthen the evidence-based research.

Modi noted the impact of the government's efforts on preventive healthcare. He listed Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for cleanliness, Ujjwala Scheme for smoke-related diseases, Jal Jeevan Mission to tackle waterborne diseases and National POSHAN Mission is addressing anaemia and malnutrition. He also mentioned the role of millets-Shri Anna in the International Year of Millets. Similarly, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Mission Indradhanush, Yoga, Fit India Movement, and Ayurveda are protecting people from diseases. Noting the establishment of the global centre for traditional medicine under the aegis of WHO in India, the Prime Minister reiterated his request for evidence-based research in Ayurveda.

PM Modi underlined the efforts taken by the government from modern medical infrastructure to medical human resources and said that the new capabilities are not limited to health facilities only for its citizens but also aim to make India the world's most attractive medical tourism destination. He pointed out that medical tourism is a very large sector in India and also becoming a huge medium for generating employment in the country.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stressed that a developed health and wellness ecosystem can be created in India only with Sabka Prayas (everyone's efforts) and requested all stakeholders to give in their valuable suggestions. "We should be able to implement the Budget provisions within the time limit for decided targets with a concrete roadmap. Realizing all the dreams on the ground before the next Budget while taking all stakeholders along will require the benefit of your experience", he told the participants.(CNS)

## DIV COM

on at full pace; people have to be little patient as they might face some inconveniences during this period. The G20 summit will be organized in a very good manner once all projects are completed," he said, About the PM package employees, Div Com said he is in continuous touch with them and their grievances are being addressed with best possible assistance from the admin.(CNS)

## RAMBAN

they said.Two tunnels, having a total length of 1,680 meters, would put an end to the 'phantom of shooting stones' and traffic disruptions along the stretch, officials said.The twin tunnels will not only reduce the travel time of commuters, but will also completely bypass the difficult landslides and shooting stone prone areas along the stretch, officials said.

Speaking to KNO, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam said all the projects on Jammu Srinagar national highway will be completed by stipulated time frame. "Work on the 800-meter T-5 Tunnel to bypass Panthyal stretch, which is vulnerable to shooting stones on highway, has been accelerated so that it becomes operational by March 15, 2023", he said.

Mussarat said work is also in progress for double laning of Ramban flyover and Banihal bypass which will be completed by April 15 this year. After the completion of these projects, people travelling on Jammu-Srinagar

highway would be able have a safe journey, he added—(KNO)

## GOVT

benefitted. "Surrendering the ration cards voluntarily will not only save our time, but would also help in ensuring benefits to the poor and downtrodden families within the society," he said—(KNO)

## HANDWARA

of abuse of his powers or of habitual failure to perform his duties.

Earlier, Jammu & Kashmir Government had removed president Municipal Committee Awantipora after an inquiry confirmed allegations against him.

According to the order, the government has ordered If-tikhar Ahmed , in-charge, Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organisation to conduct a detailed inquiry into the alleged misconduct of President MC Handwara.

"As a principle of natural justice, a reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be afforded to the president concerned," the order states.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit his report within 15 days of issuance of the order.

In September last year, the J&K Government removed Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora from his office on the grounds of abuse of his official powers—(KNO)

## TOURISM

to his own duties, till further orders—(KNO)

## Australian PM Anthony Albanese heading high-level biz delegation on India visit

New Delhi, Mar 6 (UNI) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who is arriving on Wednesday on a three-day State visit is to focus on coal exports, renewables and education during his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM Albanese, who is arriving on his first visit as prime minister, will be heading a high-level delegation of ministers and business executives.

He is the third head of government to visit India within two weeks - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in India on February 25-26, while Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was in India on March 2-3.

Senator Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, and Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, will be amongst 27 people who are set to be part of the Australian delegation.

PM Albanese will be accompanied by Cricket Australia's recently appointed chair, former New South Wales premier Mike Baird, Australian Cricketers Association chief executive Todd Greenberg, Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce, Commonwealth Bank chief executive Matt Comyn, Fortescue Metals boss Andrew Forrest and Rio Tinto Australia chief executive Kellie Parker.

The other business honchos on his delegation will include Macquarie Bank CEO Shemara Wikramanayake, Twiggy Forrest, Wesfarmers boss Rob Scott, ANZ boss Shayne Elliott, the President of BHP Geraldine Slattery, Alison Dean from Cochlear and Mark Vassella from Bluescope Steel.

During a function in Gujarat on March 8, Prime Minister Albanese is expected to make an official announcement of the approval granted to Deakin University of Australia to establish a campus in Gujarat's GIFT City.

The International Financial Services Centre Authorities (IFSCA) of India has granted approval to Deakin University to set up an international branch campus in Gujarat's GIFT City. This move will allow Deakin University to expand its presence in India and provide quality education to students in the region.

According to reports, around 44,000 Indian students applied to study in Australia in the second half of last year, exceeding those from China for the first time.

There has been a flurry of high level visits to India from Australia. Last week, Education Minister Jason Clare and Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil visited India. Minister Clare signed an agreement to ensure Australian university qualifications obtained by Indian students are recognised by higher education institutions in India.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong was also in India to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell during an interaction with reporters said that India is likely to announce significant investments in the rare earth sector in Australia during the visit of Prime Minister Albanese.

Albanese is also expected to participate in the Holi festival in Ahmedabad on March 8 and watch the India-Australia cricket test match with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, before heading for Mumbai for business talks. He will be in Delhi on March 10 for bilateral talks.

"KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) is set to make a significant investment in the rare earth sector in Australia, a move welcomed by the Australian government and Indian government, particularly by the business community," O'Farrell is quoted as saying. Meanwhile, Australia's Department of Industry, Science and Resources is preparing to close round 15 of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. The fund, which was established in 2006, offers researchers grants of up to \$1 million across five priority areas, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, renewable energy technologies, electronic waste recycling and RNA vaccines.

A total of \$6 million is available through this round with the outcomes jointly decided with the Indian government.

In February 2022, Australia and India signed a letter of intent to increase research and development collaboration on new ultra-low-cost solar and clean hydrogen.Prime Minister Albanese will head to the US next week for an AUKUS - Australia, United Kingdom, United States - meeting. "KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) is set to make a significant investment in the rare earth sector in Australia, a move welcomed by the Australian government and Indian government, particularly by the business community," O'Farrell is quoted as saying.Meanwhile, Australia's Department of Industry, Science and Resources is preparing to close round 15 of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. The fund, which was established in 2006, offers researchers grants of up to \$1 million across five priority areas, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, renewable energy technologies, electronic waste recycling and RNA vaccines.

