Srinagar **Friday** May 05 | 2023 Shawwal 14 | 1444 Pages: 12 Price: Rs 02/-

www.dailyheadlinestoday.com 13TH EADLINES **Voice To The Voiceless**

Atal Dulloo roots for increased productivity in fsheries, livestock sectors



LG reviews **Preparedness for G20 Meeting**



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday asked officials to make concerted efforts to ensure that the upcoming G20 meeting here is

conducted successfully. He made the remarks while chairing a high-level meeting Turn.....Pg 02

Two day meeting of Foreign Ministers of SCO begins in Goa

S Jaishanker holds talks with SCO Secretary-General

HT News Network

GOA, MAY 04: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping members have started arriving in Goa for the Foreign Ministers' meeting. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has landed in Goa. The meeting is being held in Goa today and tomorrow.

This morning, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar held meetings with Turn.....**Two day meeting**.....Pg 02



Army Chopper Crashes in Kishtwar, three injured persons evacuated

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 04: An Indian Army chopper crashed in Kishtwar district on Thursday morning, officials said.

As per reports, a three member on board army chopper flying in Marwah area of Kishtwar district reportedly crashed at Village Machna.

JeI has been found carrying

out terror funding activi-

ties in Jammu and

Kashmir, even after

being declared an

unlawful associa-

tion under the UA(P)

Act on 28th Febru-

ary 2019, the spokes-

NIA had filed a

chargesheet in the case in Spe-

person of NIA said.

In a defence official statement issued, it read that at about 1115 hours on 04 May 2023, an Army Aviation ALH Dhruv helicopter on an operational mission made a precautionary landing on the banks of Marua river in the Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir. As per inputs, the pilots had reported a technical fault

Turn.....**Army Chopper Crashes**.....Pg 02

cial Court, Patiala House, New

Delhi, on May 12, 2022 against four accused. It

ruary 5, 2021.

had earlier registered

a suo motu case in

the matter on Feb-

The searches were

conducted today at

the premises of JeI (J&K)

Turn.....NIA Searches 16.....Pg 02

members and supporters,

2 charred to dead, 5 injured as hotel catches fire in Ramban

LG grieved over loss of lives

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 04: Two people were killed and five others injured when a hotel caught fire in Ramban district on Thursday morning,

Reports said that fire broke out in Hotel Maa Shanti in Sanasar tourist resort in $the \, intervening \, night \, of \, We dnesday \, and \,$ Thursday and spread fast engulfing the entire area

Officials said that a fire fighting operation was launched after the incident.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban has ordered a magisterial inquiry headed by ADC Ramban.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has expressed grief over the loss of lives in the fire accident. He has conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the kin of those who have died in the accident and the injured.

Turn.....2 charred to.....Pg 02

NEWS BRIEF

Two militants killed in Baramulla encounter

BARAMULLA, MAY 04: Two newly local militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba were killed in an encounter at Wanigam Payeen village of Kreeei in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. Additional Deputy General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar as per the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO) said that both the militants were affiliated with the Turn.....**Two militants killed**.....Pg 02

Two injured in **Kulgam road accident**

KULGAM, MAY 04: Two persons were injured in a road accident in Chawalgam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday.

As per reports to CNS, an alto vehicle (JK18B3531) overturned at chawalgam area resulting in the injuries to fatherdaughter duo.

The injured were identified as Javid Ahmad Wani and his daughter musaiba jan residents of Khull Ahmadabad. The duo was shifted to district

Turn.....**Two injured in**.....Pg 02

Won't allow enemy to disturb peace in Valley: Army after foiling infiltration bid in Kupwara

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: As part

of its continuing crackdown on

terror funding in Jammu and

Kashmir, the National Investiga-

tion Agency (NIA) on Thursday

conducted searches at multiple

locations in a case related to

separatist and secessionist

activities of the banned Jamaat-

e-Islami (JeI).

'Troops braving sub-zero temperature stood under open sky for 48 hours to eliminate infiltrators'

NIA Searches

16 Locations

Funding Case

In Jamat

Terror

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 04: Following the killing of two militants in Machil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Army on Thursday said that they are ready to foil any attempt made from across the border to push infiltrators into the



Valley to disturb peace. Addressing a press conference at Z Gali, as per news agency-Turn.....Won't allow enemy.....Pg 02 Police SI Recruitment Scam

J&K HC Rejects Bail Application Of Accused Officer, Son

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 4: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has rejected the bail application of a police officer and his son who were arrested by the CBI last year in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam.

Justice Mohan Lal dismissed the joint bail application moved by Assistant Sub-Inspector Ashok Kumar and his son Jaisuriya Sharma, terming it "misconceived under law".

of records

than 9 minutes'



The police officer and his son were arrested on November 6 and 9, respectively, by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for their Turn.....J&K HC Rejects.....Pg 02

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: A youth from Budgam

Younis Ahmad Sheikh (22) known by the

name Afnan, a resident of Bugam district area

in Chadoora hamlet of Budgam district has

created a record for making Indian bridal

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Younis said that he was inter-

ested in calligraphy since childhood which

Turn.....Kashmir's first male.....Pg 02

district of Kashmir has made it to the International Book of records for doing the fastest

Indian bridal makeup.

makeup in less than 9 minutes.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan J&K cop's son booked under PSA Is Big Hit Among J&K JAMMU, MAY 4: A son of Jammu and Kashmir Police Assistant Sub-**Farmers** Inspector has been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) for his alleged

57,000 farmers participate in first Two Rounds; 17 More rounds to follow until August 31, 2023



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 4: The KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN has been a resounding success, with 57,000 farmers participating in the orienta-

tion programme during the first two rounds, which began on April 24. The second round, held from May 1 to May 3, saw a massive turnout of farmers. The programme has covered a Turn.....Kisan Sampark.....Pg 02

CRPF Trooper With His Rendition Of **Kashmiri Songs**

Kashmir's first male

makeup artist makes it

to international book

'Creates world record of doing

Indian Bridal makeup in less

BANDIPORA, MAY 4: A CRPF trooper has won hearts on the internet with his soulful

Kashmir Ops Sector, CRPF, shared a video of constable Mrityunjai Kumar Rai, posted in the third battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force in Bandipora district in north Kashmir, singing the songs on Twitter

Amid forecast for rain spell, temp records drop at most places in J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 4: Amid forecast for generally cloudy weather with possibility of rains at several places during next 24 hours, night temperature recorded a drop and settled below normal at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

A meteorological department official told GNS that there was possibility of a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm particularly in Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri and Baramulla today.

Turn.....Amid forecast for rain.....Pg 02

No Grenade Incident in Budgam: Police

involvement in theft and drugs relat-

Police spokesman said that the

accused identified as Sunny Sharma, son of ASI, resident of Ward No 5, Jawa-

har Nagar, Rajouri has been booked

under PSA for his repeated involvement in theft cases and drug peddling Turn.....**J&K cop's son**.....Pg 02

ed cases in Rajouri district.

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: Police on Thursday evening said that a fake post is being circulated on social media regarding Grenade incident in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

In a brief handout to GNS, the police said that a fake post regarding a grenade incident in Pakherpora Budgam is being circulated on social media platforms. No such incident has occurred. People are asked to refrain

from circulating the fake news. Turn.....No Grenade Incident.....Pg 02

From Bihar Wins Hearts

HT News Network

rendition of popular Kashmiri songs.

Turn.....Pg 02

CMYK

HT - NEWS

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG reviews.....

to review the preparations for the third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting from May 21-23.

"G20 is a matter of pride for the country. We should make concerted efforts to ensure successful conduct of the G20 meeting in Srinagar," Sinha said at the meeting.

He asked different departments to contribute enthusiastically to make the event memorable.

The review meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Chief Secretary R K Goyal, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, special secretary and joint secretaries from the G20 Secretariat.

Advisor to the LG Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Ministry of Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh joined the meeting via video conferencing.

The meeting, organised with the aim of making the upcoming event a success with the cooperation of all stakeholders, reviewed various aspects of preparation, an official spokesperson said.

Srinagar has been given a massive facelift ahead of the G20 meeting.

Two day.....

SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming. Dr Jaishankar appreciated his support for India's SCO Presidency and added that Indian presidency is driven by a commitment to secure the SCO.

He laid down the key focus areas including startups, traditional medicine, youth empowerment, Buddhist heritage and science & technology.

Foreign Ministers of member countries including China and Pakistan are also expected to be present at the meeting. Dr S Jaishankar is likely to hold bilateral talks with his Russian and Chinese counterparts. The Foreign Ministers' meeting will give India and other member countries a platform to discuss multilateral cooperation and dispute

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai. Member states of SCO are India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbeki-

Army Chopper.....

to the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) and proceeded for a precautionary landing. Due to the undulating ground, undergrowth and unprepared landing area, the helicopter apparently made a hard landing. Immediate rescue operation was launched and Army rescue teams reached

"Two pilots and a technician were on board. All three injured personnel have been evacuated to Command Hospital, Udhampur."

Meanwhile, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered and further details are being ascertained.

2 charred to.....

"Anguished by the loss of lives due to the fire incident at a hotel in Sanasar. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor has spoken to the Deputy Commissioner and directed him to render all assistance to the kin of victims.

NIA Searches.....

t 16 locations, including 11 in District Baramulla in Kashmir valley and the remaining 5 located in District Kishtwar in Jammu region, the spokesperson said

"Several incriminating materials and digital devices were seized during the searches and were being examined for more clues in the case," it added.

NIA said its investigations so far have revealed that JeI (J&K) members had been collecting funds domestically and from abroad through donations, particularly in the form of Zakat, Mow'ooda and Bait-ul-Mal, as well as for purported charitable purposes, such as promotion of education and health.

"The funds were, instead, being used for violent and secessionist activities in J&K. They were also being channelled to proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and others through well organised networks of JeI cadres," the spokesperson said.

"Further, as per the investigations, Jel was also engaged in motivating impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K for carrying out violent, disruptive and

secessionist activities," it added. NIA said previous investigations by the agency had revealed that one of the four arrested accused, identified as Javaid Ahmad Lone, had been soliciting funds and organising meetings in the name of JeI, J&K.

"He had been delivering hateful anti-India speeches and exhorting people

to make donations at these meetings. Along with Aadil Ahmad Lone, he had also acquired firearms and ammunition with ulterior motives from the other two accused, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Dar and Rameez Ahmad Kondu," it added.

Won't allow.....

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Brigadier Vinod Singh Negi said that operation in Machil sector on May 3 was conducted successfully leading to elimination of two infiltrators.

He said that intelligence agencies were regularly receiving inputs about possible infiltration. "It was learnt that infiltrators will be pushed from across the border. After inputs by the police, a high alert was sounded on May 01," he said.

He said that following inputs additional ambushes were deployed at possible target places and a special operation group of J&K police was also involved in this operation.

The Brigadier also said that the operation was conducted under challenging conditions as troops braved cold weather conditions and low visibility.

"Braving continuous snow, rain, overflow of water channels and challenging atmosphere, the operation was conducted successfully. Brave troops remained under open sky for more than 48 hours waiting for the infiltrators," he said.

The Brigadier said that on May 03 an ambush spotted and killed two infiltrators. "They were fired at and two of them were killed. Entire area was searched and war like stores along with eatables with Pakistan markings were recovered."

He added that regularly efforts are being made from the other side of the border to disturb peace here. "All such efforts have been foiled. We are fully alert and every infiltration will be foiled," he said while praising the troops deployed at forward areas.

Meanwhile, SSP Kupwara while addressing the press conference said that they will continue to foil any attempts of the enemy. "Alert troops are deployed at LoC. We continue to work jointly with the army and share every intelligence input. No one can cross the LoC and disturb peace here," he said

Two militants were killed in an encounter in Machil sector on Wednesday as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Kupwara

district. J&K HC.....

alleged active role in the recruitment scam and were among 33 persons charge-sheeted by the central probe agency on November 12 last year.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the recruitment examination in March but the list of 1,200 selected candidates, along with that of 1,300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants, was cancelled by the administration in July following allegations of paper leak and malpractice.

The CBI is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam.

"I am of the considered opinion that at this stage when the investigation is yet to be completed, it is the fittest case where bail ought not be granted and the petitioners/accused too have failed to carve out a strong case for bail in their favour," the judge said in his 10-page order on

Kumar and his son had sought bail from the high court after their earlier application was rejected by the chief judicial magistrate, Jammu. In their latest application, the petitioners claimed the records of the case clearly reveal that there is not an iota of evidence of their role in the leak of the question paper and that they have not committed any

Senior additional advocate general and CBI counsel Monika Kohli vehemently opposed the bail plea on the grounds that they, along with other accused, have indulged in a criminal conspiracy with officials of JKSSB and M/s Merit Trac Bengaluru, the company assigned the

task of conduct of written examination. She said they are among 33 accused persons indicted in the case and have played a "key role" in the scam.

"The investigation conducted so far has revealed that M/s Merit Trac Bengaluru was awarded (the contract for) conducting the written examination for the post of sub-inspectors in J&K and during the conduct of the examination, petitioners entered into criminal conspiracy with other accused based in Haryana for leak of question papers and sale of the same to

the candidates in lieu of money. "Petitioners/accused are highly influential persons and may influence the prosecution witnesses, whereby, the investigation may be prejudiced and more so the career of hundreds and thousands of aspirants have been marred/spoiled, the investigation is

underway and more accused are likely to be arrested for sustained interrogation," Kohli said.

She said that if the petitioners are enlarged on bail it will be difficult for the investigating agency to unearth the inter-state gangs operating in several

Agreeing with the CBI counsel, the judge said recruitment scam in government services undermines public confidence in the system and causes grave injustice to the deserving and meritorious candidates.

Kumar is accused of arranging vehicles on March 25, 2022 for transportation of candidates, including his son, from Jammu to Karnal for providing leaked question paper in lieu of money and was in constant touch with other accused persons.

On health issues of Kumar, the judge said the administration is under legal obligation to provide all medical facilities to the petitioners in judicial custody, if required. (Agencies)

Kisan Sampark.....

total of 525 panchayats in two rounds conducted until May 3.

An overwhelming response has been received from the farming community in all districts across the UT. The Agriculture Production Department in the UT of J&K is currently engaged in an extensive farmer orientation exercise, the first of its kind. Under the KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN, ambitious goals have been set to reach every farmer in every Panchayat of the UT within the next four months. The exercise started on April 24 and will continue until August 31, 2023, planned under the HOLISTIC AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (HADP), a turnaround programme recently approved by the UT Govt in the agriculture sector.

All districts in the UT are holding the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan - Orientation programme at the same time. The first three days of the week are designated for the program's operation.

The government has released a thorough calendar specific to each district. Officers and officials from the Agriculture, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture, and Fisheries Departments who were trained in advance during the 641 training sessions held throughout all districts from January to April are acting as the resource persons for the farmers' orientations.

A creative method has been implemented to use short films/videos to describe the various initiatives and projects.

The farmers will be shown a total of 49 short films/videos about HADP and other centrally supported programmes at various locations in J&K.

The use of audiovisual aids to explain the schemes engaged and engrossed the farmers. In addition to this, a Q&A session was held following each video screening session to address farmers' concerns. Pamphlets/brochures detailing all programmes were given to the farmers in Hindi, Urdu, and English. These brochures also included contact information for every department under the UT's agriculture production department.

A Baseline survey/Skill gap study of the farmers is also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark abhiyan. The data of farmers is being captured using IT tools to have a holistic assessment of the state of agriculture and

farmers in the UT. Through the use of KISAN SATHI - the IT Dashboard created for the schemes farmers were informed about the method of application under these programmes. Farmers can quickly register on the KISAN SATHI Portal and apply for any of the schemes without having to physically visit an office by scanning the QR codes on the pamphlets.

