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Djokovic must abstain from political messages at French Open, says French... **World No Tobacco Day:** Tobacco smoking in public places on decline in J&K

LG interacts with citizens to address grievances and to ensure time-bound delivery of key public services

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with citizens during the "LG's Mulaqaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing", at the Civil Secretariat, today.

The Lt Governor addressed the grievances filed on JKIGRAMS and directed the Senior officers and DCs to ensure time-bound delivery of key public services such as health, education & social

"Administrative machinery in J&K has been made more responsive and efficient in meeting the needs of the masses. Number of grievances registered on JKIGRAMS and the overwhelming percentage of redressal is a sign of responsive administration," said the Lt Gover-

The Lt Governor directed the District



Administration to ensure early disposal of grievances, non-discretionary approach towards decision-making and to build a competitive governance mod-

el at local level. Districts must adopt collaborative approach across levels of governance for both grievance redressal and public service delivery, he added.

He impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to monitor and improve

Rains continue, more forecast as temp dips in J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Rains continued to lash Jammu and Kashmir and barring Pahalgam and Kupwara, night temperature recorded below normal on Wednesday.



The meteorological department here has also forecast widespread intermittent light to moderate rain, thunder and lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at

NEWS BRIEF

J&K gets approval for 12 more DNB seats

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: As a significant step towards strengthening public healthcare scenario in J&K, 12 more seats have been sanctioned by National Board of Examinations in Medical Science (NBEMS) under DNB for the public institutions of J&K. These seats shall be in addition to the earlier granted 270 DNB seats.

As per detailed breakup, Srinagar Hospital received approval for 2 seats in Orthopedics; GMC Rajouri for 2 seats in Paediatrics; DH Poonch for 2 seats in Surgery, DH Reasi 2 seats in General Medicine and Department of Anesthesiology GMC Baramulla given accreditation for starting DNB

DAK seeks blanket ban on tobacco products in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday sought a blanket ban on all tobacco products in Kashmir.

On world no tobacco day, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said "ban on tobacco products would prevent cancer that has reached to epidemic proportions in the valley",

Dr Hassan said according to union health ministry figures, Jammu and Kashmir has reported an estimated 51,577 cancer cases in the last four years with lung cancer most
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NIA Raids 3 Locations In Kashmir

NEW DELHI, MAY 31; The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said that continuing its cracked down on the newly floated militant outfits in Jammu and Kashmir, they seized incriminating literature and several digital devices.

In a handout to GNS, the NIA said that the searches were conducted at three locations in the Kashmir valley, in the residential premises of sympathizers/cadres, hybrid militants and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) linked with the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of several proscribed Pakistan-backed militant outfits, such as Laskhar-e-Toiba(LeT), Jaish-e-Moham-

med (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Centre Puts J&K Ahead of All UTs in Providing Housing for All

LG Expresses Gratitude to Hon'ble PM & Union MoRD

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: The Union Ministry of Rural Development has allotted additional 1,99,550 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna-Gramin (PMAY-G) to UT of Jammu Kashmir to saturate the AwaasPlus permanent Waiting List during the year 2023-24. The newly targeted houses shall be sanctioned by the Rural Development

The massive allocation for J&K, under flagship scheme, is also

the highest across all UTs in India. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh for giving top priority to the Union

Department by 30 June, 2023. Territory of J&K and fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of families.

In a tweet, the Lt Governor said: "Extremely grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri@narendramodi Ji & Union Minister @MoRD_ GoI, Hon'ble Shri@girirajsinghbjp Ji for allotting PMAY(G) target of additional 1,99,550 houses in favour of I&K UT, which will

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

India, China review situation along LAC, discuss proposals for disengagement

NEW DELHI, MAY 31: India and China held the 27th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border affairs (WMCC) today in person in New Delhi, during which they reviewed the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector and discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining areas in a frank and open manner.

Joint Secretary (East Asia) from MEA Shilpak Ambule led the Indian Delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by the DG of Boundary and Oceanic



Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in Western Sector of India-China border areas and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Man Sentenced To 10 Years In **Jail For Raping Minor Girl**

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: A court here on Wednesday awarded ten years rigorous imprisonment to a 42-yearold man convicted of raping a minor girl here in 2012.

The Court of 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar, Renu Dogra Gupta, also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 to the convict, Irshad Ahmad Malik of Kokernag Anantnag at present Anchar Soura, for the commission of the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

World no tobacco day

32 percent men, one percent women consume tobacco in J&K: NHFS-5 data

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Around 32 percent men and one percent women consume tobacco in Jammu and Kashmir with cigarettes being the main tobacco product, NHFS-5 data revealed.