A total of \$6 million is available through this round with the outcomes jointly decided with the Indian government.

## On its foundation day JKYJA calls for registration of news portals



Srinagar, 06 March 2023: Jammu and Kashmir Young Journalists Association (JKYJA) is observing its 11th anniversary today. It was on this day in 2012 that the working body of young journalists from the Jammu and Kashmir region was constituted.

"The idea of forming an association that takes care of the young Journalists in the field came about as a result of difficult situation that the young scribes face in many issues ridden Kashmir," said the founding President Ajaz Ahmad War.

Celebrations were held on the occasion. He added: "While all the journalists are equally susceptible to the vagaries of difficult scenario, the younger generation is more prone to be at the receiving end. So, it was mandatory for us to form a body of young working journalists, so that their problems and grievances could be addressed."

He urged the Government to ensure that all the professional news portals of Jammu and Kashmir especially those operating since many years are recognised.

JKYJA President Ajaz Ahmad War observed that JKYJA is doing an exemplary job and raises various issues at different platforms to address the grievances of young scribes.

## Present regime reminds of Feudalism: Ch. Lal Singh

As a part of its JAN SAMPARAK ABHIYAAN, DSSP started its campaign from village Gainthla and passed through Jambeli , Satwain, Mansuan, Thein , Kalmari, Noora Basant pura and reached Gujjar Basti , Basholi More, Garib Basti and finally culminated at Lakhampur. While addressing the gathering at various places, Ch. Lal Singh, Founder Chairman DSSP castigated the Government of its apathy towards the general public. Taxing people of Jammu on Every day and day out reminds us of old Feudals who even charged tax for fresh air and water. It's the blatant violation of the basic spirit of democracy when everyone is being harassed with the draconian laws aimed to bring everyone on the ground. All policies and programs of the government are anti people and against the wishes of the people. They want people to be the subservient to the government and any voice raised against the system, are dubbed as anti-national, said Ch.Lal Singh. Unemployment is eating the vitals of our youth but none is there to take care. Government is for the interest of the people but it's shocking that this government instead of taking some relief measures, is involved in the open loot of the resources of Jammu people.

Smt. Kanta Andotra Ex. MLA also addressed the meetings while on the JAN SAMPARAK ABHIYAAN and demanded for separate Jammu State. Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu General Secretary of the DSSP appealed to the masses to join the DSSP and give a new life to the pious movement of DSSP for the people of Jammu.

Prominent those who accompanied Ch. Lal Singh in the JAN SAMPARAK ABHIYAAN includes, Advocate BS Jamwal, Prof. HR Sharma, President Municipal Council Kathua Ch. Rajinder Singh Bubby, Ashok Sharma, Councillor, Dr. Ashok Sharma, Parambir Ripu, Sandeep Sambyal, Vijyant Pathania, Jatinder Papu President Kathua DSSP.

## IUST to consider CUET (UG) Score for Admissions to Non-engineering UG Courses

Awantipora, March 6. Islamic University of Science and Technology has decided to consider CUET (UG) Score for admissions to the different non-engineering undergraduate programs at the University from the academic session 2023. The University advised the students to stay in contact with the website of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and IUST for information about the CUET (UG).

As per National Testing Agency (NTA), the Common University Entrance Test CUET (UG) will provide a single window opportunity to students seeking admission to different educational institutions. The online submission of the application form for CUET (UG) 2023 is open from Feb. 9 - March 12, 2023. For the Academic Session 2023-24, CUET (UG) - 2023 will be conducted in the Computer Based Test (CBT) mode. Notification for admission to PG programmes through CUET shall be issued separately.

## Noted Journalist from Jharkhand interacted with students at IUST



Awantipora, March 6. The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology today organized a guest lecture on 'Challenges and Trends in Journalism'. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Anni Amrita, a noted journalist, and author from Jharkhand, and was attended by the students, scholars, and faculty.

In her lecture, Ms. Amrita emphasized ethics in journalism and discussed many challenges that a journalist faces while reporting.

Thanking the guest speaker, Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat (Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication) said such experiences help students to understand the practical aspects of work.

Pertinently, Anni has worked as the Kolhan bureau head with ETV Bihar -Jharkhand/News18, News 11, Sharp Bharat and has been awarded by Jharkhand Government, and many other organizations for her journalistic work and has authored two books

## DC Kupwara Asks for Adhaar Updation in district

KUPWARA, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Dr.Doifode Sagar Dattatray through asked concerned officers including District Programme Officer, ICDS, Kupwara; all Tehsilidars and BDOs of the district , Chief Executive Officer/ Executive Officers of MC Kupwara,MC Handwara and Langate to conduct mass awareness among the general public who have not updated their Adhaar over last 08 years.

It has further been informed that people can update their Adhaar with valid supporting documents viz. proof of identity, proof of address, mobile Number and email Id, either online through My-Adhaar Portal or offline by visiting the nearest Aadhaar Centre.

## President CCIK Tariq Ghani Bereaved

Srinagar,With profound grief and sorrow, I inform you the demise of Haji Bashir ud din Shah, Father in law of Tariq Ghani President Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kashmir (CCIK), who left for heavenly abode on 5 March Sunday 2023 at his residence Sanatnagar Housing Colony. The Rasm e Chahrum (Fateh Khwani) will be on 8 March Wednesday 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at his ancestral graveyard Rawalpura Housing Colony near Masjid Sharif which will be followed by a condolence meeting at his residence Shamas Noor House no. 54-a at Sanatnagar. The Past Presidents, Office Bearers and general members of CCIK condole the demise of the father in law of the President. The members prayed for the departed soul and expressed their sympathy with the bereaved family.

## National Pharmacy Education Day celebrated at Aryans



Srinagar, 6th MarchTo commemorate the 121st birth anniversary of Professor Mahadeva Lal Schroff, to recognize his contribution in establishing pharmacy education in India, Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura Near Chandigarh celebrated the National Pharmacy Education Day. On the occasion various activities were organized & the B. Pharma & D. Pharma students participated enthusiastically.

Dr. Krishan Singla, Principal, Aryans Group while addressing students said that Prof. M.L. Schroff is recognised as the Father of Pharmacy Education in India. He certainly remains an ideal to all pharmacists working in the country irrespective of their branches and diversity of duties. Pharmacists are critical professionals in delivery of healthcare in the country as they bring in-depth knowledge of medicine composition, formulation and usage. The role of a pharmacist is gradually evolving from a dispenser of medicines to an expert in the field with multidisciplinary health care systems, added Saini.