Farmers were also made aware of DAKSH KISAN, a Learning Management System (LMS) designed to help them increase their skills. The Agriculture Production Department has created DAKSH KISAN, a first-of-its-kind learning management system exclusively for the farmers in the country, where farmers can enrol for free in 118 skill-building courses, organised according to the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT. Farmers can register for free and enrol in any skilling course of their choice at the DAKSH KISAN Portal by scanning the QR code.

CRPF Trooper.....

on Wednesday. It showed Rai joyfully singing three popular Kashmiri songs while on duty in a mountainous terrain.

Rai starts with 'Nigaaro' — a romantic song praising the beloved. He follows it with a heart-touching Islamic devotional song 'Sahibo sath chum cheni'. The third song is the recent sensation 'Lolan'.

While the pronunciation of the Kashmiri lyrics by Rai, a resident of Bihar, is not accurate, his rendition is soulful and has won hearts on social media. Sharing the video, Kashmir Ops Sector, CRPF, said, "Amidst their challenging duties, our soldiers find moments of joy & inspiration."

"Witness the enchanting performance by Constable Mrityunjai Kr Rai of 3 Bn #CRPF singing a soulful Kashmiri song while on duty in the valley. #Kashmir (sic)," it added.

Because of his melodious performance, especially in Kashmiri language, Rai has become a highlight of CRPF's functions here and gained recognition among the troopers, officials said.

Kashmir's first.....

later turned to designing and make up art as well.

"Despite facing taunts from the society as makeup artists being a female dominant area during the initial stage as there was no make up artist in Kashmir, I continued my passion and joined training programmes online," he said.

Younis first used to do make-up of his customers at his residence as he wasn't in a position to start his saloon due to financial issues.

"As my mother left this world in my childhood and father was old and not in a position to earn anything. After struggling hard, somehow I managed to start a saloon at my own village and slowly society has started becoming supportive as well," he said.

After starting a salon titled YAS professional beauty salon, the number of customers started increasing and currently three girls are working as helpers at his salon.

"Three girls have got a job at my salon as currently makeup is available for ladies only and I am planning to start making up for male folk as well," Younis said.

He said that earning livelihood for himself and providing jobs to others is a big achievement at a time when youth are getting involved in antisocial activities.

Younis claims that he had first made it to the Indian book of records followed by the Asia book of records and now the International book of records.

He made to international book of records by breaking the previous record of Indian bridal make up of Assam girl in 13 minutes 46 seconds to just 8 minutes and 58 seconds

"I made it to the International book of records for making the fastest Indian bridal makeup and creating a world record," he said.

He said that people shouldn't be judgemental as every art is a gift of Allah and everyone must respect it.

"Many people don't show their arts just out of the fear that how society will react to it and if there are equal rights, then men can go in the field of women and vice versa," he said.

Amid forecast.....

On May 5, he said, the weather was likely to be fair to partly cloudy. "Brief spell of rain/thunderstorm can't be ruled out towards late afternoon/evening".

From May 6-8, he said, there was likelihood of rain at "many places."

The weather department has urged tourists to keep warm clothes ready. "Weather is going to be cold till May

The department also urged farmers to avoid spraying of apple trees and harvesting of crops (in Jammu region) during May 6-8 as chances of rain were high.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 10.3°C against 10.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.2°C against 8.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 2.0°C against 5.2°C on previous night and it was 2.9°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6.7°C against 7.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.8°C against 3.5°C on previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 9.6°C against 8.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 17.6°C against 18.8°C on the previous night and it was 5.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 7.3°C (below normal by 2.8°C), Batote 8.1°C (4.4°C below normal), Katra 13.1°C (6.1°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 6.4°C (below normal by 2.8°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 1.5°C and 2.8°C respectively, he added.

Two militants.....

prescribed outfit Lashkar e Toiba and had joined the militant ranks in the month of March this year.

Kumar, while terming the operation as a big success, said that the neutralized militants were planning to carry out the attacks on security forces. He also congratulated the security forces for carrying out the operation in a professional manner and without any collateral damage.

Earlier, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Amod Nagpure told KNO that on the basis of a special intelligence, a joint cordon and search operation by Army's 29 Rashtriya Rifles, SSB and Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched at Wanigam Payeen of sub-division Kreeri in Baramulla.

Amod said soon after the joint party reached the suspected spot, the hiding militants opened indiscriminate firing at them which was retaliated, triggering off an encoun-

In the ensuing gunfight, two local militants, identified as Shakir Majid Najar and Hanan Ahmed Seh - both from Southern Shopian district, he said. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 AK 47 rifle and 01 pistol was recovered from the gunfight site.

Meanwhile, a case in this regard has been registered and further investigations have been taken up. Today's encounter was second in the last 24 hours in north Kashmir. On Wednesday, two foreign militants were killed in Machil sector of Kupwara when they were trying to sneak into this side.

A police spokesman in a statement to KNO said that acting on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists in Wanigam Payeen, Kreeri area of Baramulla, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, Army (29RR) and SSB (2nd Bn) in the said area.

"During the search operation, as the joint search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter," the spokesman said. "In the ensuing encounter, 2 local terrorists linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter. They have been identified as Shakir Majid Najar and Hanan Ahmad Seh, both residents of Shopian."

The spokesman said that both the killed terrorists had recently joined terrorist ranks and were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in the area, which was timely neutralized. ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated the joint team of Police and security forces for conducting successful operation without any collateral damage and termed the operation a big success as the killed terrorists were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in the area.

Two injured in.....

hospital Kulgam, where from they were referred to Bone & Joints hospital Srinagar for specialized treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started further investigations.

J&K cop's son.....

thereby posing a threat to peace and order.

"He did not change his behaviour in spite of being booked in several FIRs and arrested by police but continued to act," said the spokesman.

He added that accused due to his activities amounts to propagating and creating feelings of terror among communities following which his detention was ordered under section 8 of Public Safety Act and he was lodged in jail.

Soon after the joining of Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Amritpal Singh as new district police chief, four hardcore and notorious criminals including OGW, drug peddler and bovine smugglers have been booked under PSA.

No Grenade.....

Strict action under law shall be taken against persons posting and circulating fake news, reads the statement.





Srinagar Smart City: Trial test carried for pedaled cycles

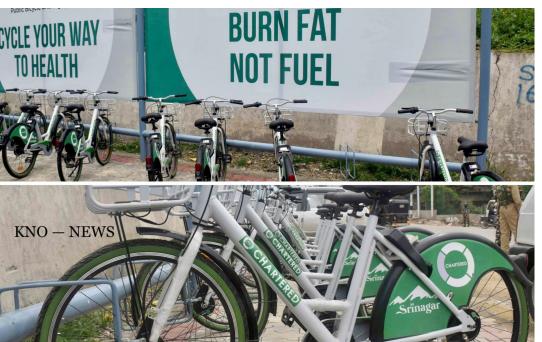
'With 900 pedaled & 100 electric cycles, Srinagar to have 100 docking stations'

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: Amid ongoing works in the city under the much-anticipated Srinagar Smart City project, a trial test for the pedaled cycles was carried out on Thursday here.

Mehran Khan, who heads the operations of e-bikes and pedaled cycles, told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the operations for the start of e-bikes and cycles are under process and today they carried out testing for operating pedaled cycles.

"It is a project under the umbrella of the Srinagar Smart City project and today we are carrying the testing for the operation of cycles and once the roads and cycle tracks are fully complete we will start the operations at full scale," he said.

Khan said they have around 1000 cycles of which 900 are pedaled and 100 are electric and will have around 100 docking



"We have a mapped application

stations across the Srinagar city. which shows all the locations of installing it on the phone can avail all the stations and anyone after the cycle from the nearest dock-

ing station," he said.

He said that so far 70 percent of the docking stations are complete and that the remaining stations are likely to complete in the next 15-20 days.

Speaking about the tariff plans, Mehran said that apart from being good for health and going from one place to another in Srinagar using pedaled cycles, they have made costeffective pricing with the first 30 minutes of the ride free and afterward charging Rs 5 for 30 minutes.

"We also have a mechanism in place in case of theft as the cycle is fitted and enabled with GPS and can be easily located,"

Khan said they are an Ahmedabad-based company— 'Chartered Bike', which has now been set up in Srinagar for executing the operations of both pedaled and electric cycles.

G-20: Security bunkers converted into 'Smart bunkers'

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: Ahead of the G20 meeting here, Srinagar Smart City has taken up the revamping and repair of security bunkers by converting them into "smart bunkers" at different locations.

A contractor assigned with the making of "smart bunkers" told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that he has been allocated seven $sites for the \, construction \, of \, smart \, bunkers \, in \, Srinagar \,$

"It is a part of the facelift and repairing of the bunkers ahead of the G20 meeting," he said, adding, "I have been assigned only seven sites."

Notably, the preparations for the upcoming G20 meeting are in full swing, with authorities in the valley taking the work on a fast-track basis to ensure the completion of works before the event. The city is getting a makeover with newly-laid footpaths and realigned roads

Visibly the smart bunkers consist of iron net protection with bulletproof shields inside them. The outer layer is covered with photos of tourist spots of the valley.

The task to facelift and renovate the existing security bunkers as part of beautification in the valley has been given to Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL).

Muslims joins Pandits to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in **Kupwara's Handwara**

Pandits hail support extended by local muslim community

HANDWARA, MAY 04: Kashmiri Pandits in north Kashmir's Handwara sub-division Tuesday celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with the active support from the local Muslim community.

Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival commemorating the birth of Hindu god Ganeesha. The festival is marked by the installation of Ganesha's clay idols. On this day Hindus seek his blessings given that Ganesha is known as god of wealth, sciences, knowledge, wisdom

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Vice President Sanathan Dharam, Surinder said that this occasion is celebrated every year and special prayers are held. "On this special occasion, we also held fist prayers at Razdan Mandir which has been renovated. The religious idol installed there was specially imported from Jaipur," he said.

"People have been very supportive here. Even before the migration they would join us in numbers to take out the rally. They would even offer basil water, fruits and many other things to us," he said. "Brotherhood between the pandit and Muslim communities here is exemplary. People here have always been very cooperative and supportive in every manner.'

About the support from administration, he said that they have provided all the basic immediate requirements here. Also, he said the army has been very sup-

Aijaz Ahmad, a local, said that everyone here is happy with seeing pundits celebrating their day with brotherhood and harmony. "Last year people from both pandit and Muslims communities together took out a rally. We welcomed them wholeheartedly. This will have a greater impact across the region, encouraging everyone to live together," he said.

He also said that Kashmiris are incomplete without

Ghulam Mohiuddin another local said that both pandits and muslims brothers and everyone are happy with the reunion. "People have changed, Kashmir has changed for good. We want them to live with us. Everyone has come here to welcome them. Locals in numbers have joined them to celebrate this occasion," he said.

Police intensify action against illegal mining in Ganderbal

'Scores arrested, several vehicles seized'

GANDERBAL, MAY 04: Police in this central Kashmir's Ganderbal have intensified action against those involved in the illegal extraction of minor minerals like sand, bajri, boulders and also the unauthorized transportation within the dis-

Under the directions of SSP Ganderbal Nikhil Borkar, special police teams were constituted, which were led by SHOs and DOs of police stations and police posts of Ganderbal under the supervision of SDPO Kangan Muzaffar and & DySP Hqrs Ganderbal Gh Hassan, to check the menace of illegal mining in the district, an official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said during the course of action, seven persons were arrested and seven tippers seized on the spot in the last two weeks. These vehicles were loaded with illegally extracted bajri, sand and boulders from Nallah Sindh Ganderbal.

In this regard, a case under FIR numbers 26, 27, 109, 10, 12 and 25 of 2023 IPC under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Lar, Police Station Ganderbal, Police Station Safapora and Police Station Kheerbawani respectively and the investigations have been started.

Moreover, in a joint action, Ganderbal Police along with Geology and Mining Department raided different locations in the district and seized four tippers and a tractor for illegal extraction of minor minerals from Nallah Sindh, the official said.

"Police have repeatedly issued strict warnings to those involved in the illegal extraction of minor minerals and again appeal to stop this illegal practice or face strict action under the law," he said.

Online Gondola tickets; 80 percent livelihood of tourist guides affected, says Prez Guide Association Gulmarg

GULMARG, MAY 04: In a bid to stop the illegal selling of fake Gondola tickets to the tourists, the locals at famous $tour ist destination Gulmarg\, have\, been$ demanding the shift back of the online ticketing system to go offline, says the rampant incidents of fake ticket selling is maligning the image of the famous ski-resort. However, president Gulmarg guides association says their 80 percent livelihood has been affected by the online system.

Speaking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jahengir Ahmed Bhat, a social activist from Gulmarg said that miscreants are trying to malign the image of a famous tourist destination by selling fake tickets to the tourists who mostly are from outside the union territory. The acts are adversely affecting the people here in Gulmarg, besides it is taking a toll on the livelihood of people.

"The Gulmarg authorities must shift back the ticketing system from online to offline as it used to be a few years back. The online ticket system has increased the selling of fake tickets as there is every possibility because technology is advanced and editing nowadays is not a big deal," he said.

He said that the authorities, instead of an online system, should increase the number of ticket counters to tackle the time consuming process and inconvenience to the tourists due to increasing footfall. "There must be a scanner before entering the Gondola for a ride to check the authenticity of tickets", he added.

President Guides Association Gulmarg, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone told KNO,



been adversely affected by the online ticketing system. Offline ticketing was accommodating people including guides, people on counters, but they all have been affected now.

He said that, earlier they were having 30 percent of the quota but after the system was changed to online, the quotas were withdrawn, which severely affected their livelihood. "We were not taken on board when the system was changed to online," he alleged.

A total number of registered people to Gulmarg guide association has touched 918 people, how would they survive? Questions Mushtaq. "As of now, the offline ticketing too is taking place but Gulmarg authorities have been calling that as VVIP quota. Some 400 offline ticket bookings take place", he said. The situation has forced a few of the guides to do the black marketing of ticketing, as they that their 80 percent livelihood has are not able to earn their livelihood,

"We moved from pillar to post to get our genuine demands redressed, besides taking the issue with CEO Gulmarg, chief secretary and other concerned but so far nothing has been done on the ground. Let the administration think over it and give us a quota as we were earlier having, so that we too can earn our livelihood," he said.

Meanwhile, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority and Managing Director, JK Cable Car Corporation, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar despite repeated attempts didn't respond to the calls

and texts from this correspondent. Pertinent to mention here that several fraudsters involved in selling fake Gondola tickets were arrested this month. With the officials saying that they are working closely with the police to arrest fraudsters and travel agencies involved in fraudulent

School Edu Deptt Srinagar to arrange supplementary classes for students who exhibit weak performance in any subject

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: The ing the measure to be taken School Education Department Srinagar Thursday said that it will arrange supplementary classes for the students who exhibit weak performance in any subject.

It also said that there was a need in improving the learning level of the students and curbing the Indiscipline and absenteeism among the students.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Education Officer $(CEO)\,Srinagar\,said\,this\,while$ issuing a communique regardfor improvement in the learning level of the students and curbing the Indiscipline and absenteeism among the stu-

The official said that achieving academic excellence is paramount for the growth and development of students. "It not only prepares them for future success but also contributes to their personal growth," he said.

It also said that academic excellence cannot be achieved without reducing instances of absenteeism and promoting

"For students who exhibit weak performance in any subject, supplementary periods must be arranged for all classes and schools, and records must be kept for verification by teams appointed by the Chief Education Officer Srinagar," the official said.

According to the official communique, the CEO has asked all HOIs to implement the directions effectively to enhance the effectiveness and operation of their schools.

"By reducing absenteeism

students will have access to the knowledge and resources necessary to excel in their studies," it reads.

The CEO also said It is imperative for educational institutions to take proactive measures to address issues related to absenteeism and punctuality to ensure that students have the best possible learning expe-

"To optimize academic performance and reduce incidents of truancy, all Heads of Institutions (HOls) are required to

and promoting punctuality, establish committees consisting of four to five members," the official said.

The CEO further said that the committees must be entrusted with the responsibility of addressing concerns related to irregular attendance and unsatisfactory academic progress.

It also states that upon identifying students with Inadequate attendance or performance, the committee is obligated to communicate with their guardians or parents to inform them of the situation.

"HoIs are responsible for

determining the number of parents or guardians to be contacted by each committee per day, based on the school's specific requirements and demands," the official said.

The CEO added that with the aid of these communities, HOIs endeavour to ensure the timely and regular attendance of all students, if any student is absent, concerted efforts must be made to bring them back to the classroom.

"Additionally, HOIs may seek the assistance of PRIs, Municipality committee members,

senior citizens, or educationists in the locality to encourage students to attend school regularly and punctually," reads the communique.

 $It also \, sa\dot{i}d \, that \, the \, HOIs \, must$ issue three notices to the parents or guardians of students who cannot be persuaded to return to school by the com-

"Records of these notifications must be kept on file as evidence of the HOIs or committees' final attempts to bring absent students back to school as per above format," it reads.

CMYK

HT - KASHMIR

District Administration Kupwara ropes in religious leaders in war against Drugs.

Ulmas conference held for sanitization, spreading awareness

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 4: District Administration Kupwara has roped in different religious leaders, Ulemas of Masjids and other religious institutions of Kupwara district to spread awareness at grass root level about the negative impact of drug abuse in the society.

On the directions of DeputyCommisioner(DC)Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray a Conference of Ulemas, Imams (religious leaders) was held today at conference Hall of DC Office complex Kupwara.

Well attended Conference was chaired by Additional Deputy Commisioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gh. Nabi Bhat.

While addressing the

appealed to religious leaders, ulemas and Imams to use their voluntary services for spreading awareness about drug abuse and

its consequences in society.

ADC appealed Molvis to aware people to eradicate the drug menace and deliver the sermons particularly on Fridays and after every prayer so that awareness about negative effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking menace is genconference ADC Kupwara erated and spread at the

ground level and Drug

rehabilitated. ADC Kupwara said that District Adminstration is focusing on multi-pronged strategy to combat menace of drug abuse in Kupwara district. Police has launched a massive crackdown on drug peddlers, drug traffickers to break the supply chain of drugs and District Adminstration is counseling, treating, and Rehabili-

Addict Patients are prop-

erly identified, treated and

tating the drug abuse victims. Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commisioner Revenue(ACR)Kupwara on the ocasion said that religious leaders can play pivotal role in sensitizing the people about disastrous effects of substance abuse.

is a challenge in which every individual has to play his or her vital role. The District Administration also encourages

religious and social leaders

Drug-Free-Kupwara

to work in this direction. Raising concerns on alarming situation in substance abuse, ACR Kupwara said that Kashmir Valley is slowly becoming India's drug hub. A recent study has revealed that J&K is currently at the number two position among the top drug abuser states in the country.

DC Kulgam, Anantnag jointly visit proposed Bypass road sites at Qazigund

Visit conducted to finalise alignment of 4km road on NH444, bypassing Qazigund Market

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 04: The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Bilal Mohiud- Din Bhat and Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid today conducted a joint visit oto Qazigund area to take on spot inspection regarding the finalisation of alignment of Bypass Road on NH 444 in villages of Kurigam and Wan-

The 4.2 km road stretch with proposed width of 24-30 metres on NH 444 connects Watihal, Kurigam Village with Wangund, bypassing Main Market Qazigund. The road shall be executed by Project Circle Division Srinagar(Executing Agency) upon the approval of Alignment, subsequent to today's visit.

The concerned officials of the Project executing agency intimated the DCs about the completion of Survey on the project and regarding the best possible alignment avenues.

It was further intimated once the



approval of the project is given, work on it shall be taken on war footing basis.ADDC Kulgam, ADC Kulgam, ADC Anantnag, ACR Anantnag and other revenue officers, officials of PC Division accompanied the DCs. The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Bilal Mohi- ud- Din Bhat and Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid today conducted a joint visit oto Qazigund area to take on spot inspection regarding the finalisation

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CUK's SLS holds industrial visit for students

HT News Network

Ganderbal, May 4: Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir, (CUK) organized an industrial visit for the students to the Industrial Estate Duderhama here to commemorate International Labour Day.

Dean SLS Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmad Mir flagged off the visit, which started with a presentation by the management team, offering an overview of the Estate's history, mission, and its objectives. The students toured the facility, enabling them to witness production, processes and interact with workers. They were apprised about the living conditions of the workers in the various units.

They also interacted with Mr. Zahid Rashid (KAS), General Manager of Industrial Estate. The students raised numerous queries and made suggestions regarding the welfare and safety standards of the workers. Mr. Zahid assured them that appropriate measures would be taken for the workers' welfare in collaboration with other stakeholders of the Government.

Dr. Imran Ahad, Assistant Prof and event coordinator informed the students about the significance of observing International Labour Day.

Incharge Executive Officer MC Handwara suspended

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 04: The Jammu and Kashmir government has suspended incharge executive officer on Municipal Committee Handwara till pending inquiry against him.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir News Service (KNS), incharge executive officer MC Handwara Farooq Ahmad Rather has been attached to the office of Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir,"Pending inquiry into his conduct and in terms of Rule 31(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir, Civil Services, (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, Mr Farooq Ahmad Rather, I/C Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Handwara is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," read the order. It reads that during suspension period, he $shall\,remain\,attached\,in\,the\,office\,of\,Directorate\,of\,Urban$ Local Bodies, Kashmir."It is further ordered that Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir shall assign the charge of the post of Executive Officer, Handwara to any suitable officer till regular arrangement is made by the Government, whichever is earlier," it added.

Director Agriculture visits Vegetable Cluster Maloora Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited vegetable cluster Maloora of Srinagar district and took stock of the agriculture activities in the area. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that under the holistic agriculture development programme department is endeavouring for vertical expansion of vegetable cultivation and in this direction various initiatives had already been taken from January this year. He said the establishment of hi tech poly-houses in all the districts of the valley is one such initiative. Director Agriculture said that for the early marketing season of fresh vegetables, the department and the concerned farmers are working in a coordinated manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have lost my Father's Death certificate woh died on 16 /11 2009 Now I am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody has any objection in this regard He/She my contact with concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

Name.... GHULAM RASOOL MALIK S/o ABDUL REHMAN MALIK R/o. DURHAMA WATERGAM BlockWAGOORA Dist.....BARAMULLA

Administrative staff of NIT Sgr accords farewell to outgoing Director Prof. Sehgal "I am proud of what we have accomplished together at NIT Srinagar"

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 04: The Administrative staff of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday organized a function to accord farewell to the outgoing Director Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal who completed his five and half vears tenure.

The function was attended by Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, Deputy Registrar (Accounts) Nazia Nazir, Deputy Registrar (Admin) Faisal Irshad Ganai, Asst. Registrar Director's

Office and Legal, Mohammad Hazik.

Asst. Registrar (Admin) Mohammad Iqbal Dar, Asst. Registrar(Accounts)Shahid Hamid Najar, Asst. Registrar (Academic) Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Asst. Registrar S&P, Mohammad Amin, Dr. Syed Mohsin Shabir (XEN), Asst. Security Officer Mushtaq Ahmad and other staff members were present on the occasion.

In his key speech, Prof. Sehgal expressed his gratitude to everyone and stated that he had joined NIT Srinagar with a mission to enhance visibility and make



it a hub of academic excel-

"The skills and knowledge that I have acquired

undoubtedly serve me well in my future endeavors. I am proud of what we have accomplished together at NITSrinagar and will always

look back on my time here with fondness," Prof. Sehgal

He urged young staff members to work with coordination, integrity and extend support to each other to make NIT Srinagar as one of the leading engineering institutes in the country. "I am confident that the

new Director will thrive and achieve new heights of excellence and I wish him all the very best for the future," Prof. Sehgal added.

On the occasion, Institute's Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said the

dedication, expertise, and hard work of Prof. Sehgal has been an inspiration to all of us. "You have played an integral role in shaping NIT Srinagar and helping us to achieve our goals, and for that, we are forever grateful," he said.

"I have had the pleasure of working closely with you over the past several years and have learned so much from your wisdom and guidance. This leadership and vision have helped us create a positive and productive work environment at the Institute," Prof.

Mandeep Kaur inaugurates 2-day training programme for RDD officers, officials

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 4: Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today inaugurated a two-day training programme on "Decentralised Planning and the processes involved in Plan Formulation" for officers and officials of the department here at Government Polytechnic College in Gogji Bagh.Director Panchayat, Khalid Majeed, ACDs, BDOs, Panchayat Inspectors, Panchayat Accounts Assistants, and Panchayat Secretaries and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the importance of the GPDP formula-



tion and the participation of line departments in the Gram Sabha meetings for preparing a holistic and comprehensive developmental plan for Gram Panchavats that meets the aspirations of the locals. She also underscored the need for organising training programmes for Chief Planning Officers (CPOs) of districts so that planning is done in an efficient manner. During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary lauded the efforts of several Prabari Officers in formulating excellent GPDPs.The training was simultaneously organised in Jammu on e-Governance at Government College for Women, Parade Ground. The training programme is aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the officers and officials in decentralised planning and e-governance. The training programmes were a resounding success, with the participants gaining valuable knowledge and skills in decentralised.

DC Pulwama visits Lethpora; inspects Lift Irrigation plant

HT News Network

PULWAMA, MAY 04: To ensure sufficient water for irrigation purposes during the coming irrigation season in different areas of the district including Awantipora, Pampore and Kakapora, the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom visited Lethpora to inspect Lift Irrigation plant.

During the visit, DC took firsthand appraisal of the situation as stakeholders fear the possibility of drought during the upcoming irrigation season.

While taking the note of illegal extraction of minerals which is believed to be one of the reasons for shortage of water, DC warned strict action against violators. He directed concerned officers to take immediate measures to stop this menace.

Assistant Executive Engineers of Irrigation, Civil, Mechanical, Flood Control departments of Anantnag, Pulwama, Awantipora, Tral and Kakapora, besides other



concerned officers, officials were present at the spot during his visit. A number of issues were discussed regarding shortage of irrigation water for paddy fields in various areas of the Pulwama district and it was impressed that long-term strategy must be chalked out to end the crisis.He also said that directions were passed to the Irrigation department to provide immediate relief to the general public and come up with a concrete plan for restoration of Irrigation supply in the district, so that farmers may not suffer more.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Block Medical Officer Kangan

Emaild id bmokangan@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE BMO/KGN/PUR/YATRA/ 02, 03 OF 2023

DATED: - 02-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Online tenders are invited frominterested/registered firms for supply Drugs/Consumables items/ Machinery Equipments and Hospital Goods,for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023 via Baltal is available and can be downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.infrom 02-05-2023 (09:00 AM) onwards up to 09-05-2023 (09:00 AM). The uploadedtenders on website https://jktenders.gov.in/will be opened on 09 -05-2023 at 1:00 PM in the Office Chamber of Block Medical Officer Kangan in presence of the Tenderers who may wish to attend. The tendering process will be only Online and no physical technical or price bid shall be ac-

In case of holiday on the proposed date of opening of bid, these bids will be opened in

Dated-4-5-23

Block Medical Officer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar (Nodal Officer District Hub for Empowerment of Women-Srinagar)

No: DSWOS/DHEW/2023/1089-94

Subject: Re-Advertisement for the post of Specialist in financial Literacy in respect of District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Srinagar.

Reference I: Re-Advertisement notice issued vide no. DSWOS/Sch/2023/268-73 Dated: 04-02-2023.

Reference II: Extension Notice issued vide no. DSWOS/DHEW/2023/937-41. Dated: 06-04-2023.

Whereas, Advertisement Notice for posts in respect of District Hub for Empowerment of Women Mission Shakti

rinagar was issued vide notice no. DSWOS/Sch/2022/12197-201, Dated: 13-10-2022 and meeting had been held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar in his office chamber on 10-01-2023. The committee after scrutinizing the application forms of candidates for all 4 posts viz-à-viz Specialist in Financial Literacy, Accounts Assistant, Data Entry Operator and Multi tasking staff, it had been unanimously decided by the committee that the post of Specialist in Financial Literacy be re-advertized as the application forms of the candidates who have applied in response advertisement stands rejected as no one fulfilled the mandatory criteria as per the guidelines of the Mission Shakti.

Whereas, Re-Advertisement notice for the Post of Specialist in Financial Literacy was issued vide notice no

DSWOS/Sch/2023/268-73,Dated: 04-02-2023 and meeting had been held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar in his office chamber on 06-04-2023 for scrutinizing of forms and it has been unanimously decided by the District Level committee that there shall be extension in the re-advertisement notice issued vide no. DSWOS/Sch/2023/268-73, Dated: 04-02-2023 due to the poor response of application forms. Whereas, Extension notice for the receipt of application forms regarding Re-advertisement notice for the post of Specialist in financial Literacy in respect of District Hub for Empowerment of Women had been issued vide no. DSWOS/DHEW/2023/937-41, Dated: 06-04-2023 and in order to scrutinize the forms of candidates as per eligibility criteria for the said post, meeting has been held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar in his office chamber on 25-04-2023.Further, list of eligible candidates for the of Specialist in Financial Literacy is enclosed below and if any person/candidate has any objection/claim regarding eligibility /candidature, he/she shall submit written representation to the District Social Welfare officer Srinagar by or before 09-05-2023 4:30pm, after due date no objection/ claim whatsoever shall be entertained by this

Remarks
Eligible
Eligible
Eligible
Eligible

DIPK-1122/23 Dated-04-05-2023

District Social Welfare Officer (Nodal officer)- DHEW, Srinagar



Atal Dulloo roots for increased productivity in fisheries, livestock sectors

Chairs UT level AMC meet of PMMSY

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 04: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, today chaired the UT Level Approval and Monitoring Committee (AMC) meeting of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to finalise the action plan of PMMSY 2023-24 for the Fisheries Department.

13TH HEADLINES

The meeting shared the achievements of the department with the ACS and it was revealed that fish production increased by 28% between the years 2019-20 and 2022-23.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the ACS emphasised on setting up more trout hatcheries, mini

feed mills, fish kiosks besides the other activities planned by the fisheries department should be amplified. He highlighted that the sector has a lot of scope for growth and increased productivity.

The proposed plan for the current year under PMMSY includes setting up of units and facilities to support fishermen and promote aquaculture development in both the private and government sectors. These include hatcheries, feed mills, tanks, markets and support services. Interventions such as a disease diagnostic lab and brood bank are also planned.

The ACS during the meeting was informed about the expected outcomes, including an increase in fish production, job creation, value chain



strengthening, market infrastructure development, promoting ornamental fisheries, securing fishermen's livelihood, reducing post-harvest losses

and accessible disease diagnostic facilities for farmers.

Pertinently, PMMSY, a flagship scheme launched in 2020-21, aims to with an investment of over Rs. 20,000 crores by 2024-25. Jammu and Kashmir has been given a target of producing an additional 15,000 MT of freshwater fish under the PMMSY program during the project period.

enhance fish production to 220 LMT

Meanwhile, the ACS also chaired UT Level Executive Committee meeting for the National Livestock Mission (NLM) 2023-24, where the physical and financial achievements of the Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry departments were shared.