On the occasion various activities were organized including Speech Competition, Poster presentation where students highlighted the importance of pharma education for the well-being of the society. A student rally was also organized to create awareness about misuse of narcotics & psychotropic drugs.

## Staff shortage hits patient care at PHC Dadsara

Tral,CNS.06-Mar: The Primary Health Centre (24x7) in Dadasara village of Tral, which is equipped with all other facilities, is lacking staff members, due to which people are facing hardships.

As per the residents, Dr. Ambreena (L.A.S.) was transferred from PHC Dadasara to S.R. Gunj Srinagar while Dr. Ab Qayoom from PHC S.R.Gunj was to be replaced for the post however he failed to join here, due to reasons better known to concerned authorities only.

Moreover, Dr. Zaffar Iqbal from PHC Dadasara is working at SDH Tral at present in USG Section & Dr. Ajjaz Bashir (M.O. NHM) from PHC Dadasara is working at PHC Arpal at present.

Sources told CNS that only two Doctors are presently posted at PHC Dadasara, out of which, one is Dental Surgeon and another is ISM (Unani) Doctor.

They said that no Assistant Surgeon is available this time at PHC Dadasara, due to which locals have to face hardships.

Sources revealed that machineries like USG, X-ray and Health Educator are put in place at PHC, but no technician is available to operate them, while Ambulance which belongs to the PHC is stationed at SDH Tral, which is the matter of grave concern.

Talking to the CNS, General Secretary, Auqaf Committee Dadasara, Master Nazir Ahmad has expressed concern over the unavailability of doctors and technicians in the hospital and said that Doctors posted here shouldn't have been placed in other hospitals.

He said that it should be confirmed why medical facilities are being kept defunct unnecessarily, even if all the machineries are put in place.

Meanwhile, the locals have demanded intervention of Lieutenant Governor into the matter at the earliest for betterment of the Patients in the area.(CNS)

## TRT Nagrota faces drinking water crises, poor maintenance of building: Abhay Bakaya

Jammu,CNS.06-Mar: Apni Party today donated water tanks at TRT Nagrota for the migrant community who are facing drinking water crises and poor development.

A meeting was organized at TRT Nagrota and it was chaired by Apni Party leaders, State General Secretary, Abhay Bakaya which was attended by District Vice President Jammu urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Vivek Saproo, Gl Pandita, Vishal Jyotishi, Chandji Bhat, Chandji Khair social activist, Ashil Koul social activist, K K Moza, Vinod Koul, Tejinder Singh, G I Wali, Vijay Kumar Saproo, Sumita ji, Rani ji, Shusmaji, Laxmi ji, Bhushan Lal Pandita, Bansilal Raina, Janki Nath, Rohit Koul, Pyare Lal and others.During the meeting, Abhay discussed various issues being faced by the Migrant Community with the poor development and maintenance of the buildings.

He demanded that "There is no proper drinking water supply, worst road conditions, no dispensary, and poor maintenance of buildings in TRT Nagrota."

He demanded opening of the dining hall, wooden works should be started without delay and the condition of toilets should be improved with proper cleanliness.

He said that "We had promised to donate water tanks and accordingly, they were donated to overcome some shortage of drinking water as the migrants will be able to store drinking water."



# Manish Sisodia To Be In Jail For 14 Days. What Court Allowed Him To Carry

New Delhi: Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia, arrested in the liquor policy case, has been moved to Tihar Jail No 1 after a special court today sent him to judicial custody till March 20.

Mr Sisodia was produced in the special court this afternoon after his CBI custody ended. Special judge MK Nagpal sent him to judicial custody after noting that the CBI had not demanded further custody and that they may do so later if required.

The court has allowed the AAP leader to carry medicines prescribed during his medical examination. He has also been allowed to carry a pair of spectacles, a diary, a pen, and a copy of Bhagavad Gita. As requested by Mr Sisodia's counsel, the court has directed the jail authorities to consider the request of keeping him in the meditation cell.

The AAP No 2 has applied for bail and his request will be taken up on



Friday. He was arrested on February 26 and sent to the CBI's custody for five days. The court later extended the custody by two days. The CBI, sources had earlier said, may not seek further custody. Mr Sisodia, 51, has said in this bail petition that CBI officials were asking him the same questions over and over, and that was causing

him mental harassment. His lawyer has said keeping him in custody will "serve no fruitful purpose" as all recoveries in the case have been made. He has also said the "inefficiency of the agency" to complete the probe cannot be ground for remand. The CBI, on its part, has said that Mr Sisodia had been uncooperative and evasive

during the questioning. They have also cited time lost in his medical examination and the Supreme Court hearing of his bail plea.

The AAP leader had approached the top court for relief following his arrest. The Supreme Court, however, refused to intervene and asked him to approach the High Court. He has resigned as Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and given up the 18 portfolios he earlier held. Mr Sisodia faces allegations of corruption in the liquor policy that was scrapped after Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe. The Arvind Kejriwal government was accused of bending rules and providing undue benefits to liquor vend licensees. The Delhi government has rubbished the allegations, saying that the BJP was misusing investigating agencies for political motives. Mr Kejriwal has said the now-scrapped liquor policy was the "most transparent policy in the country".

## India-bound Australia and Japan PMs, China is the elephant in the room



In the backdrop of China hiking its military budget by a whopping 7.2 per cent to USD 225 billion, QUAD allies Australia and Japan are bound for India to deepen defence and economic cooperation even with Beijing's "no limit ally" Russia hitting out at the informal yet powerful forum of India, US, Australia and Japan. Although the three countries along with the US have a very close relationship with information exchange on virtually any topic, the hot topic of discussion this time will be forging defence cooperation and setting up resilient global supply chains due to the ongoing Ukraine war and Chinese belligerence in the Indo-Pacific. The Xi Jinping regime has hiked its military budget to USD 225, which is more than the combined budgets of India (USD 73 billion), Australia (USD 48.7 billion) and Japan (USD 51 billion). To make matters worse, the Chinese military budget

is higher than the released figure as revenues from its growing military-industrial complex are ploughed back into military spending and this figure also runs into billions of USDs. The strategic intent of the increased spending is to prepare China against three major dangers: invaded (read Taiwan), toppled (read Sinkiang or Xinjiang) and separated (read Tibet). The picture of which countries China considers as adversaries become clear as any military emergency over Senkaku Islands or neighbouring Taiwan will seriously impact Japan, and military consolidation in Tibet and Xinjiang will put pressure on India. Backed by ambitious Beijing, the Chinese PLA is in an expansionist mode and is running into friction with Australia as Xi Jinping forges military cooperation in the Far Pacific and along with Russia has hit out at the AUKUS alliance. The AUKUS alliance will strengthen.