Among the topics discussed were the progress made under breed development activities for livestock and poultry, the establishment of a Regional Semen Production Laboratory and Semen Bank for sheep and goat and the propagation of Artificial Insemination centres.

During the meeting, the ACS emphasised the need for world-class training and capacity building to develop these sectors in J&K. The ACS also underlined that an MoU has been signed with New Zealand for the development of sheep husbandry sector in J&K.

The meeting also covered other activities such as capacity building, exposure visits and insurance.

The meetings were attended by Director General Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Director Fisheries besides other officers of the concerned departments both in person and through video conferencing.

DDC reviews progress on Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road project; Asks for timeline completion of project

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 04: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today reviewed the progress of work on Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road here in a meeting of the concerned officers.

Officers present in the meeting were ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; OC BRO 58 RCC, Major Manju Nath; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; AC Defence, Saleem Qureshi and SDM Thanamandi, Vikas Dhar and tehsildars.

It was informed that the total length of the road is 33 KM of which 13 Kms has been blacktopped and work of wet mix macamdamization is complete on 20 Kms.

The DDC also asked the officers to ensure that the road is constructed as per prescribed specifications. He also directed the concerned department to expedite the completion of the road work and maintain quality standards in the construction.

He directed the agencies to coordinate with each other to complete the project within the stipulated timelines as it is important for local connectivity and development.

IIT Jammu offers Summer School Internships and Training Programs

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 04: The Centre for Essential Skills (CES) at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu), in partnership with Nucleon, IIT Alumni initiative, is thrilled to announce the launch of its summer school program. The program is designed to provide an exceptional opportunity to college and school students to gain practical experience and learning across a range of domains to enhance their career prospects.

The internship & training programs offered include Web Development with Hands-On Projects, IoT & Mechatronics Foundations, Data Science, Blockchain & Web 3.0 including Growth with Professional Tools, ChatGPT and other Generative AI, Entrepreneurship & Business Essentials, Mastering No-Code Technology, and placement related guidance. A special program is also designed for school students to build strong foundations in various domains such as IoT, Google Suite, Creativity & Design, and Communication & Personality Development including informative workshops on emerging tech such as AI, AR/VR, and Blockchain. The summer school program is open to all students from different disciplines, and it provides a unique opportunity to gain exposure and learn from experienced professionals. The program is an excellent way for students to expand their skill sets, explore new areas of interest.

Reasi: Awareness camp on women centric schemes held at **Chamera -B Panchayat**

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 04: District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Reasi, in collaboration with Childline Reasi and Health Department, today organised an awareness camp at AWC Chamera -B Panchayat District Mission Coordi-

nator, DHEW Monika Shar-

magave a detailed information pertaining to women centric schemes like eligibility criteria and the procedure to avail benefits under different schemes like Restructured Marriage Assistance Scheme, Sukan-Samridhi Yojana,WHL-181, PMMVY, Women Entrepreneurship Programme like Tejaswini, PMEGP, Skill Development

Programmes like SBI RSE-



TI, PMKVY. The participants were also imparted complete information pertaining to the services being provided by One Stop Centre. The Camp was attended by a large number of women, AWW's, DHEW and Childline Team. Pamphlets were also distributed among the women. At the end of the programme, grievances of the women were also noted down and they were assured to provide assistance with the help of the concerned department. District Mission Coordinator, DHEW Monika Sharma gave a detailed information.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews functioning of Revenue Department

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 04: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today took a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Revenue Department here at a meeting of the concerned officers.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various points including progress on geotagging of villages under Cadastral map, online revenue services being provided to the public, Sarkari Zameen Portal, disposal of public grievances and other revenue-related matters.

The meeting was informed that out of a total of 386 villages in the district 69 have been geo-tagged so far. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the impor-



under Sarkari Zameen Por-The importance of government priorities such as the digitization of Jamabandies, efficient delivery of all online revenue services, and other public-friendly

initiatives aimed at bring-

ing transparency and

earliest. Similarly, the DC

also reviewed the progress

accountability to the department were also highlighted during the meeting.

importance of providing prompt and efficient services to the public and urged the officers to work with zeal and dedication towards achieving this goal.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed revenue officers to educate the public about the online services and encourage them to take advantage of the

same. He also stressed the need for prompt disposal of online applications to ensure that the public receives timely and efficient services.

Officers who attended the meeting were ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; ADC Koreranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SDM Thanamandi, Vikas Dhar and Tehsildars.

DC Reasi review progress of Water Supply Projects under JJM

HT News Network

REASI MAY 04: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal today reviewed the progress of water supply projects taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to ensure the entire household in the district have access to safe and adequate drinking water facilities.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of works on Pouni Kanah and Marhi Pouni Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Reasi district.

While majority of the works have been completed under JJM, the DC reviewed the progress of balance undergoing works at few places.

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Rakesh Kumar Gupta briefed that Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Pouni Kanha Water Supply Scheme with retrofitting costing Rs 4.19 Crore would provide tap connection



to around 300 households, while around 239 households are targeted to be connected through Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Marhi Pouni.

The DC was apprised that pace of work on the twin projects is in full swing and more than 500 households in these habitations are being provided safe and adequate drinking water.

Arrangements for smooth conduct of 3- Day Historic Moungri mela discussed at Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 04:

The District Administration Udhampur today discussed the arrangements for the smooth conduct of three day historic Annual Shiv-Parvati Shrine (Moungri) mela here at a meeting of stakeholder departments chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia in presence of SSP Dr Vinod Kumar. The Mela is commencing from 15th of May 2023 at Sar Dabber in Tehsil Moungri.

The meeting discussed arrangements for maintenance of road, Security, Sanitation, Health care, Transport, Drinking water, power supply, market rate checking, deployment of



sports events.The ADC directed all the officers to ensure all arrangements pertaining to their respective departments well in advance and in an effective manner leaving no scope of any complaint from any quarter. The Executive Engineer PHE was asked to make adequate arrangements for drinking water supply at the mela site while Xen PDD was directed to provide uninterrupted power supply till the culmination of

the historic fair. The ADC directed the Executive Engineers PMGSY and PWD to take up the repair work of the road. It was decided that District Police would deploy adequate security personnel during mela days, while ARTO was asked to deploy a sufficient number of buses from different locations for the convenience of the devotees visiting the shrine. Regarding providing First aid facilities at the mela site, the ADC directed the Chief Medical Officer to deploy a

Orientation, Training Programme for intending Hajj pilgrims concludes at Kishtwar DC, SSP address participants, extended best wishes

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 04: The orientation-cum- training program, organised for intending Hajj pilgrims by J&K Hajj Committee under the close management of **District Administration** Kishtwar, concluded in the Islamia Faridia College of Education, here the other

day.
The aim of this program was to provide essential information and guidance to the 106 intending pilgrims to ensure their safe Hajj pilgrimage.



guided the Hajj aspirants about the various stages of the Hajj journey, including the Hajj rituals, health and safety measures, travel arrangements and other important aspects of the pilgrimage. The program

Experienced trainers covered a range of topics, and its conclusion marks an important milestone in the government's efforts to ensure the safety and well-

being of Hajj pilgrims. **Deputy Commissioner** Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and SSP Kishtwar

Khalil Ahmed Poswal also addressed the pilgrims and extended best wishes for the upcoming pilgrimage.

The training provided during the program will help the pilgrims perform the Hajj rituals with ease and comfort while also ensuring their safety and the safety of their fellow pilgrims.

Training was organised by the J&KHajj Committee under the close management of District Administration Kishtwar and under the supervision of Hajj Incharge District Kishtwar Haji Ayaz

DC inspects patient care facilities in Associated Hospital GMC Kathua

Seeks focus on encouraging Institutional deliveries, augmentation of health infra and expert human resource

HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 04: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today conducted a surprise inspection of Associated Hospital of Government Medical College Kathua and took stock of the patient care facilities and services being provided to the people.

During the visit, the DC inspected Surgery OPD, Surgery Ward, Emergency, Recovery, Paediatric and Gynae wards, besides took a round of Blood-Bank, the hospital Laboratory and assessed the working of these sections. He also interacted with patients and doctors to enquire about the current patient care facilities and



health scenario.

Inquiring about the maternity and child care facilities, the DC directed to encourage expecting mothers to opt for institutional delivery in the

government health institutions. The DC also enquired about the status of ongoing augmentation work of 200 bedded medical block and other facilities coming up in the hospital. He said district administration and GMC authorities will work in tandem to provide best health care to the patients by strengthening medical infrastructure and expert human resources

The DC also took feedback on the functioning of Rogi Kalyan Samiti of the Associated Hospital and expressed hope that a workable plan will be adopted to prioritise the issues to bring qualitative change in the delivery of healthcare services.

While Interacting with Doctors and staff members, he asked them to perform their duties with utmost dedication and honesty.





EDITORIAL

CHEADLINES

The Bag Burden.....

The education system in Kashmir has been facing several challenges over the years. One of the most significant issues is the burden of heavy school bags that children are expected to carry every day. The government of Kashmir had issued orders in 2018 to limit the weight of school bags, but it seems that many schools are still violating these orders. This not only puts undue stress on children's physical health but also their mental well-being.

The government of Kashmir had issued orders in 2018, limiting the weight of school bags to a maximum of 10% of a student's body weight. The aim was to reduce the physical burden on students and prevent back and neck problems. However, these orders seem to have been ignored by many schools

It is common to see young children in Kashmir carrying heavy bags to school. The bags can weigh up to 5 kg, which is a tremendous weight for a child to carry. Carrying such heavy bags can lead to several health problems like back and neck pain, spinal deformities, and fatigue.

Several studies have shown that carrying heavy school bags can impact children's academic performance as well. When children are physically tired and stressed, they cannot concentrate on their studies, leading to lower grades and academic achievement. It is essential to ensure that children are not burdened with the weight of their bags, and the government's order to limit the weight of school bags should be strictly enforced.

Similarly, the government of Kashmir had issued guidelines in 2019 regarding the homework burden on students. The aim was to ensure that children have enough time for physical activity, hobbies, and socialization, which are essential for their overall development. The guidelines recommended limiting homework to one hour per week for students in classes 1 and 2, 90 minutes per week for classes 3 to 5, and two hours per week for classes 9 and 10.

Unfortunately, many schools in Kashmir are still assigning excessive amounts of homework to their students, despite these guidelines. Excessive homework can lead to stress, anxiety, and burnout, which can be detrimental to a child's mental health. It is essential to ensure that children are not burdened with unnecessary stress, and the government's guidelines regarding homework should be strictly

In a recent event, taking action for "violating" the government norms, District Magistrate Anantnag on Saturday sealed and penalized the Oxford Presentation High School K P Road Anantnag and reiterated to the other institutions of the district to not deviate from the government orders.

One of the reasons why schools are still assigning excessive amounts of homework is that they do not have enough resources. Teachers often use homework as a way to cover the syllabus and ensure that students have enough practice. However, this approach is not effective and can lead to children feeling overburdened and stressed. The government needs to provide schools with the necessary resources, like digital textbooks and other educational technology, to ensure that homework is assigned

In addition, schools should also ensure that homework is assigned in a way that is not burdensome for students. It is essential for schools in Kashmir to abide by the government orders and guidelines regarding bag burden and homework. Schools should prioritize the well-being of their students and ensure that they are not being burdened with unnecessary physical or mental stress.

In conclusion, the burden of heavy school bags and excessive homework is a significant problem in the education system in Kashmir. The government of Kashmir needs to enforce its orders and guidelines strictly to ensure that children are not burdened with unnecessary stress. Schools should be provided with the necessary resources to reduce the weight of school bags and assign homework effectively. It is crucial to prioritize children's physical and mental well-being and ensure that they have a positive and healthy learning environment. By working together, the government, schools, and parents can ensure that children in Kashmir receive the best education possible.

India's School Education Now **Has Three Class Layers**



Unprofessional working style of the CBSE under constant political pressure have also been pushing India's schools to opt for international boards.

Recent attempts by CBSE to drop some chapters from Class X, XI and XII syllabus have brought the spotlight back on 'saffronisation of education' in India. Although the CBSE has made similar amendments in the past, this time, the cause of aspersion has been the board's intention, particularly the removal of certain chapters from social science textbooks. Political actors have been proactively making arguments and counter-arguments on such inclusions/deletions, but their cacophony hides the larger transformation in India's school education.

Such frequent changes are an outcome of political battle over social science syllabus, and have been resulting in the gradual emergence of three layers of school education system in India – each accessed by different

The emergence of three layers of school education

There has been very little analysis of the implications of politically motivated changes. To syllabus, particularly the macro amendments. However, recent reports suggest big transformation going on in school education system, led by India's elite schools of metropolitan cities - to leave CBSE per se, and opt for international boards such as International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

After interacting with some of the teachers at international schools, I found that besides several pull factors



such as liberty to charge high fee and higher prospects for their students securing admission in foreign universities, the unprofessional working style of the CBSE under constant political pressure have also been pushing India's schools to opt for international boards. Despite and IGCSE and IB schools charging exorbitant fees, an increasing number of Indian students, particularly from super elite families, are withdrawing from the Indian boards and opting for these international boards.

The increasing number of students $opting for IGCSE and \, IB \, schools \, suggest$ a gradual emergence of the third layer of school education system in India. Primarily, there existed two layers of school education system in the country — CBSE and ICSE affiliated schools and state boards institutions. The medium of instruction has been a marker of hierarchy among these two layers with English being the main medium of instruction in the former

and the regional languages in the latter. Schools affiliated to international boards are imparting education mainly in English and also teaching foreign languages. Teaching Indian languages is not compulsory for them, but they are allowed to teach one regional lan-

The said layers of school education also indicate the three classes of Indian society - super elite, middle class, and the marginalised. Students from super elite class would go to international board schools, middle-class students to CBSE and ICSE schools and the marginalised to state board institutions. There might be few exceptions in this schema, but exceptions don't make a rule.

These emerging trends of schooling also indicate the kind of education that is being imparted. The elite students not only have the liberty to study the course, subject, and languages of their choice, but also without a burden of studying Indian nationalism, Indian languages, patriotism, and cultural values. The middle class students would have limited choice in terms of course, syllabus, and language and will have to study Indian nationalism, patriotism, and cultural values. The students from marginalised communities will keep alive regional and local languages, as well as culture and knowledge.

This emerging mode of school education system has been reproducing a new kind of social and economic inequality. The super elite class is becoming the ultimate beneficiary. since all changes have been only impacting students from middle and marginalised classes. The suer elite remain unaffected — enjoying their full liberty to achieve their economic goals. This could also be the reason why the super elite do not raise their voice over the current school education system in India.

> **Vijay Garg Retired Principal Malout Punjab**

ster such knowledge, what for giveness?

The idea for his first book came while he was a student of history at the University of Calcutta



He would have turned a hundred in a few weeks and had been unwell for a while. But the fact that he was alive for almost a century and worked till very well into his nineties has a historical value.

All the events that took place in these hundred years, in varying degrees, greatly impacted his life and oeuvre, but more importantly, his political convictions and their emphatic articulations in his

His was a life which he kept examining and reexamining till the very end. It is another matter that this critical examination resulted in an overturning of the edifices that occluded creativity and empathy in history writing in South Asia.

Guha was born on 23 May 1923 in the Barisal district of present-day Bangladesh. His family owned some 50 acres of land in the region and hence was part of the landed gentry in pre-partitioned Bengal. He finished his schooling in Barisal and Calcutta in the forties and entered the Presidency College, Calcutta, where he was introduced to Marxism and left

Between 1942 and 1956, he wrote for Swadhinata - the newspaper published by the Communist Party of India - and the journal People's War in Bombay, went to Paris as a representative to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and worked among the workers of the Keshoram Cotton Mill and with the dock workers of Metiabruz and Khidirpur. In 1956, he resigned from the Communist Party, protesting against the invasion of Hungary by the Soviet Union.