## Akhilesh Yadav Hints His Party May Contest From UP's Amethi In 2024

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav today indicated his party could field a candidate in the next election from the high-profile Amethi seat, which it used to leave for the Congress.

Mr Yadav, who visited Amethi on Sunday for the wedding of influential party leader and former UP minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati's daughter, gave the indication in a tweet in Hindi.

"I was deeply saddened to see the plight of poor women in Amethi. VIPs have always won and lost here, yet the condition is like this here so what to say about the rest of the state," he tweeted, along with two photographs of women sitting on the ground during his visit.

"Next time Amethi will not elect big people but people with big hearts. SP takes a pledge to eradicate poverty



from Amethi," he added. The Amethi parliamentary seat, which was considered a Congress pocket borough, is presently represented by BJP leader Smriti Irani, who defeated Congress leader Rahul in 2019 parliamentary elections.

Akhilesh Yadav Extends Support To Kapil Sibal's New Platform To Fight Injustice On Sunday too, Mr Yadav had hit out at the BJP. Without taking the name

of Union minister Irani, he asked the people of the constituency to defeat her in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "The 'cylinder waali' is the MP from this place. Definitely defeat her," he said.

"Earlier, the BJP people used to carry a cylinder on their head. Today, inflation is at an all-time high, but they have no answer," Mr Yadav added.

## "BJP Won Wafer-Thin Majority In Tripura, Lost 10% Of Vote Share": CPI(M)

New Delhi: Unwilling to accept that it won a wafer-thin majority in the Tripura polls, the BJP is unleashing an "orgy of violence" in the state, the CPI(M) said on Monday.

The party also called upon its units to hold protests against this "unleashing of terror politics" by the BJP, a statement said. The Tripura Assembly election results were announced on March 2. The BJP-IPFT government returned to power, with the BJP bagging 32 seats in the 60-member assembly and the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) winning one seat.

At least eight people were injured in post-poll violence in Tripura and 20 arrested in connection with these incidents, according to police.

Most of the post-poll violence cases were reported from Sepahijala and Khowai districts.



"The Politburo of the CPI(M) strongly condemns the savage post-poll violence unleashed by the BJP against the CPI(M), Left Front and opposition party cadres. As the results were being declared on March 2 and the BJP was inching towards a majority, an orgy of violence marking the daylight

murder of democracy in Tripura was unleashed," the CPI(M) said. "Unwilling to accept that it won a wafer-thin majority, losing over 10 per cent of its vote share and the coalition losing 11 of its sitting seats, the BJP is mounting such orgy of violence," it said. A large number of attacks on

homes and properties of CPI(M) supporters, physical attacks and extortion are continuing across Tripura, it claimed.

"Out of a total of more than a thousand incidents, in which so far three lives have been lost, details of 668 cases have been submitted to the state administration as the Governor remained unavailable to meet the CPI(M) and Left Front delegation," the statement said.

The CPI(M) called upon the state administration and the law enforcement machinery to immediately intervene to restore law and order, and extend the necessary financial and medical relief to the victims.

"The Politburo of the CPI(M) calls upon its units to organise protest actions against this murder of democracy and unleashing of terror politics by the BJP in Tripura," the statement said.

## Centre releases guidelines for celebrities, influencers, and virtual influencers on social media platform

New Delhi, March 06, 2023 The Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Af-

fusion regarding which disclosure word to use for what kind of partnership. Therefore, for paid or bar-

terperimposed over the image enough for viewers to notice. For endorsements in a video or a live stream, disclosures should be made in both audio and video format and displayed continuously and prominently during the entire stream.

The guidelines advise celebrities and influencers to always review and satisfy themselves that the advertiser is in a position to substantiate the claims made in the advertisement. It is also recommended that the product and service must have been actually used or experienced by the endorser.

In conclusion, the guidelines aim to ensure that individuals do not mislead their audiences when endorsing products or services, and that they are in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act and any associated rules or guidelines. It is essential for celebrities, influencers, and virtual influencers to adhere to these guidelines to maintain transparency and authenticity with their audience. The department has observed that there is confusion regarding which disclosure word to use for what kind of partnership. Therefore, for paid or barter brand endorsement, any of the following disclosures may be used: "advertisement," "ad," "sponsored," "collaboration," or "partnership." However, the term must be indicated as hashtag or headline text. The guidelines specify that individuals or groups who have access to an audience and the power to affect their audiences' purchasing decisions or opinions about a product, service, brand, or experience, because of the influencer's/celebrity's authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with their audience, must disclose. The guidelines state that the disclosure must be placed in the endorsement message in a manner that is clear, prominent, and extremely hard to miss. Disclosures should not be mixed with a group of hashtags or links. For endorsements in a picture, disclosures should be su-



fares, Food and Public Distribution, has released a set of guidelines called "Endorsements Know-hows!" for celebrities, influencers, and virtual influencers on social media platforms. The guidelines aim to ensure that individuals do not mislead their audiences when endorsing products or services and that they are in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act and any associated rules or guidelines. The guidelines state that endorsements must be made in simple, clear language, and terms such as "advertisement," "sponsored," "collaboration" or "paid promotion" can be used. Individuals must not endorse any product or service that they have not personally used or experienced or in which due diligence has not been done by them. The department has observed that there is con-

## Shashi Tharoor Tweets About "Shrinking Fan Base", Internet Says "Quality Matters"

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor is one of the widely followed politicians on Twitter. From politics to personal opinions, the Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram tweets about many subjects in the most articulate manner on the platform. But this time, Mr Tharoor has raised an important issue - his falling userbase on the micro-blogging platform. He suggested it "must reflect something, but I'm not sure what". Born on March 9, 1956, Mr Tharoor has 8.4 million followers, according to his Twitter bio.

On Monday evening, Mr Tharoor posted a tweet saying his Twitter fan-base is shrinking and wanted to know the reason behind it.

"My slowly shrinking @Twitter fan-base (which goes down each day, having deflated from nearly 8,496,000 a week+ago to 8,491,000 now) must reflect something, but I'm not sure what. If it's because of a partial understanding of my views, I invite folks to read my books instead!" he said.

His followers and other Twitter users gave



their explanation and urged the politician to not lose hope.

"Been reading almost all of them, since long..

Stay blessed Sir," tweeted one user. "You are only losing bots, or trolls, carry on what you are doing and what you look to achieve," commented another.

"More than Quantity, Quality is what matters," a third user said. Another asked him to reach out to Twitter CEO Elon Musk.

Twitter's system has historically promoted tweets from users whose posts perform better to both followers and non-followers. But since taking over as the new chief of the micro-blogging platform Twitter, Elon Musk has made a number of changes that changed the way tweets appear on users' timelines.

Meanwhile, Mr Tharoor on Monday posted a video clip of his interaction with one of his self-professed 'biggest fans' in Nagaland, where Assembly polls were just held.

The woman requested Mr Tharoor to "spill some secret" on how someone "so astonishingly good-looking and charismatic" can be "brilliant". "Choose your parents wisely," the Congress leader quipped, adding that it's all in the genes.

## Nannies On Call, Spas; India Witnessing 'Mad Rush' For Luxury Housing



New Delhi: DLF sold a \$1 billion upmarket residential project in 72 hours while rival Godrej Properties is offering \$3 million apartments to clients selected by invitation, two off-plan sales that are signalling a revival in luxury housing. Property developers say spacey high-price apartments that come with add-ons like concierge services, spas, multi-level parking, large green open spaces and a heated pool have become the rage. There are no such amenities in the individual houses and old apartment blocks that dominate the country's cramped and crowded cities.

Many people want to upgrade their homes after the COVID-19 pandemic confined them indoors, industry executives say. Working from home has also led to a demand for larger apartments, supported by rising incomes and the growing number of nouveau riche.

DLF's Harbour project in Gurugram near New Delhi attracted more than 3,000 applications for 1,137 apartments priced at \$869,000 each (about 7 crore), extremely high prices for the area. The booking centre was besieged by people queuing to buy homes during the project launch weekend in February.

"I haven't seen such a mad rush in a decade," said Prashant Thakur, head of research at real estate consultant Anarock. "The luxury residential market is on the path to revival."

Varun Arora, a 37-year-old investment professional, said he is looking to upgrade from his current rented apartment to the DLF development which he likes for its grand reception area, high-speed elevators and enough area to jog without having to leave the complex. "Having a green, open, clean space with restricted access (to outsiders) is of supreme importance. You don't want to run on the road. From a lifestyle standpoint that is paramount," he said.

Supply of new luxury homes in India has been constrained in recent years, hit by an economic slowdown in 2019 and then the pandemic, which dampened sentiment in 2020 and

forced developers to put brakes on new project launches.

Anarock data shows that luxury condominiums, defined as those selling above 1.5 crore rupees (\$183,000), accounted for 17% of all housing launches in 2022, touching an at least five-year high. And launches of once-popular affordable homes - those priced below 40 lakh rupees (around \$50,000) - halved to 20% of the total in the period.

In all, a record 65,700 luxury units were sold in 2022, three times the previous year, with Mumbai, New Delhi and Hyderabad leading sales. In 2019, before the pandemic, 18,150 units were sold.

In Mumbai, Sugee Developers last week published front-page advertisements offering sea-view residences starting at \$1.7 million in a development that will have an amphitheatre, landscape gardens and a sky deck lobby.

Godrej's "Connaught One" project near central Delhi's premier shopping district is offering apartments for \$2-\$3.3 million, on par with a good class bungalow in parts of the city.

"We are seeing more desire for larger spaces, lifestyle upgrade from founders of listed firms, startups, lawyers. We are getting more calls and as the available inventory is low, luxury properties are being sold quickly nowadays," said Amit Goyal, India CEO at Sotheby's International Realty.



# Afghan universities reopen but women still barred

Afghan universities reopened on Monday after a winter break, but only men returned to class with a "heartbreaking" ban by the Taliban authorities on women in higher education still in force.



The university ban is one of several restrictions imposed on women since the Taliban stormed back to power in August 2021 and has sparked global outrage — including across the Muslim world. "It's heartbreaking to see boys going to the university while we have to stay at home," said Rahela, 22, from the central province of Ghor. "This is gender discrimination against girls because Islam allows us to pursue higher education. Nobody should stop us from learning."

The Taliban government imposed the ban after accusing women students of ignoring a strict dress code and a requirement to be accompanied by a male relative to and from campus. Most universities had already introduced gender-segregated entrances and classrooms, as well as allowing women to be taught only by female professors or elderly men.

"It's painful to see that thousands of girls are deprived of education today," Mohammad Haseeb Habibzadah, a student of computer science at Herat university, told AFP. "We are trying to address this issue by talking to lecturers and

other students so that there can be a way where boys and girls could study and progress together."

Ejatullah Nejadi, an engineering student at Kabul University, Afghanistan's largest, said it was a fundamental right of women to study.

"Even if they attend classes on separate days, it's not a problem. They have a right to education and that right should be given to them," he said as he entered the university campus.

Government fear Waheeda Durrani, a journalism student in Herat until she was barred from university last year, said the Taliban government want-

ed women to remain uneducated. "If Afghan girls and women get educated, they will never accept a government that exploits Islam and the Koran," she said. "They will stand for their rights. That's the fear the government has."

At the capital's private Rana university, male students trickled back to classes on Monday. "My sister, unfortunately, cannot come to the university. She is trying to study at home," said Ebratullah Rahimi, another journalism student.

Posters dating from before the ban showing how women needed to dress were still on display in the

university corridors. Several Taliban officials say the ban on women's education is temporary but, despite promises, they have failed to reopen secondary schools for girls, which have been closed for more than a year.

The authorities have wheeled out a litany of excuses for the closure, from a lack of funds to the time needed to remodel the syllabus along Islamic lines.

The reality, according to some Taliban officials, is that the ultra-conservative clerics advising Afghanistan's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada are deeply sceptical of modern education for women.

Taliban authorities have effectively squeezed women out of public life since retaking power. Women have been removed from many government jobs or are paid a fraction of their former salary to stay at home.

They are also barred from going to parks, fairs, gyms and public baths, and must cover up in public. Rights groups have condemned the restrictions, which the United Nations called "gender-based apartheid".

The international community has made the right to education for women a sticking point in negotiations over aid and recognition of the Taliban government.

No country has so far officially recognised the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers.

# Kyiv says Moscow pursuing 'attempts to encircle' Bakhmut

KYIV: Kyiv said on Sunday it was holding off attacks from Russian troops still attempting to surround Bakhmut, a now-destroyed eastern Ukrainian city that Moscow has been trying to capture for months.