The idea for his first book came while he was a student of history at the University of Calcutta. Growing up with the children of the peasants who used to work in the lands owned by his family, Guha became acutely aware of the hierarchies which existed between him and his playmates. The master-subject relationship explicitly drawn and practised within the zamindari system initiated by the Permanent Settlement started to fascinate him as the foundation of social and cultural hierarchies that coloured the experience of colonialism. Guha offered an intellectual history of Permanent Settlement to show that the contradictions in the ideology of the Empire were already at play in its early days. One of these contradictions had to do with the nature of modernity in South Asia, which came to us through our colonial masters with a lot of restrictions and modifications. This theme would return in many of his later writings.

Guha's ideas were not well received among his leftist peers, and eventually he had to publish the book A Rule of Property for Bengal (1963) after he moved to Europe. In 1970-71, the ongoing political turmoil in India turned his attention to the figure of the peasant as the agent of history. In the existing scholarship on colonialism, he discovered a tendency to speak in the voice of the elitist groups, both the British and their Indian counterparts. Even the Marxist historians tended to look at the resistance against the British as conditioned by a 'false consciousness' on the part of the peasant rebels. In the late seventies, Guha gathered a group of young scholars, many without even PhD degrees, to form the Subaltern Studies collective for exploring the role of the political consciousness of the non-elite groups in the anticolonial struggle.

The term 'subaltern' was borrowed from the Italian thinker Antonio Gramsci's lexicon but thoroughly

redefined in the Indian context as the demographic difference between the elites and the rest of the country. Between 1982 and 2005, the collective published twelve volumes with articles by some of the major historians of the country and abroad. Of the twelve, Guha edited the first six and set the tone of the research programme the collective would adopt in its early days. The works of the Subaltern Studies group inspired similar research projects in Latin America and other parts of the world.

In 1983, Guha published his seminal study on the structural organisation and continuity of the insurgencies that haunted the British Empire in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Titled Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India, the book showed how various forms of inversion of the social, political and linguistic codes of the elite groups contributed to the making of a consciousness, which was decidedly antithetical to the socalled mainstream political mobilisations by the elite leaders. It also opened possibilities of research where reading against the logic of the colonial archives offered insights that challenged the accepted versions of history.

Guha's interest in seeking narratives alternative to the official ones continued in his later writings. The 'small voices of history' from the fragments left behind by the colonial archives became his lifelong compatriots. His last English title, history at the Limit of World-History (2002), has a quotation from T.S. Eliot: 'After such knowledge, what forgiveness?' We shall remember Ranajit Guha as an unforgiving speaker of truth to power whose quest for justice was extended beyond the living and recovered the prestige of the dead as well. (iman.mitra@snu.edu.in)

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HEADLINES

Modi government has been taking various measures to protect Indian consumers from international oil and gas price volatility. Despite a staggering increase of 228% in international gas prices between January 2021 and February 2023, increase in CNG prices in India have been restricted to 83% - only about a third of the global increase. Politically motivated naysayers, in their haste to criticise rising prices, fail to see how well India has done to shield its citizens from extreme price volatility in comparison

to other major economies. Farsighted governance through proactive measures such as increasing domestic Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas allocation and diverting gas from non-priority sectors to transport and domestic segments has made this possible. The recent Cabinet decision to approve a series of critical APM gas pricing reforms will further advance this objective. These reforms achieve two major goals – first, to protect Indians from extreme price volatility and to provide clarity for planned capex investments in gas-based sectors; and second, to promote more innovation and investments in Exploration and Production (E&P).

The need for this set of rationalisation and reforms (R&R) arose from the limitations of the New Domestic Gas Pricing Guidelines, 2014, which, until recently, determined APM prices based on the volume-weighted average price of gas at four international hubs. The transmission of these prices came with a significant time lag (6-9 months) and contained high volatility even as two producer countries' gas hub prices had lost their relevance in the last few years.

For instance, the APM price between October 2020 and September 2021 remained \$1.79/MMBTU, much below the marginal cost of production of \$3.5/ MMBTU for nomination fields. During this period, LNG prices in west India averaged about \$11/MMBTU. In essence, domestic production fetched a price less than 20% of the LNG prices. However, the same APM prices jumped from \$1.79/ MMBTU in September 2021 to \$8.57/ MMBTU in October 2022 due to a 400% price surge in international hub prices after the Russia-Ukraine crisis, bringing tremendous distress to the fertiliser, power and City Gas Distribution (CGD)

Rationalisation and Reform for a Gas-based Economy



The government decided to insulate domestic gas consumers as well as national oil companies from such volatility by benchmarking APM prices to a slope of 10% of Indian Crude basket price to be determined on a monthly basis, together with a ceiling of \$6.5/MMBTU and floor of \$4.5/MMBTU for nomination fields. The ceiling has been determined at 10% of the last 20 years of Indian crude price (about \$65/BBL) while the determination of the floor price considers the marginal cost of production of about \$3.5/MMBTU for gas production from nomination fields.

The slope of most of the Indian longterm LNG contracts has hovered around 13% above Brent. Accounting for the costs of liquefaction, transportation and regasification in LNG contracts, the slope for domestic gas has been pegged at 10% for the APM prices.

After these reforms, the average cost of cooking fuel for households (PNG) has been reduced by about 10% and CNG vehicle owners have seen a 6-7% reduction in prices. Another crucial advantage will be the reduction in fertiliser subsidies, expected to be more than Rs. 2000 crores each year.

These reforms will also help incentivise investment in the E&P sector by providing a floor price for mature fields of nomination while also incentivising new wells of nomination fields which will receive 20% higher prices. The ceiling on production from ONGC and OIL will remain the same for the first two years and then increase by \$0.25/MMBTU every year, to adjust for any cost inflation. The reforms will not impact private operators of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) fields or High Pressure, High Temperature (HP-HT) fields that have a ceiling price or new gas produc-

tion from field development plans submitted after February 2019. They will continue to have marketing and pricing

The Cabinet's decisions have received a thumping response from the markets and experts alike. Some commentators, however, have raised concerns regarding these reforms in an Op-ed in this newspaper. Their article states that domestic consumers would have benefitted from the recent decrease in the US-based Henry Hub prices and Russian gas prices had the reforms not been implemented. It forgets to mention that there were four hubs in the 2014 formula, and the prices of one hub, i.e., the British-based virtual trading zone National Balancing Point (NBP) are still in the range of \$12/ MMBTU. Further, current prices would have impacted APM prices only in the next pricing cycle of Oct 2023-March 2024. The recent change in formula

ensures that the benefit to the consumers is passed on without a time lag as price will now be determined on a monthly basis rather than half-yearly.

The aforementioned article highlights that current high well head prices for domestic gas ensure a continued high price for LNG exports to India except for Qatar LNG. Domestic gas prices have nothing to do with the long-term LNG contracts or even spot purchases of LNG. Concerns had also been raised regarding stranded gas power plants. During the last half-yearly price of \$8.57/MMBTU, some power plants had stopped offtaking contracted gas, leading to issues of take or pay obligations under Gas Sale and Purchase Agreements (GSPA). With the new ceiling of \$6.5/MMBTU, gas power plants will now get much-needed relief.

To promote gas production from difficult areas (Deepwater, Ultra Deepwater and HP-HT fields), the government in March 2016 had notified that HTHP ceiling prices be pegged to imported alternative fuels such as LNG and landed price of imported Fuel Oil. Before this government, production from these fields was not considered viable. Today, production from difficult areas has reached about 20% of the overall domestic gas production, and is expected to reach 30% within the next few years. Considering the nature, complexity and viability of production from these areas, their formula has not been tweaked.

India is aggressively expanding infrastructure for oil and gas operations and executing policy reforms to balance the interests of both consumers and producers. Since 2014, India has increased the length of its gas pipeline network from 14,700 kms to 22,000 kms in 2023. The number of domestic connections has increased from 22.28 lakh in 2014 to over 1.03 crore in 2023. The number of CGD-covered districts in India has increased from 66 in 2014 to 630 in 2023 while CNG stations have gone up from 938 in 2014 to 5,283 in 2023. India's LNG terminal regasification capacity has increased from 21.7 MMTPA in 2014 to 42.7 MMTPA in 2023, with another 20 MMTPA capacity under construction.

With a growing demand for natural gas, India is well on its way to realising a gas-based economy as part of its broader energy transition goals. The vision of a cleaner, greener and sustainable energy future for India is steadily becoming

Hardeep S Puri is Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and **Housing and Urban Affairs in the** Government of India

Born as poor is a stroke of fate but brooding over the same is a bit of an issue!



There have been many rags to riches stories and those happened because of the human spirit to keep trying and moving ahead! Those who toil, put in hard work do achieve something in life! If you raise your hands towards the skies it is but natural that you will not get the moon or stars in your fist but you will not get mud either! Poverty alleviation is in our own hands. Those who are not born with a silver spoon in mouth need not give up because life has twists and turns, opportunities are galore. One may find a closed door, maybe that's the opportunity you were seeking is inside the room behind but at least make an effort to open the door! May me inside the room is a ticket which will make you move on in life!

There is a famous saying written by a philosopher/ economist that says, knowledge is wealth, wisdom is treasure, understanding is riches, and ignorance is poverty. Neatness and cleanliness is not a function of how rich or poor you are but that of mentality and principle. The same man also concluded that, I don't judge poverty by wealth. The poor are those who cannot afford to pay attention in life.'

Removal of poverty is the prime objective that the government is working upon and the same thing is happening UT Jammu and Kashmir! The stress is on the fact that every person in India, in our case UT Jammu and Kashmir does not sleep hungry as the night approaches!

Trends in poverty and inequality remain a conten-

"If you were born poor its not your mistake but if you die poor its your mistake"

Bill Gates

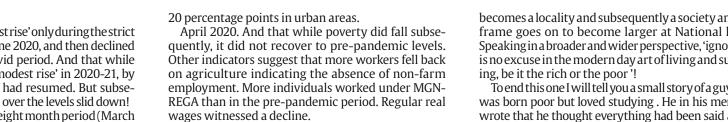
Rural poverty 'saw a modest rise' only during the strict lockdown period of April-June 2020, and then declined as sharply as in the pre-Covid period. And that while urban poverty also saw a 'modest rise' in 2020-21, by April-June 2021 its decline had resumed. But subsequently after that phase was over the levels slid down!

As per the report, over an eight month period (March to October 2020), average incomes of the bottom 10 percent of households were lower by Rs 15,700.

This income shock caused an increase in the poverty rate (below the national minimum wage threshold) by 15 percentage points in rural areas and nearly

The things had to be pulled back and for that the Government is making whole some efforts! It's nice to see that every individual, be it rich or poor has understood what economy is all about! It all starts from a household and a conglomerate of households becomes a locality and subsequently a society and the frame goes on to become larger at National level! Speaking in a broader and wider perspective, 'ignorance is no excuse in the modern day art of living and surviv-

To end this one I will tell you a small story of a guy who was born poor but loved studying . He in his memoirs wrote that he thought everything had been said about poverty, until he had the inspiration to write six books in less than three years! So shed off the tag of the poor and knock at the doors that you have never been opened! Maybe the key for your success is there! That is the only way you can remove the logo of 'Poverty!



HT - NATIONAL

DC Pulwama reviews progress of **Works under Jal Jeevan Mission**

Put in every effort to achieve timely & desired results: Basharat to Officers

HT News Network

13TH HEADLINES

PULWAMA, MAY 04: In order to take an appraisal of the progress of effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom today presided over a meeting of concerned officers at DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC in his opening remarks asserted that the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission scheme is being monitored by District Administration Pulwama on daily basis and



every effort is being made to ensure that 100% saturation is made for all works undertaken under JJM Scheme.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the physical and financial prog-

executed under the JJM. While discussing the measures for water quality monitoring and Surveillance system, the meeting was informed that Pulwama district is provided with

ress of the works being

5 testing labs for quality water through Field Testing Kits till date.

Asserting that JJM is a major flagship programme to cover all households, the DC directed all the officers to work in coordination and ensure smooth execution of JJM works in their areas.

He directed that besides

all households be connected through tap water, all pending schools, Anganwadicentres, health centres and panchayat ghars shall also be provided with tap water connections under IJM scheme across the district.Meanwhile, various issues and bottlenecks.

DC Shopian for tightening noose on drug peddlers, intensifying IEC activities

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 04: In order to review the measures taken by the stakeholder departments to curb the substance abuse and narcotics trade in the district, the Deputy Commissioner(DC)Shopian,FazLul Haseeb today convened District Level Committee meeting of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) at Shopian here.

The DC was intimated about the action taken reports and measures being taken by the police, revenue, drug control, health, social welfare, excise and other departments to curb the menace. He also reviewed the institutional facilities in place in the district for drug rehabilitation

and treatment. He asked officers of concerned departments to make coordinated and more effective efforts to contain the drug peddling and tighten noose on peddlers, including on medical stores found involved in the trade.

The DC instructed for intensifying poppy destruction drives, massive IEC campaigns through various media and across the educational institutions.

He exhorted the YS&S department to ensure the involvement of youth and students in various sports activities.

Both DC and SSP emphasised upon the need of conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.

SSP Shopian Tanushree also intimated about the action taken by the department to control the menace.

ACR Shopian, SDM, Zainapora, ASP, Shopian and other concerned district/ tehsil officers were present in the meeting.

DDC chairs introductory meeting of District Development Council Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 04: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, S.F. Hamid today held an introductory meeting with the District Development Council at Dak Banglow Khanabal.

DDC Chairman, Vice Chairman, all the District Development Council members and BDC Chairpersons attended the meet-

ing.During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the important role that council members play in implementing developmental programs and welfare schemes for the betterment of the general public.

He stressed the need for planning and monitoring of developmental projects and welfare schemes to achieve assigned targets in a timely and efficient manner.

The council members raised several public-oriented demands, including the

macadamization of roads, upgrading of health facilities in rural and remote areas, rationalization of staff in educational institutes and issues related to roads, water supply and health facilities.

The DDC assured council members that all genuine demands will be examined and $incorporated\ into\ projected\ plans.\ He\ also$ stressed the importance of sectoral officers remaining available to the call of PRI's and taking them on board in planning, execution, and monitoring of developmental works under District UT and centrally sponsored schemes.

The chairman, vice-chairman, and other members appreciated the initiative taken by the DDC for having an introductory meeting and expressed their willingness to work together for the development and welfare of the district.

The meeting was a productive and positive step towards achieving the goals of

DC Kulgam visits Chawalgam

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 04: In connection with the annual celebrations at Ganesh Asthapan Hawanad, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi Ud Din Bhat today visited the Chawalgam area to finalise the arrangement for the successful conduct of celebrations, there.

The 5 days long celebrations are being held from May 02 and shall culminate on 6th May. The DC was accompanied by concerned officers/officials who were directed to ensure all requisite and adequate facilities are put in place for the successful celebrations. Dr Bilal met the local managing committee, congratulated them on the auspicious religious occasion and enquired about the facilities there.

Operation Kaveri: More Indians evacuated from Sudan

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, May 4 (UNI) A 22nd batch of evacuees comprising 135 people reached Jeddah on board an IAF C-130J aircraft, while 30 Indians arrived in India in two batches as part of Operation Kaveri. The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia in a tweet said:

"22nd batch of evacuees left Port Sudan and reached Jeddah.135 passengers flown by IAF C-130J aircraft." The MEA spokesperson in tweets said: "A group of 14 Indian evacuees departs from Jeddah onboard a flight for Mumbai."A group of 16 evacuees departed from Jeddah onboard a flight destined for Lucknow."On Wednesday. India flew in its 21st batch of evacuees comprising 137 Indians from Port Sudan to Jeddah, even as more Indians arrived back in the country.