Ukraine has vowed to defend "fortress Bakhmut" but has faced Russian troops determined to take the city which has turned into a political prize as the battle drags on. The Ukrainian general staff said "more than 130 enemy attacks" had been repelled over the previous day including in Kupiansk, Lyman, Bakhmut and Avdiivka.

"The enemy continues its attempts to encircle the town of Bakhmut," it said on Sunday morning. Bakhmut has been mostly reduced to rubble during the longest and bloodiest battle of the invasion.

Sergiy Cherevaty, a spokesman for Ukrainian forces, said on Saturday the situation was "difficult but under control" in the city he described as a "priority target for the enemy".

There is fighting in an around the city, the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) said, warning that with Ukrainian supply routes were narrowing. "The Russians may have intended to encircle Ukrainian forces in Bakhmut, but the Ukrainian command has signalled that it will likely withdraw rather than risk an encirclement," ISW said on Saturday.

Ukraine and Russia have since the summer fiercely fought for the city, whose symbolic importance has

surpassed its military significance. Pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk region posted a video purporting to show Wagner fighters in the suburbs north of Bakhmut, having taken control of the Stupki railway station. Wagner, a private army headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin, has taken centre stage in the fight for the city, which has exposed rivalries with Russia's conventional forces. On Friday, Prigozhin said his fighters had "practically encircled" Bakhmut, and only one road remained under Ukrainian control.

# 87pc of unregistered deaths in Asia found in Pakistan, four states: study



ISLAMABAD: The first regional estimate of the level of death registration completeness in Asia and the Pacific region has found 87 per cent of unregistered deaths in five countries, including Pakistan. Besides Pakistan, the other four countries are China, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh. More specifically, completeness exceeded 99.9pc in 10 countries and was below 50pc in South and Southwest Asia, according to a study published by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). The study estimated that of the approximately 32.1 million deaths in 58 countries of the region, 23.8m were reported, resulting in a regional estimate of completeness of approximately 74.3pc in 2018. Sub-regional estimates reveal a contrasting picture. The highest completeness rate is observed in North and Central Asia (97pc), while all other sub-regions have completeness rates below 80pc, falling as low as 66pc in South and Southwest Asia. Beyond death registration itself, the study also constitutes an overview of the level

of publication of vital statistics in the region. The results emerging from the study are encouraging, with 36 countries having published statistics recently, and 17 more having communicated relevant statistics to an international organisation. While the proximately 8.2m unregistered deaths each year are concerning, there has been a significant progress. Countries and development partners are committed to achieving the shared vision of the 2014 Ministerial Declaration to "Get everyone in the picture". It establishes that by 2024 all people in the region should benefit from universal and responsive CRVS (civil registration and vital statistics) systems. The mid-term review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, "A Snapshot of Progress Midway through the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade", shows that most countries with low death registration completeness at the beginning of the decade have seen improvements.

# China increases military spending in face of 'escalating' threats

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang returns to his seat next to President Xi Jinping, after delivering a work report at the opening session of the National People's Congress at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.— Reuters



BELJING: China said on Sunday its military spending would rise at the fastest pace in four years, warning of "escalating" threats from abroad at a meeting of its rubber-stamp parliament that will hand Xi Jinping a third term as president. The increase in the world's second-largest defence budget came as Beijing announced an economic growth goal of around five per cent for this year — one of its lowest in decades.

The country's planned budgets for the year put defence spending at \$225 billion, a 7.2pc rise and the quickest rate of increase since 2019. It officially rose 7.1pc last year. Outgoing Premier Li Keqiang told delegates to the National People's Congress (NPC) that "external attempts to suppress and contain China are escalating". National People's Congress set to approve Xi's third term as president. "The armed forces should intensify military training and preparedness across the board," he said as he presented the government's annual work report to thousands of amassed delegates in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The military must "devote greater energy to training under combat conditions, and... strengthen military work in all directions and domains", he added. China's defence spending still

pales in comparison with the United States, which has allotted over \$800 billion for its military this year. But analysts have said Beijing spends much more money than the officially announced sums. The ramped-up spending comes during a low point in relations between China and the United States. Beijing and Washington have butted heads in recent years over trade, human rights and other issues, but relations soured even further last month when the US shot down a Chinese balloon it said was being used for surveillance — a claim strenuously denied by Beijing. Top American officials have also repeatedly warned that China may invade Taiwan in the coming years, pointing to Beijing's increasingly assertive military moves around the self-ruled island, which it sees as its own territory and has vowed to bring under

its control. Niklas Swanstrom, director of the Stockholm-based non-profit the Institute for Security and Development Policy, said Beijing appeared to be "investing in its capacity to take over Taiwan and keep the US out of the region". But James Char, an expert on China's military at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University pointed out that several countries across Asia were boosting their defence spending, in part due to "their respective threat perceptions of the regional security landscape". Experts expect few surprises at this week's carefully choreographed NPC, with thousands of politicians coming from across China to vote on laws and personnel changes pre-approved by the ruling Communist Party (CCP). Sunday's conservative economic goals followed China posting just three per cent growth last year,

widely missing its 5.5pc target as the economy strained under the impact of strict Covid-19 containment policies and a property crisis.

"The growth target came in at the low end of the market expectation. But it should be taken as a floor of growth the government is willing to tolerate," said Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

"Given the very low base of economic activities last year, it is unlikely to see growth drop below five per cent." Li struck a bullish tone in his speech, saying China's economy "is staging a steady recovery and demonstrating vast potential and momentum for further growth".

He lauded Beijing's growth-suppressing Covid curbs — abruptly abandoned late last year — and "effective and well-coordinated" economic and social development. The sustained growth in defence spending despite sagging economic expectations showed that "security is now much more important for the national leadership" than before, said Alfred Muluan Wu, an associate professor at the University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. "It is even, to some extent, more important than economic growth," he told. Also top of the NPC's agenda will be on Friday's norm-busting reappointment of Xi as president, after he locked in another five years as head of the party and the military — the two most significant leadership positions in Chinese politics — at an October congress. Since then, the 69-year-old Xi's leadership has faced unexpected challenges and scrutiny.

# Japan Will "Disappear" Without Action On Births, Says PM's Aide

Japan will cease to exist if it can't slow a fall in its birth rate that threatens to wreck the social safety net and economy, according to an adviser to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.



"If we go on like this, the country will disappear," Masako Mori said in an interview in Tokyo after Japan announced on Feb. 28 the number of babies born last year slumped to a record low.

"It's the people who have to live through the process of disappearance who will face enormous harm. It's a terrible disease that will afflict those children," she added.

Last year, about twice as many people died as were born in Japan, with fewer than 800,000 births and about 1.58 million deaths. An alarmed Kishida has vowed to double spending on children and families in a bid to control the slide, which is progressing even faster than forecast.

The population has fallen to 124.6 million from a peak of just over 128 million reached in 2008, and the pace of decline is increasing.

Meanwhile the proportion of people 65 or over rose to more than 29% last year. While South Korea has a lower fertility rate, Japan's population is shrinking faster.

"It's not falling gradually, it's heading straight down," said Ms Mori, an upper house lawmaker and former minister who advises Kishida on the birthrate problem and LGBTQ issues. "A nosedive means

children being born now will be thrown into a society that becomes distorted, shrinks and loses its ability to function."

If nothing's done, the social security system would collapse, industrial and economic strength would decline and there wouldn't be enough recruits for the Self-Defense Forces to protect the country, she added.

While reversing the slide now would be extremely difficult due to the fall in the number of women of child-bearing age, the government must do everything it can to slow the plunge and help mitigate the damage, Ms Mori said.

Mr Kishida has yet to announce the content of his new spending package, but has said it will be "on a different dimension" from previous policies. So far he's mentioned increasing child allowances, improving childcare provision and changing working styles.

But critics contend throwing money at families who have children is not enough to address the problem. A paper from a government panel on gender equality said comprehensive changes are needed that include reducing the burden on women of raising children and making it easier for them to participate in the workforce after giving birth.

Ms Mori criticized what she said was a tendency to think about the issue separately from finance, trade, and particularly from female empowerment.

# US Hails South Korea's Move To Compensate Victims Of Japan's Forced Labour



Washington: US top diplomat Antony Blinken on Sunday applauded plans announced by South Korea to compensate victims of Japan's forced wartime labor, as Seoul looks to forge closer ties with Tokyo. South Korea and Japan are "two of the United States' most important allies, and we are inspired by the work they have done to advance their bilateral relations," the Secretary of State said in a statement. The trilateral relationship is "central to our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region," he added. "We applaud (Seoul and Tokyo) for their courage and vision, and call on the international community to join our commendation of this momentous achievement."

The decision by Seoul comes as South Korea and Japan have ramped up security cooperation in the face of growing threats from nuclear-armed North Korea. But bilateral ties have long been strained over Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula. Around 780,000 Koreans were conscripted into forced labor by Japan during the 35-year occupation, according to data from Seoul, not including women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops. Seoul's plan is to take money from major South Korean companies that benefited from a 1965 reparations deal with Tokyo and use it to compensate victims, South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin said.



# Smith may lead in Ahmedabad too as Cummins stays home

NEW DELHI: Steve Smith has no ambition to be Australia's full-time captain again but the 33-year-old may continue to lead them in the fourth and final Test against India as regular captain Pat Cummins stays put in Sydney. Cummins returned home after the second Test in Delhi to be with his ailing mother after Australia had dropped 2-0 behind in the four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Smith led their brilliant turnaround in Indore where they beat India by nine wickets inside three days to secure their place in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) in June. Coach Andrew McDonald said Cummins remained in touch with rest of the squad in India. "He's obviously dealing with what he's dealing with at home but he's

still so invested in this group," McDonald told reporters on Saturday. "Our thoughts are still with him and his family at this difficult time. "We're in constant contact with him daily, so at the moment he's not here and the Test match is a few days away, so we'll discuss with Pat on a daily basis." Smith led Australia between 2014 and 2018 before he was stripped of the honour following a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa. He remains Cummins's deputy since the paceman became Test captain in November 2021 and has stepped in three times to lead Australia since then. Smith said he had no ambition to return as full-time captain at any stage. "My time is done. It's Pat's team now," Smith said after inflicting on India what was only their third



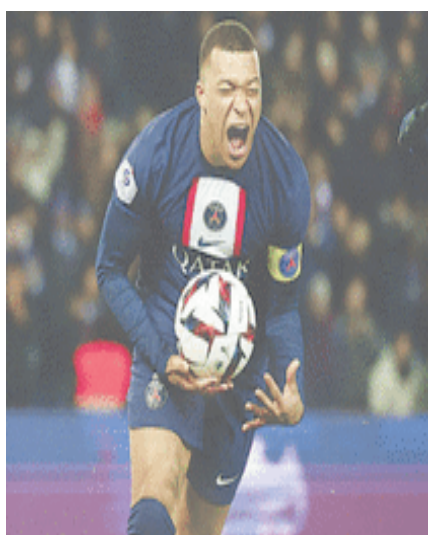
defeat on home soil in their last 46 Tests dating back to 2012. "I've obviously been able to stand

in this week, obviously in tough circumstances with Patty going home. Our thoughts are still with him

back home," Smith said. "But India is a part of the world I love captaining ... it's probably my favourite place in the world to captain." Smith marshalled his attack with aplomb, took a stunning catch at leg slip to remove Cheteshwar Pujara at a crucial juncture and overall looked in charge in the frenetic, low-scoring contest. ROHIT WANTS INDIA TO BE 'BRAVE' Meanwhile, captain Rohit Sharma believes Indian batsmen needed to learn the lesson from their loss in Indore and be braver when they take on the Australian spinners in the fourth Test in Ahmedabad next week. India were bundled out for 109 and 169 on a rank turner at Indore's Holkar Cricket Stadium where 30 wickets fell in the first two days of

the Test. Cheteshwar Pujara's 59 was the highest score by an Indian batter in the match and Australia's Nathan Lyon claimed 11 wickets, including 8-64 in India's second innings. "Look, when you're playing on challenging pitches, you've got to be brave, honestly," Rohit said after their nine-wicket defeat inside three days. "I just felt we allowed their bowlers to bowl on one particular spot. Not taking any credit away from their bowlers, especially Nathan Lyon. He was brilliant, he kept challenging us, kept hitting that right length. "When the bowler is doing that, you've got to come out with your plans and try and do different things; try and be a little brave as well, which I thought we were not."