India logs 3,962 new **Covid cases**

New Delhi, May 4 (UNI) India has recorded 3.962 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, as per the Health Ministry on Thursday. With this, the active caseload stood at 36,244 which is 0.08 percent of the total cases, as per the Health Ministry. The death toll has risen to 5,31,606 with 15 new deaths reported in the last 24 hours in various parts of the country. As many as 7,873 patients recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours. The total number of people who have recuperated from the disease is 4.43 crore (4,43,92,828).The COVID-19 recovery rate stood at 98.73 per cent, whereas the fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent. Meanwhile, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.17 percent while the weekly positivity rate was pegged at 3.13 per cent. The Ministry said 2,363 vaccine doses of COVID have been administered during the last 24 hours under the nationwide vaccination drive. Around 220.66 cr Total Vaccine doses (95.21 cr Second Dose and 22.87 cr Precaution Dose) have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive, said the Ministry. Meanwhile, 92.72 cr Total Tests conducted so far; 1,82,294 tests conducted in the last 24 hours showed the Min-

Cong wins (4), BJP (2) & CPM (1) in Shimla MC poll

HT News Network

Shimla, May 4 (UNI) Congress won four and BJP two and CPI(M) one seats in first round of Shimla MC Election as counting began here on Thursday morning for 34 wards.

The Congress has won the ward no 7- Majyath seat, Ward no 6- Totu and Ward no- 3- Kaithu. Congress Kanta Siyal, Congress candidate from Ward no 3 Kaithu has won. Annadale ward no 4 Cong won.

Howeverits heavyweights, Jitender Choudhary from ward no 1(Bharadi) has lost to Meena Chauhan of BJP. In Ward no 2 Ruldubhatta, BJP has won the seat. Att Summerhill ward no 5 Virender Thakur CPI(M) is

being reported to have won. All results likely to be declared with in one hour. In Ward no 2 Ruldubhatta, BJP has won the seat.

Att Summerhill ward no 5 Virender Thakur CPI(M) is being reported to have won. All results likely to be declared with in one hour.

HDFC Bank plans to expand its presence in semi-urban, rural locations

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 4, KNT: HDFC Bank has planned to expand its presence in the semi-urban and rural locations (SURU) of the country. As a part of this strong push, it intends to add more branches and launch customised products for this market seg-

The Bank proposes to add more than 675 branches in the current financial year in these locations to take the total number to close to 5000. As of March 31, 2023, it had 52 per cent of its 7821 branches in SURU areas.

The Bank has launched an industry first, customised programme 'Vishesh', for the SURU areas. This is a unique programme as it offers a blend of financial and wellness benefits and is tailored to provide a premium banking experience to customers in semi-urban and rural geographies.

The key features of the 'Vishesh' programme are Dedicated Personal Banker, Extendable to 8 family members, Gold loan and valuation, Daily Hospicash benefits, Annual Preventive Health Check-Up, One annual complimentary and cashless Health check-up, Unlimited Tele Health consultation and Offering a host of Agritech ser-



vices. "As a bank we believe Bharat is critical for tomorrow's India and improving rural lives is key to India becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Our unique customer engagement model and differentiated propositions for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies position the bank to play the role of an ideal partner to enrich rural lives," said Arvind Vohra, Group Head-Retail Branch Banking.

"Today, large sections of Indians living beyond the metros and Tier 1 cities seek the same standard of living and banking products/financial services as in urban India. HDFC Bank has been at the forefront when it comes to catering to this need. Launching customised products like 'Vishesh' is one more step in this direction,"

India Has Over 50% Active Internet **Users For The First Time Ever: Re-**

HT News Network

New Delhi: For the first first more than half of Indians, 759 million citizens, are active internet users and access the internet at least once a month, a joint report by industry body IAMAI and market data analytics firm Kantar said on Wednesday.

According to the report, the active internet base in India is expected to grow to 900 million by 2025.

"759 million are 'active' internet users, accessing the internet at least once a month. By 2025 the number is expected to grow to 900 million. This is for the first time that the majority of Indians have become active internet users," the Internet in India Report 2022 said.

According to the report, out of 759 million 'active' internet users in India for 2022, 399 million are from rural India, while 360 million are from urban India, indicating that rural India continues to drive the growth of the internet in the country.

"Urban India, with approximately 71 per cent internet penetration witnessed only 6 per cent growth, with much of the overall gain in numbers coming from rural India which witnessed 14 per cent growth rate



over the past one year. It is estimated that 56 per cent of all new internet users in India will be from rural India by 2025," the report said. The report found that digital divide continues to plague the positive narrative with a huge disparity in internet penetrations across states, with Bihar with 32 per cent users having less than half the level of internet penetration than the leading state Goa where 70 per cent people are internet

"Even though the gender divide persists till date with 54 per cent male users, it is heartening to note that 57 per cent of all new users in 2022 were females. It is estimated that by 2025, 65 per cent of all new users will be women, which will help correct the gender divide," the report said.

Previous govts created rift in society, BJP working for development: Yogi

HT News Network

Basti (UP), May 4 (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that the previous governments created rifts in the society by dividing people in the name of caste and religion, but the double engine governmentisworkingwithout any discrimination.

Addressing a public meeting in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates in the second phase of urban local body polls, Yogi said, "Basti, which was a city of great historical and mythological significance, was a victim of state neglect during opposition governments in the past. The previous governments divided people and created rifts in the society in the name of caste and religion, but today, under the double engine government, development is taking place at a breathtaking speed. Basti today has its own medical college named after Maharishi Vashisth,



which was unimaginable six years ago."

He said, "Basti is the land of Putreshti Yagya for the birth of Lord Shri Ram. This is the land of Maharishi Vashishth. Besides, it's a land of brave revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country. It is a land of litterateurs as well."

The CM said that today's Basti has got out of that situation and is setting new paradigms of development with new vigour. He said that the government is providing all facilities from the birth of a girl child to her education and marriage.

Enumerating the achievements of the double engine government, he said that now no mother or sister suffers from lung disease due to smoke, because the benefits of the Ujjwala Yojana have been extended to all the houses here. "We have also decided to provide free gas cylinders on Diwali and Holi. The double engine government has also given health insurance of Rs 5 lakhs to the poor under

Yogi said that there was a time when a previous government opened fire at farmers at Munderwa. "Our

Ayushman Bharat Yojana,"

government has set up a new sugar mill here. "Today this sugar mill is becoming the identity of this place. How can a government without a vision for development carry out development?," he said.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, today India has been recognised as the most reliable global leader. "The world looks towards India in times of crisis. On the one hand, India's global prestige has gone up and on the other infrastructural development is taking place at a fast pace with the construction of highway networks, railways, medical colleges, universities, IITs and AIIMS," he said.

The CM said, "Besides, crores of houses and toilets have been provided to people while youths have been linked with skill development programmes to provide them employment and 50 crore were given up to Rs 5 lakh health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Final push: Modi to hold rallies, roadshows from May 5 to 7

HT News Network

Bengaluru, May 4 (UNI) In his final push to woo voters before the poll campaign draws to an end, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to hold rallies and roadshows in poll-bound Karnataka between May 5 and 7.

On May 5, Modi will address rallies in Ballari at 2 pm and Tumkur Rural area at 4.30 pm, and return to Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru for an overnight stay.

The next day, PM Modi will hold a roadshow between 10 am to 1.30 pm from Hosathippasandra to the war memorial near Brigade Road. He will then fly to Badami in Bagalkot district to address a rally at 4 pm.

Modi is scheduled to hold another rally in Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's home district Haveri at 7 pm. On May 7, PM Modi will hold a roadshow between 10 am to 1.30 pm from Brigade Road to Sankey Road in Malleswaram, and then Modi will visit Shivamogga to address a rally. He may then fly to Nanjangud and address the concluding rally at 7 pm.On Wednesday, the BJP had announced PM Modi's roadshow on May 6, covering a distance of 36.6 km in Bengaluru. But today, the party decided to hold the roadshow on two seperate days, instead of one, after taking into account the trouble it may cause to the people. On May 7, PM Modi will hold a roadshow between 10 am to 1.30 pm from Brigade Road to Sankey Road in Malleswaram, and then Modi will visit Shivamogga to address a rally. He may then fly to Nanjangud and address the concluding rally at 7 pm.On Wednesday, the BJP had announced PM Modi's roadshow on May 6, covering a distance of 36.6 km in Bengaluru. But today, the party decided to hold the roadshow on two seperate days, instead of one, after taking into account the trouble it may cause to the people.







Asia still needs 55 years to eliminate child marriage: UN

■ HT News Network

HEADLINES

IUNITED NATIONS: South Asia leads global reductions in child marriage but still needs 55 years to eliminate the practice if it does not speed up the pace, says a UN report released on Wednesday.

To meet the UN target of eliminating child marriage by 2030; South Asia needs to accelerate the pace of reforms by seven times, says the report released by the UN Children's Fund (Unicef).

Within South Asia, Pakistan is third in reductions, behind Maldives and Sri Lanka but ahead of India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan. About 18 per cent women in Pakistan are still married in childhood, which is slightly better than the global average of 19pc.

According to the statistics released on Wednesday, Pakistan still has nearly 19 million child brides as 1 in 6 young women in the country are married in childhood. The minimum legal age for marriage in Pakistan is 18 but about 18pc of girls are married before 18. The age gap between a $child\, bride\, and\, her\, groom\, is\, often\, between$ 40 to 60 years. At 51pc, Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriages in South Asia. Maldives has the lowest, only two per

India is home to the largest number of women who married in childhood. One in three child bride lives in India. There are about 34pc women in India who married



in childhood. The majority of Indian women married in childhood, gave birth as adolescents.

South Asia leads the world in progress on reducing child marriage. Yet, one in four young women in South Asia were first married or were in union before their 18th

The region is home to around 290 million child brides, accounting for 45 per cent of the global total. Levels of child marriage vary considerably across the region, from over 50pc in Bangladesh to 2pc in the

In Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh child brides are more likely to report that wife-beating is justified, and they often

experience such violence themselves.

In Pakistan, 55pc of child brides say that wife-beating is justified. In India, 41pc say the same thing. Thirty-three per cent and 28pc in Bangladesh also justify wife-beating. Child brides in South Asia are more likely to live in poor households, have less education and reside in rural areas.

Three in four child brides in the region give birth while they are still adolescents. The vast majority of child brides in South Asia are out of school.

Unicef, however, also reports that the practice of child marriage has continued to decline globally, driven predominantly by a decline in India, which is still home to the largest number of child brides world-

wide.Progress is also evident in other contexts, including in populous countries where the practice has historically been common, such as Bangladesh and Ethiopia. Some smaller countries, such as Maldives and Rwanda, are moving closer to elimina-

Commenting on the good news, Unicef observed that "the experiences of these countries illustrate that progress is possible in a variety of settings.'

But the UN agency warned that a 'polycrisis' - of war, climate shocks, and the Covid pandemic – threatens the fragile gains made towards ending the scourge. South Asia leads the world in progress on reducing child marriage. Yet, one in four young women in South Asia were first married or were in union before their 18th birthday. The region is home to around 290 million child brides, accounting for 45 per cent of the global total. Levels of child marriage vary considerably across the region, from over 50pc in Bangladesh to 2pc in the

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Pakistanis, Indians targeted online

■ HT News Network

ISLAMABAD: A report by Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has revealed that an online group in Pakistan targeted people, including military personnel, in both India and Pakistan through fake social media accounts, during the first quarter of the current year.

The "Adversarial Threat Report, First Quarter 2023" released at the Meta website stated that actions were taken against three separate cyber espionage operations in South Asia linked to a group of hackers known in the security industry as ``Bahamut APT (advanced persistentthreat)", another known as "Patchwork APT" and a "statelinked group in Pakistan".

 $The {\it report highlighted fake apps} \, and \, we b sites delivering$ malware at Facebook and Instagram social media platforms, involved in espionage as well as committing financial crimes across the world.

The report shared information about six networks that were taken down for violating the policies.

Ukraine Realistic About "Not Being Able" To Join **NATO During War: Zelensky**

HT News Network



The Hague: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday that Ukraine was "realistic" that it would not be able to join NATO while still fighting Russia.

"We are realistic, we know we will not be in NATO during the war," Zelensky said after meeting Dutch and Belgian Prime Ministers Mark Rutte and Alexander De Croo."But we want a very clear message that we will be in NATO after the war," Zelensky added.

Zelensky made a surprise visit to the Netherlands a day after meeting Nordic leaders in Finland to drum up support ahead of Ukraine's awaited counter-offensive against Russia."The most important thing is to deliver as quickly as possible what was promised to our soldiers," Zelensky told reporters."We hope that the Netherlands and our other partners will help as quickly as possible," $Zelensky said. The \, Netherlands \, has so \, far \, given \, or \, pledged \,$ 1.2 billion euros in military support to Ukraine.

This included 45 T-72 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and at least 100 Leopard 1 tanks, together with Denmark and Germany, as well as 14 Leopard 2 tanks together with Denmark.It also included eight howitzers and 120 mm shells as well as two Patriot missile systems, 100 mobile air defence cannons and Stinger missiles among other weapons, the Dutch defence ministry said on its website. Dutch instructors are also helping to train Ukrainian recruits along with other Western nations.

Zelensky was to visit a Dutch military base later on Thursday in central Netherlands to view equipment reserved for Ukraine.

Heavy rains kill at least 109 in Rwanda

HT News Network

Kigali, May 4 (UNI) Heavy rains and flooding that hit Rwanda's western and northern provinces in two days have killed at least 109 people, according to local officials.Francois Habitegeko, governor of Western Province, told national broadcaster Rwanda Television on Wednesday morning that at least 95 people were killed in flash floods caused by heavy rains in the province between Tuesday and Wednesday. Northern Province governor Dancille Nyirarugero also confirmed to the television that at least 14 people were killed by heavy rains during the same days."We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims during this difficult time," Habitegeko said. "We are working closely with local authorities and emergency services to provide relief efforts and support to those affected by this disaster."The latest weather forecast by Rwanda Meteorology Agency indicated that the expected rainfall in many parts of the country will be slightly above the range of rainfall usually recorded in May. According to a recent report by the ministry in charge of emergency management, more than 60 people were killed by disasters in the country between Jan. 1 and April 20.

Hungary plans to buy gas from Turkey, Azerbaijan -**Foreign Minister**

Budapest, May 4 (UNI) Budapest is holding talks with Ankara to buy Turkish natural gas and transit Azerbaijani gas to Hungary through Turkey, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said."Without Turkish transit, there is no reliable energy supply for Hungary... We count on Turkey's transit role in the subsequent period as well. First of all, due to the fact that an agreement is being drawn up with Azerbaijan on the purchase of Azerbaijani gas. We will be able to deliver Azerbaijani gas to Hungary only if Turkey provides a transit opportunity for this," Szijjarto told reporters in Ankara as broadcast on Facebook (an extremist social network banned in Russia). Hungary is negotiating with Turkish energy company Botas to buy "Turkish gas too, liquefied or from other sources,"

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians in Nablus raid

HT News Network

Israeli forces on Thursday killed two Palestinian gunmen who had allegedly shot dead a British-Israeli mother and her two daughters in April in the occupied West Bank, Israel's domestic security service said.

British-Israeli Lucy Leah Dee and her two daughters Maia and Rina were shot dead on April 7 in the Jordan Valley.