## Mbappe beats PSG record as champions extend lead



PARIS: Kylian Mbappe became Paris St Germain's all-time top scorer when he helped his side extend their Ligue 1 lead to a provisional 11 points in a 4-2 home win against Nantes in Ligue 1 on Saturday. Mbappe found the back of the net two minutes into stoppage time for his 201st goal in all competitions with PSG, improving the mark he shared with Edinson Cavani. PSG, who travel to Bayern Munich next week hoping to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit in the Champions League last 16, were 2-0 up after 17 minutes following goals by Lionel Messi and Jaouen Hadjam's own goal, only for the Canaries to level before the break thanks to Ludovic Blas and Ignatius Ganago. Christophe Galtier's side, however, wrapped up all three points after Danilo's goal around the hour mark and Mbappe's last-gasp strike, which put them on 63 points from 26 games. PSG got off to a dream start as Messi opened the scoring in the 12th minute with a left-footed volley form Fabian Ruiz's cross. Five minutes later, Alban Lafont parried Nuno Mendes's attempt into the path of Hadjam who, under pressure from Nordi Mukiele, bundled the ball into his own net to give PSG a 2-0 advantage. In the 31st minute, however, Blas

whipped a fine shot past Gianluigi Donnarumma to reduce the arrears, seven minutes before Ganago deflected a corner past the Italian keeper to level the contest. But 15 minutes into the second half, ordered was restored as Danilo headed home from Mbappe's cross before the France forward netted his record goal with a left-footed effort from inside the box. Injured Moroccan star Achraf Hakimi watched from the stands at the Parc des Princes a day after he was charged with rape following accusations made by a 24-year-old woman. Coach Christophe Galtier lost another defender to injury in the second half of this game, with skipper Marquinhos coming off in some discomfort with what looked a side strain. Earlier, RC Lens's Champions League hopes suffered another knock when they were held to a 1-1 home draw in the northern derby. Although the result lifted Lens to third in the standings on 51 points, Franck Haise's team have now only won one of their last seven league matches and have Monaco and Stade Rennais, who have a game in hand, within five points behind them. The home team had the upper hand in the first half and went ahead thanks a Jose Fonte own goal, but Jonathan David equalised after the break before Brice Samba made numerous spectacular saves to salvage a draw at the Bollaert-Delelis stadium. Injured Moroccan star Achraf Hakimi watched from the stands at the Parc des Princes a day after he was charged with rape following accusations made by a 24-year-old woman. Coach Christophe Galtier lost another defender to injury in the second half of this game, with skipper Marquinhos coming off in some discomfort with what looked a side strain. Earlier, RC Lens's Champions League hopes suffered another knock when they were held to a 1-1 home draw in the northern derby. Although the result lifted Lens to third in the standings on 51 points, Franck Haise's team have now only won one of their last seven league matches and have Monaco and Stade Rennais.

## Sri Lanka eye WTC final to lift spirits back home

CHRISTCHURCH: Coach Chris Silverwood said Sri Lanka would be doing their absolute best to qualify for the World Test Championship (WTC) final during their two-match series in New Zealand to give the people back home something to cheer about. Sri Lanka, who are third in the WTC rankings behind already-qualified Australia and India, will need to beat the reigning Test champions Black Caps 2-0 to have a chance of playing in June's final at The Oval. India could take matters out of Sri Lanka's hands with a win in their fourth Test against Australia next week, but Silverwood said the team would be determined to take advantage of any slip up to raise the spirits of an embattled nation. "It would mean everything to them," he said in Christchurch ahead of a tour game against a New Zealand XI. "The country has been through a bit recently



and we know the spirits are really lifted when the cricket team is doing well. "The guys are very aware of that and take that responsibility very seriously, so they'll be desperate

to give them something to smile about back at home. "To get to the WTC Final would be unbelievable, but at the same time we know we've got a very good New Zealand team in front of

us as well and we have to respect that, work hard, and try and earn that right." Sri Lanka is grappling with its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948, beset by inflation, a shortage of foreign exchange, a plummeting currency and a steep recession. The tourists will play a youthful New Zealand XI over the weekend at Bert Sutcliffe Oval to prepare for the opening Test against New Zealand at Christchurch's Hagley Oval starting next Thursday. "We're looking to get as ready as possible for the first Test match, we want to hit the road running and to do that we have to make sure that we prep well here," Silverwood added. "We want to make sure the batsmen get a good hit and get used to conditions and that bowlers get overs under their belts as well."

## Haris credits Babar for his success as Pakistan mainstay

KARACHI: Running in and bowling with raw pace was never a problem for Haris Rauf. After all, he had done it all his life with the tape ball and replicated the ability at HBL Pakistan Super League franchise Lahore Qalandars' trials. But after proving his mettle as a Qalandars product at club level in Australia, the Big Bash League and the PSL and making his Pakistan debut, he eventually started struggling with his economy as a bowler. Until October 2021, the right-arter was leaking runs at nearly nine per over in Twenty20 Internationals, but in the year and a half that followed, he

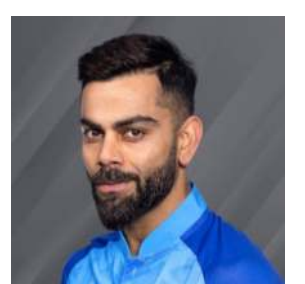


brought his economy rate down to less than eight. Haris' transformation was evident during the 2021 T20 World Cup, in which he took eight wickets at an average of 21 while conceding 7.3 runs per over, which led Pakistan to the tournament's semi-finals. The 2021 T20 World Cup was also the first time

Pakistan looked like a close-knit unit under their captain Babar Azam, who marshaled the side to the finals of the T20 Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup in the year that followed, with Haris being one of the central figures in their journey in becoming one of the best white-ball sides in the world. "I strongly believe that the improvement is all because of Babar Azam," Haris told Dawn. "We played really good and exciting cricket in the last two years. "In this period, we emerged as a good unit, especially in white-ball cricket, and the credit goes to our skipper Babar Azam, who trusted.

## "Might Be In A Bit Of Drought...": Ricky Ponting's Verdict On Virat Kohli

Amid Virat Kohli's struggles in Test cricket, Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has backed the star batter to replicate his white-ball resurgence in the longest format of the game. Kohli, who ended his three-year long century drought last year during the Asia Cup, has scored just 111 runs across five innings in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. Ponting feels that "champion players always find a way" back, saying that he is confident that Kohli will be back to his best very soon. "For Kohli, I have said that over and over, champion players always find



a way. He might be in a bit of a drought at the moment, might be not scoring runs which we all expect him to score but he is a realist as well. When you are a batsman and you are struggling and not scoring runs, you are pretty aware of that yourself. I am not concerned about this because I am confident.

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