"Medical teams recovered the bodies of 3 Palestinians in a house besieged by Israeli forces in the Old City of Nablus," the official Palestinian TV reported.

A picture of a Palestinian mother with her son, who according to the Israeli military aided two Palestinian gunmen, hangs on a wall at his house where he was killed by the Israeli forces along with the gunmen in a raid, in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on May 4, 2023.—Reuters/ Raneen Sawafta

The Israeli army left after the raid, witnesses told Anadolu.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said there had been three fatalities during the raid in the city of Nablus.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Red Crescent Society said "its crews dealt with two serious injuries caused by live bullets during clashes that erupted between dozens of Palestinians and the Israeli army in Nablus".

A third militant who had aided the two gunmen was also killed in the raid, Israel's

Shin Bet service said. A Palestinian man looks on as he views



the site where Israeli forces killed Palestinian gunmen in a raid, according to the Israeli military, in Nablus in the Israelioccupied West Bank on May 4, 2023.-Reuters/Raneen Sawafta

Shin Bet also said that all three men were members of the Palestinian Islamist armed group Hamas, which Hamas confirmed.

The Directorate of Education in Nablus announced the postponement of school hours until the end of the military opera-

Tensions have been running high across the occupied West Bank in recent months amid repeated Israeli raids into Palestinian

More than 100 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of this year, according to Palestinian figures.

Sixteen Israelis have also been killed in separate attacks during the same period. Tensions have been running high across the occupied West Bank in recent months amid repeated Israeli raids into Palestinian towns.More than 100 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of

this year, according to Palestinian figures.

Heavy fighting in Sudan's Khartoum as power struggle rages

■ HT News Network

Fierce fighting could be heard in central Khartoum on Thursday as the army tried to push back the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from areas around the presidential palace and army headquarters, with a lasting ceasefire appearing elusive.

Each side appears to be battling for control of territory in the capital ahead of any possible negotiations, though the leaders of both factions have shown little public willingness to hold talks after more than two weeks of fighting.

Heavy bombardments also rang out in the adjoining cities of Omdurman and Bahri. Both sides had agreed to a seven-day ceasefire, which has been violated.

"Since yesterday evening, and this morning, there are air strikes and the sounds of clashes," said Al-Sadiq Ahmed, a 49-year-old engineer speaking from Khartoum."We've got into a state of permanent terror because the battles are around the centres of residential neighbourhoods.



meanwhile, pressed Sudan's warring factions on Wednesday to guarantee safe passage of humanitarcapital undermined a supposed truce.UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said he hoped to have face-to-face meetings with Sudan's warring parties within two to three days to secure guarantees from them for aid convoys to deliver relief supplies.The United Nations has warned that fighting between the army and RSF, which erupted on April 15, risks causing a humanitarian catastrophe that could spill into other countries. Sudan said on Tuesday that 550 people had died and

4,926 people wounded so far in the conflict. About 100,000 people have fled Sudan with little food or water to neighbouring countries, the UN says. The army said it killed ian aid after six trucks were RSF fighters and destroyed

looted and air strikes in the a number of vehicles "belonging to the rebels", after clashing with the group in the Bahri military region. The army and RSF joined forces in a coup two years ago and had shared power as part of an internationally backed transition towards free elections and civilian government before falling out over the transition.The RSF accused the army of breaching a ceasefire and attacking forces since dawn. It said the army attacked its residential neighbourhoods with artillery and aircraft.

Pakistan set to host Chinese foreign minister from May 5-6, says FO

HT News Network

China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister, Qin Gang, is set to embark on a two-day official visit to Pakistan from May 5 to attend the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, the Foreign Office said. This visit marks his first official trip to Pakistan since taking office.The fourth round of the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue will be cochaired by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and his Chinese counterpart, Qin Gang. The structured mechanism is designed to review bilateral cooperation in key areas. The Foreign Office said that during the strategic dialogue, both sides will reaffirm the abiding vitality of the all-weath-



er strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.Furthermore, they will develop a roadmap for multidimensional cooperation, and discuss the evolving regional and global landscape, according to the FO.The third round of the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue took place in July 2021 in Chengdu, China.The upcoming visit by Qin underscores the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship and their commitment to further strengthening their strategic partnership. Meanwhile, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, in a statement today, highlighted the significance of Qin's visit to Pakistan, stating that it was an important aspect

of the recent close and frequent interactions between high-level officials of China and Pakistan. The spokesperson also added that during this visit, both sides will engage in in-person and in-depth communication regarding bilateral relations as well as the international and regional situation. The spokesperson reiterated that China and Pakistan shared an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and were ironclad friends.In this context, the spokesperson recalled Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's "successful visit to China" in November last year, during which the leaders of both countries charted a course for bilateral relations. "Additionally, the premiers of China and Pakistan also had a phone.

Declared chemical arms to be destroyed soon: watchdog

HT News Network

NOOTDORP(Netherland): The world's chemical weapons watchdog said on Wednesday that the process of destroying tens of thousands of tonnes of declared chemical stockpiles will be completed "within the next few weeks".The watchdog, which also unveiled its new chemical laboratory and high-tech facility outside The Hague, warned that new challenges to fight chemical weapons were emerging such as threats posed by artificial intelligence. "More than 70,000 tonnes of the world's most dangerous poisons have been destroyed under the supervision of the OPCW," said Fernando Arias, head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). A small remnant left in the US "will be destroyed within the next few weeks," Arias told journalists on a tour of the new facility, which opens its doors next week

Since the Chemical Weapons Convention, the treaty that bans the use of toxic arms, was implemented in 1997, the OPCW had destroyed 72,118 tonnes of stockpiles declared by countries around the world, or 99 per cent.

"Around 127 tonnes of declared weapons remained to be destroyed at two facilities, one in Denver, in Colorado, as well as at the Blue Grass chemical facility in Kentucky,' a senior OPCW official said.

CUK's DCJ observes world press freedom day

HT News Network

Ganderbal, May 3: Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Wednesday observed the "World Press Freedom Day" by organising a lecture on "New Media and Standalone Journalism," by Prof. Dev Vrat Singh, former Head &Dean, Deptt of Mass Communication, School of Mass Communication and Media Technologies, Central University of Jharkhand.

Addressing the participants comprising the faculty members and the students, Prof. Dev Vrat Singh, said, the occasion emphasizes the importance of unrestricted jour-

nalism and advocates for the fundamental right of freedom of speech. He said the day serves as a reminder of the critical role that journalists play in holding the powerful accountable and ensuring that the masses have access to impartial information. In his presentation, the speaker discussed changes in journalism in the light of Information Technology and highlighted the significant role played by the social media platforms including Facebook, twitter, Instagram and YouTube in highlighting the public issues instantly. He, however maintained, that the news groups on the social media platforms should necessarily get the official version, before uploading the news content.



"There have been several instances wherein the credibility of the social media news groups has taken a hit as they failed to follow the ethics and principles of journalism in letter and spirit," he said. After the address, the speaker also interacted with the faculty and staff. Speaking on the occasion, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean School

of Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool, described media as an important pillar of democracy and said the day is being observed to emphasise the value of press freedom and the difficulties faced by journalists in their work. "The purpose of the Day is to raise awareness about press freedom, the necessity of defending journalists' rights, and the need to support independent, free media," he said. He further added that the freedom of speech should not be misused by anyone for their vested interests. Head DCJ, Dr. Arif Nazir Zargar, who conducted the proceedings, said, World Press Freedom Day serves as a reminder of the significance of the right to freedom of right recognised in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He said the theme for the year 2023 is "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.' Sr Asst Prof. Dr John Babu Koyye, proposed the vote of thanks. After the address, the speaker also interacted with the faculty and staff. Speaking on the occasion, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean School of Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool, described media as an important pillar of democracy and said the day is being observed to emphasise the value of press freedom and the difficulties faced by journalists in their work.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan-'Catch the Rain': DDC Bandipora chairs review meeting

target can be achieved within the

He asked the officers to regu-

larly monitor the quality and

stipulated period.

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MAY 04: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad today chaired a meeting to review the status of works under Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) and its implementation across the

 $The \, meeting \, was \, informed \, that \,$ in District Bandipora 133 sites were identified under Amrit Sarovar, out of which 59 have been taken up, out of which 49 have

It was given out that 73 sites were identified in Bandipora, 58



in Sonawari and 02 sites in Gurez. Dr. Owais instructed all the concerned officers to speed up

the work under JSA so that the

time-bound completion.

Dr Owais laid stress on ground water recharging and rain water harvesting. He said that every drop of water is valuable and vital. He directed the concerned that there should be a planned mechanism to hold surface water besides maintaining available water resources.

During the meeting, the DC took detailed review of physical and financial progress of various JJM Works, besides he also discussed authorization for issuance of allotment for various works

under JJM in the district. The meeting was attended by

progress on all allotted works for Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora Ali Afsar Khan, Nodal Officer Coordination and ACD Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JD Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, Superintending Engineer PHE Hyd. Circle Bpr/Bla H.Q Sopore, Mohammad Haneef, Executive Engineer PHE/Irrigation Bandipora Syed Fida Hussain Rizvi, Executive Engineer PHE/migration Sopore, Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical North Bla/Bpr and others. During the meeting, the DC took detailed review of physical and financial progress of various JJM Works, besides he also discussed authorization.

ACP Kupwara reviews different sanitation and development schemes

HT News Network

KUPWARA, May 4: On the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray, a review meeting was held at ACD complex Kupwara under the Chair of ACP Kupwara, Parvaiz Raheem.

The meeting was convened to review achievements under ODF plus status of the district, completion & functionality of segregation sheds, status of door to door collection of waste, SSG 2023, Completion of Community Sanitary complexes, completion and Uploading GPDP on portal and Conduct IEC activities to aware the general public regarding Solid & liquid waste manage-

Meeting was attended by all BDOs of the district, AEEs, JEEs and Dealing Assistants of different schemes. ACP took a detailed review of different sanitation and development schemes being executed by RDD unde different sectors in all Blocks of Kupwara District.

On the occasion, the ACP directed the Officers and field functionaries to re-double their efforts to ensure cent percent saturation of all the deliverables in the District so that targets are achieved well in time with tangible results on the ground and people are benefited.

The ACP stressed the officers and field functionaries to speed up the pace of sanitation and cleanliness related schemes in the rural areas with added zeal and

DC Kathua distributes Disaster Response kits among 'Aapda Mitra' volunteers

HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 04: District Administration Kathua today distributed 'Disaster Response Kits' among nine newly trained 'Aapda Mitras' here in the Office chamber of Deputy Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas along with ADC Deepika Rana handed over the kits to the trained 'Aapda Mitra' which also contained certificate of participation, I-Card and a T-Shirt.

The group of the Aapda Mitras has undergone 12 day training at Central Training Institute (HG, CD, SDRF) Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

Interacting with the 'Aapda Mitras', the DC Kathua impressed upon them to be proactive and utilise their acquired skills to save precious lives in the event of any disaster. He said the Aapda Mitra can play a deciding role in dealing with any disaster and called them as 'all eyes and ears' of the district administration who shall reach to the affected area and help in relief and rescue works efficiently.

During the 12 Day training at Central Training Institute (HG, CD, SDRF) Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, Aapda Mitras were imparted training in water rescue and mountaineering rescue besides fire-fighting skills, flood rope crossing, rappelling, climbing and rescue from higher

DDC Rajouri reviews progress of work on border bunkers and **PMAY-G Houses**

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 04: The District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the concerned officers here to review the progress of border bunkers being constructed by the PWD and RDD and PMAY-G. Reviewing the progress achieved by RDD, the meeting was informed that against the target of constructing 1892 bunkers, the work on 1528 bunkers is complete in all respects. Similarly, while reviewing the progress by the PWD sector, it was informed that out of 1274 bunkers, the work on 1265 bunkers is complete. The DDC directed for speedy tendering and allotment of remaining works so that the work on bunkers can be completed at the earliest to provide necessary benefits to the border residents.

The DDC also instructed the officers to put in all possible efforts to ensure that the set targets are achieved well in time. Stress was also laid on maintaining quality while executing work on the bunkers and the DDC made it clear that no laxity shall be tolerated in this regard.

Women College Gandhinagar hosts interactive session on "LIBRARY E-RESOURCES: **N-LIST and DELNET**"

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 04: Department of Political science of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, organized an interactive session on "LIBRARY E-RESOURCES: N-LIST and DELNET".

The session was held under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. Minu Mahajan. The speaker of the occasion, Prof. Sonika, Librarian of the College familiarised the students about the various E-Platforms (both paid and free) subscribed by the College for knowledge enhancement of the students. She, along with Pankaj Talashi guided students about different Log - in procedures and resolved their queries. The session turned out to be really beneficial for students especially for those who are struggling through financial difficulties as they were able to access over 5400 E-books, E-Journals, E-Papers etc available on certified portals like N-LIST and DELNET without any monetary

The session was coordinated by Dr Pooja Charak, Prof Paramjeet Singh, Dr Harmeet Singh and Dr Vandana Sharma from the Department of Political Science.

A total of 92 students participated in the session and displayed great enthusiasm. The event was moderated by Ms. Mansha and Ms Ashpreet, students of 2nd and 4th semester respectively.

The Department of Political Science and Department of Science also expressed their gratitude towards the Principal and Institution for availing such important opportunities for the staff and the students.

Baramulla Bar Association bids farewell to outgoing PD&SJ, Mobile Magistrate

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 04: Bar Association Baramulla on Wednesday accorded a warm farewell to the outgoing Principal District & Sessions Judge Baramulla, Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Mobile Magistrate Baramulla Sajad-ur Rehman during a grand function organized, here.

Ist Additional District and Sessions Judge Baramulla Shabir Ahmad Malik NIA Judge, Pawan Kumar, Munsif Judge Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Ganie, President Bar Association Baramulla, Farooq-u-Din, Senior Advocate Nilofer Masood besides Bar Members, Advocates and other concerned participated in the farewell function.

All the Bar Members, Advocates present in the function lauded the working style and leadership qualities of both the judges and extended their best wishes for their new assignment.

Speaking on the occasion, President, Bar Association Baramulla said that the Principal District and Sessions Judge and Mobile Magistrate have given their best in their respective fields and have set examples in their work fields. He appreciated the working nature of the outgoing dignitaries.



The Principal District and Sessions Judge and Mobile Magistrate also spoke on the occasion and extended their gratitude to the whole team and thanked the Bar Association Baramulla for organizing such an impressive farewell. Bar Association Baramulla on Wednesday accorded a warm farewell to the outgoing Principal District & Sessions Judge Baramulla, Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Mobile Magistrate Baramulla Sajad-ur Rehmanduring a grand function organized, here.Ist Additional District and Sessions Judge Baramulla Shabir Ahmad Malik, NIA Judge, Pawan Kumar, Munsif Judge Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Ganie, President Bar Association Baramulla, Farooq-u-Din, Senior Advocate Nilofer Masood besides Bar Members, Advocates and other concerned participated in the farewell function.

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Pr. Secy SDD lays foundation stone of 100 bedded hostel block at ITI Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 04: Principal Secretary, Skill **Development Department** (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon today laid foundation stone of 100 bedded Hostel Block today at IndustrialTraininginstitute(ITI), Ashajipora here.

During the visit, the Principal Secretary also took round of the institution and took stock of its infrastructure and other facilities.

The Principal Secretary during the visit inaugurated the computer lab for Software Testing Assistant Trade developed under STRIVE scheme. He also inaugurated show room and guard rooms constructed during this Year.



The Principal Secretary during the visit expressed satisfaction over the functioning of institution.

Dr. Samoon later distributed certificates among meritorious students of various trades besides all India toppers of tourist guide and mason trades were also felicitated.

Principal ITI Anantnag, Imran Wajahat while speaking on the occasion said that 100 percent target in terms of admission were achieved by this institution and expressed his satisfaction on imparting of different training programs being conducted under different schemes like PMKVY, SHG, B2V4, among others. Dr. Samoon later distributed certificates among meritorious students of various.

PSPS Govt College for Women organises students' field visit to Old Age Home

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 04: The Department of Psychology of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, on Thursday organised a student's field visit to the Home for the Aged and Infirm, Amphalla to sensitise them about the social problems affecting the elderly. The visit was a part of their curriculum which focuses on holistic learning and giving back to the society. This activity was organised for the students of the second semester of the Psychology department. The students were apprised about the functioning of the Home by the President I. D Soni who explained that the Home was established about 59 years ago and caters to those who are either abandoned by their family members or those who have no living family members. Secretary Vijay Kumar Bhagotra informed about the facilities provided to the residents such as regular medical checkup by the doctors, emergency services among others.



Every resident has been provided a single room and are provided with healthy meals and snacks throughout the day. The students interacted with the residents who shared their experiences with them.R.C. Vaid and Vinod Kumar, members of the committee of the Home appreciated the gesture of the students and encouraged them to become better members of the society and contribute towards the well being of the needy people. The visit was managed by the faculty members and staff of the Psychology Department viz. Prof Eisha Gohil, Dr Ujjwal Sharma, Dr Syed Shehna, Rohini Sharma, Satinder Kumar and Kuldeep Kumar. Dr Suraj Mohini, HoD.

Single Dose of HPV

new study shows that one dose of a vaccine that can prevent the virus that leads to most

cases of cervical cancer may be as effective

Vaccine Is Highly

Effective: Study

as the usual two or three doses.

To have or not to have: Curd at night

@HEADLINESTODA17

The best time to have curd is during the day, preferably in the morning or afternoon, as it is easier to digest.

mid the sea of nutritional advice freely available on the internet, there are so many things spoken about dairy that it often becomes difficult to separate facts from myths and fads. One such oft-discussed food item is curd and the right time to have it. So, if every night you wonder whether you should have this healthy food, you will not need to do that anymore. Today, we will try to answer all your questions.

PUBLICATION HEADLINES

Should you have curd at night?

According to celebrity nutritionist Shweta Shah, founder of Eatfit24/7, there is no harm in having curd at night. "However, it is recommended to consume it in moderation as it is a dairy product that is rich in fats and proteins, which both sour and sweet properties, can be difficult to digest for some and it increases the kapha dosha of protein, good for the gut, aids promote healthy gut flora. Curd is individuals at night, leading to in the body, she wrote: "At night, in digestion, low in calories, and also high in calcium and protein, discomfort or indigestion. But if there is a natural predominance you do not have any digestive of kapha in the body. This can lead issues, you can consume curd at to excess mucus development in night as a part of your balanced the nasal passages. However, this diet," she told Something similar does not apply to everyone," addwas shared by Neha Sahaya, a ing that only people prone to nutrition and wellness consultant, asthma or cough and cold should on Instagram. Sharing how, avoid it for dinner as it causes according to Ayurveda, curd has mucus.



mum benefits," she continued.

Benefits of having curd ics, which are live bacteria and express.com. yeasts that are good for gut health. These probiotics help improve everyone as it provides many gested.

"It's a great vegetarian source digestion, boost immunity, and high in calcium and phosphorous which are essential for bone health content. Try to have freshly made and muscle growth. "Additionally, set curd at home to get the maxi- curd is a good source of vitamin B12 and riboflavin, which are important for maintaining healthy Curd is a rich source of probiot-skin and hair," Shah told indian-

essential nutrients and promotes gut health. "However, individuals who are lactose intolerant or allergic to dairy products should avoid curd. Also, those who have kidney problems or high cholesterol levels should consume curd in moderation," Shah informed.

What is the best time and way to have curd?

The best time to have curd is during the day, preferably in the morning or afternoon, as it is easier to digest. You can consume it plain or as part of a meal, such as with rice or vegetables. Adding a small amount of fruit, such as banana or mango, can also enhance the taste and nutritional value of

Should curd be consumed both during summer and winter?

Yes, curd can be consumed throughout the year, regardless of the season. "However, during the summer months, it can be particularly refreshing and cooling. If you are prone to cold or cough, you may want to avoid consuming curd during the winter months as Curd is generally beneficial for it is a cooling food," Shah sug-

The findings could have a significant impact on cutting the rate of cervical cancer worldwide, because a single dose would simplify the vaccination process and cost less. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common type of cancer among women, killing an estimated 342,000 worldwide in 2020.

The vaccine prevents transmission of cancercausing strains of the sexually transmitted disease called human papillomavirus, or HPV. The first HPV vaccine was approved in the U.S. in 2006, and the CDC currently recommends two or three doses, depending on a person's age.

The new findings were presented at the end of April during the 35th International Papillomavirus Conference in Washington, DC. The study included 2,275 people in Kenya who ranged in age from 15 to 20 years old. They were randomly assigned to receive one of three treatments: a single-dose vaccine that targets two HPV strains, a single-dose HPV vaccine that targets nine strains, or a control vaccine. Participants were regularly tested for 3 years. The twostrain vaccine was 98% effective, and the nine-strain vaccine was 96% effective, the researchers reported. In December, the World Health Organization reduced its recommended number of HPV vaccine doses to one, noting at the time that just 15% of girls worldwide got the vaccine in 2021.

 $\hbox{``Following the WHO recommendation in support'}\\$ of a one-dose regimen for HPV vaccine could help make the vaccine more accessible to women and girls around the world by lowering costs, alleviating pressure on supply, and making the vaccine easier to deliver," Peter Dull, MD, deputy director for clinical vaccine development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which funded the research, said in a statement. At least 24 countries have already adopted the single-dose approach, The New York Times reported. More results from the research are expected in 2025, including a formal scientific test of multidose vs. single-dose protection, the newspaper said. 'Following the WHO recommendation in support of a one-dose regimen for HPV vaccine could help make the vaccine more accessible to women and girls around the world by lowering costs, alleviating pressure on supply, and making the vaccine easier to deliver," Peter Dull, MD, deputy director for clinical vaccine development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which funded the research, said in a statement. At least 24 countries have already adopted the single-dose approach, The New York Times reported. More results from the research are expected in 2025, including a formal scientific test of multidose vs. single-dose protection, the newspaper said.

Beyond the Surface: The hidden impact of mental health in the workplace

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 15% of working-age adults were estimated to have a mental disorder in 2019.

By Amrit Singh

n recent years, the conversation around mental health at workplaces has gained significant momentum, and rightly so. We have come to recognize that mental well-being is just as crucial as physical health, and this understanding must extend to our professional lives. In fact, studies have shown that poor mental health can have a significant impact on work productivity and performance. Impact on Wellbeing and Productivity

Why is mental health at the workplace important? The answer is simple: because our work environment significantly impacts our overall well-being and quality of life. Choosing a profession and career is one of the most significant decisions made in adulthood. It is a defining moment in the life and identity formation of a person. People spend a significant portion of their waking hours at work, which makes it necessary that this time is spent in an environ-

Impact of Poor Employee Mental Health in the Workplace

- Strained Workplace Relationships
- Workplace Errors & Poor Decisions
- Declining Company Revenue
- Low Morale & Increased Risk of Job
- Damaged Reputation & Negative **Brand Association**

ment that nurtures and supports their overall wellbeing.

Mental wellbeing at the worknot only the individual but also their colleagues and the overall work environment. Employees who are experiencing mental health issues may be more likely to have conflicts with colleagues, be less productive, and have a negative attitude towards their

toxic work environment, lower steps to address mental health issues in the workplace, not only for the individual's sake but also for the good of the company as a

When the pandemic struck, one of the key challenges faced by

erbate feelings of loneliness and

work. This can, in turn, lead to a companies and the employees was the shift to remote work. morale, and a decrease in overall While remote work can provide place, or the lack of it, can affect productivity. It is therefore essen-greater flexibility, it can also lead tial that employers take proactive to increased stress and isolation for some employees. Working from home can blur the lines between work and personal life, making it challenging to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Additionally, remote work can exac-

wellbeing. On the other hand, the return to the office can also add stress for some employees,

social isolation, which can impact

especially if they have become accustomed to remote work. Companies need to be aware of these challenges and provide support for employees transitioning back to the office.Breaking Stigma, Building Strength Promoting mental health in the workplace comes with great benefits for both - the employer and the employees. It leads to increased productivity and engagement. When employees feel valued and supported, they are more likely to be motivated, focused, and committed to their work. On the other hand, a toxic work environment that neglects mental wellbeing can lead to burnout, stress, and decreased productivity. By investing in mental health initiatives, companies can create an atmosphere where employees feel safe, supported, and motivated to perform at their best.

Want To Improve Heart Health With Mediterranean Diet?

he Mediterranean diet is known to be one of the healthiest diets in the world, and it has been linked to reducing the risk of heart disease. The Mediterranean diet is low in saturated and transfats, which can increase cholesterol levels and raise the risk of heart disease. The diet is high in healthy fats such as monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats which can reduce the risk of heart disease.

The Mediterranean diet is also rich in antioxidant-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, nuts, and olive oil that can protect the heart from damage. It is also high in fibre, which helps control blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and lowers the risk of heart disease.

The diet also includes fish which is a good source of omega-3 fatty acids that can reduce inflammation and lower triglyceride levels in the blood. Continue reading as we discuss some ways in which the Mediterranean diet improves heart health. We will also discuss some tips to help you get started on this diet.Here's how a Mediterranean diet can help improve heart health:

1. Lowering blood pressure

The high fibre content of a Med-

blood pressure. The high intake of help reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol

iterranean diet can help reduce fibre and healthy fats, which can



potassium-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, and legumes can also

help regulate blood pressure. 2. Reducing inflammation

Chronic inflammation can contribute to the development of heart disease. The anti-inflammatory properties of many foods in the Mediterranean diet, such as fruits, vegetables, and fatty fish, can help reduce inflammation.

3. Improving cholesterol

A Mediterranean diet is rich in

levels and increase HDL (good) cholesterol levels.

4. Promoting heart-healthy weight loss

A Mediterranean diet is not a "low-fat" diet, but it is rich in healthy fats that can help you feel full and satisfied. This can lead to sustainable weight loss, which can improve heart health.

7 Tips to help you get started on the Mediterranean diet:

Eat plenty of vegetables in your daily diet. Include a variety of colour in your diet by consuming different fruits and vegetables, which provide beneficial vitamins and minerals.

Incorporate more healthy fats into your diet. Replace animal fats with healthy fats like olive oil, avocados, nuts, and seeds.

Limit red meat and opt for fish and lean protein sources like poultry or legumes.

Switch to whole-grain bread, pasta, and cereal that provides much-needed fibre.

Reduce your intake of processed and packaged foods. Limit processed and packaged foods which often contain excess salt, sugar, and unhealthy fats.

Use herbs and spices instead of salt. Reduce your salt intake by using herbs and spices to add flavour to your meals.

Our meals are more than just about sustenance. It can be a time to socialise with family and friends, reduce stress levels, and ensure your food is enjoyed with mindful-

In conclusion, following these guidelines, you can make the Mediterranean diet a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle change that can enhance your quality of life and lower your risk for heart disease.



Alex Carey on the Ashes: 'We'll do it differently, we've had some serious success'

Australia's wicketkeeper says the team won't be lulled into trying to match England shot for shot

ENGLAND: Stuart Broad would like nothing more than to have Steven Smith caught at mid-off, but Alex Carey does not believe that Australia will be drawn into trying match England's aggressive style when the Ashes commences next

Broad's recent comments kicked-up the traditional pre-Ashes chat a few levels and will be followed this week by Smith beginning his short stint with Sussex. Meanwhile, Ben Stokes has called for "flat, fast" pitches to aid England's scoring rate while there was a report that the boundaries could also be

There are still six weeks to go before the opening match at Edgbaston and before then Australia have the small matter of trying to topple India in the World Test Championship final, but Bazball will continue to dominate the lead-up.

"We've heard some stuff in the media what the wickets might be like, the boundaries etc, [and] the way [England] are playing at the moment it is eyecatching," Carey told SEN radio. "I'd like to think we aren't surprised now [with] the way they'll come out and play.

"The tactical stuff will start

to take place over the next couple of weeks but I don't see us falling into our batters going out and trying to score the same rate. We'll do it differently, we've had some serious success in the last 18-24 months playing the style we want to play in different conditions and lucky enough to be rewarded with a spot in the World Test Championship [final]. So we are excited to come over to their backyard and take on a team that's playing some really eye-catching cricket. As a player it's going to be hot contest and I'm smiling just think-

ing about that first Test." Carey is one of ten members



of the Ashes squad who are currently in Australia with the others spread across the IPL and county cricket. Training will ramp up this month for those at home with a camp in Brisbane before they depart for the UK in late May, leaving around 10 days to prepare for the WTC final at The Oval on June 7.

"We'll all come together before that World Test Championship and have our focus solely on that game but with an eye to the first [Ashes] Test match," Carey said.

On a personal level, the tour will be Carey's first experience of Test cricket in England having taken the Australia role at short notice ahead of the 2021-22 Ashes although he was very impressive during the 2019 ODI World Cup and scored his first one-day hundred there in 2020. He has a small amount of firstclass experience in the country having played one match for Sussex in 2019 where he made 56 and 69 not out then was drafted into the Ashes squad to keep wicket in a tour match against Derbyshire.

Carey, who scored a maiden Test century against South Africa at the MCG last season, is confident of being able to adjust his game to conditions as required but admitted that the wicketkeeping could provide some challenges with the 'wobble' that can often happen to the red Dukes ball when it passes the batter.

It's hard to train [for] the wobble that we as keepers know comes down and we make it look a bit silly at times if we don't get a hand on it," he said.

Johnson Charles joins Kolkata Knight Riders as Litton Das replacement

KOLKATA: Two-time T20 World Cup champion Johnson Charles has joined Kolkata Knight Riders for the remainder of IPL 2023 as a replacement player for Litton Das.

Charles, a member of the West Indies team that was crowned champions in 2012 and 2016, brings with him extensive experience at the top of the batting order. He has opened in 179 of his 219 T20 innings, averaging 25.47 and striking at 125.72. He is, however, only just reacquainting himself with international cricket.

Charles spent six years out of the West Indies set up, returning in October 2022 and playing seven T20Is since. He made a 39-ball century against South Africa in March. This will be the 34 year-old's first stint in the IPL, having previously been part of franchise leagues in the Caribbean, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

Litton had left the Knight Riders camp earlier this month to attend to a medical emergency in his family. He played only one game in IPL 2023 having been bought for INR 50 lakh (approx USD 60,000) at the auction in December last year. Litton had also been called up to play for Bangladesh in an ODI series against Ireland starting next week. He would have missed three of the Knight Riders' four remaining matches as they continue to fight for a place in the playoffs. KKR have been struggling for stability



at the top this season, having gone through six opening combinations in nine games. Their first wicket partnership averages 21.33 - only Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals fare worse - and has crossed fifty just once.

Charles, brought in for INR 50 lakh (approx USD 60,000), does have some experience batting in the middle order as well. He's hit two of his three T20 centuries from Nos. 3 and 4, which may come in handy given KKR have two other players

who present an attractive package as opening batters.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz was in top form in their last game - a loss to Gujarat Titans - and Jason Roy showcased excellent skill, especially against spin, in two of his three innings so far. If these two keep their spots, Charles may not get a lot of game time considering Andre Russell and Sunil Narine walk into the XI every time they're fit. IPL teams can only pick four overseas players for each game.









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