Official data available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) showed that only 1 percent of women in TURN ON.....PAGE 02

3 terrorist nabbed after brief gunfight near LoC

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 31: After a brief exchange of fire, Army has arrested three terrorists along with a huge consignment of arms and narcotics, an Afghan- made cookers fitted with 10 Kg of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu

A defence spokesman told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the terrorists were arrested TURN ON.....PAGE 02

congratulations

To Muhammad Yousuf Mir Sahib For The Job Well Done...



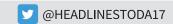


Retirement from Active Service is not an End, But a Fresh Beginning of a New Inning of Your life When you have Enough Freedom and Time to Play it at the Comfort of Your Home.

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Team HT Welcomes you back home and wishes you a Healthy Post **Retirement Life Ahead...**

> ... Jahangir Bukhari **Editor in Chief (Daily Headlines Today)**





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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG interacts.....

enhance collaboration among different stakeholders for better citizen-centric governance.

The Lt Governor further emphasized on making effective use of technological interventions in ensuring quality grievance disposal and promptness in public service delivery.

"e-Governance and rapid technological advancement has helped with new and innovative grievance redressal mechanism and service delivery monitoring tools for the benefits of welfare measures to seamlessly reach the last man in the queue," said the Lt

The Lt Governor also reiterated the UT Government's commitment to empowering the citizens and making the administrative setup more accountable and responsive towards the needs and concerns of the

"Active participation of all sections of society in socio-economic development and commitment towards the people's wellbeing is top priority of the administration," he added.

Taking appraisal of the grievance regarding non-sanctioning of relief to the family in death case of a Labour card holder namely late Neelam Rani from Kathua, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officer to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Responding to the complaint regarding illegal mining in nallah Romshi, Karimabad, Pulwama, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioner for stringent actions as per the law to ensure there is no illegal

Addressing the issue of encroachment on the land belonging to a School in Mendhar, the Lt Governor passed explicit directions to the concerned Deputy Commissioner to remove the encroachment from the said premises.

Ms Rehana Batul, Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, ACS, Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, DCs, SSPs, HoDs, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

Rains continue.....

few places till Friday.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Srinagar received 16.2mm of rain, Qazigund 7.6mm, Pahalgam traces, Kupwara 0.4mm, Kupwara 10.6mm, Gulmarg 8.8mm, Jammu 1.3mm, Banihal 11.8mm, Botote 33.6mm, Katra 4.8mm and Bhaderwah 13.4mm.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.6°C against 11.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.9°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 10.2°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.9°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 7.8°C against 8.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 11.2°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 9.1°C against 8.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.0°C against 4.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 2.6°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 18.0°C against 20.6°C on the previous night and it was 7.5°C below normal for I&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 10.5°C (below normal by 2.2°C), Batote 11.7°C (2.2°C below normal), Katra 16.1°C (5.7°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 10.8°C (below normal by 0.8°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 4.8°C, he said.

Centre Puts.....

be a momentous step towards achieving the objective of Housing for All".

The Lt Governor further said that the UT government is committed to fulfill the promises for the welfare of the underprivileged and the dreams of poor families to have their own houses. "The massive allocation under PMAY (G) will ensure rapid development of rural J&K," the Lt Governor said.

Overall scheme covers 3.85 lakhs (both SECC & AwassPlus beneficiaries in the UT. Since the inception of the programme and in alignment to the objective of the programme, i.e 'Housing for All', Union Territory government has sanctioned 1.98 lakh houses under SECC and Awaas+ categories and has completed 1.34 lakh houses till date.

India, China.....

discussed proposals for disengagement in remaining areas in a frank and open manner. "Restoration of peace and tranquillity will create conditions for normalising bilateral

relations," a statement said.

In order to achieve this objective, in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols, they agreed to hold the next (19th) round of Senior Commander's meeting at an early date.

The two sides agreed to continue discussions through military and diplomatic channels, it added.

India and China had held the 18th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side on April 23 this year.

The two countries have been locked in a border row for almost three years along the Line of Actual Control.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during his talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu during the latter's visit to India for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in New Delhi on April 27-28, had categorically conveyed that development of relations between India and China is premised on the prevalence of peace and tranquillity at the borders.

In early March External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang that the state of the bilateral relations was "abnormal" and beset by "real problems that need to be looked at", especially the issue of peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Man Sentenced.....

offence under section 376 RPC.

"In case of default in payment of fine, the accused shall further undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 6 months," the court said as per the verdict, a copy of which is with GNS, and ordered him to be lodged in Central Jail Srinagar to serve the sentence. However, the court said, the custody undergone by the convict during investigation, inquiry and trial of the case, shall be set off against the sentence of imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, police received a complaint from the father of the victim that he took his daughter for check up after she complained of abdominal pain and upon tests by the doctors, she was declared to be having child in her womb.

The complainant said that upon enquiry by him and his wife, the minor disclosed that the person who resides in their neighborhood as tenant, Irshad Ahmad Malik, raped her several times.

Subsequently, a case (FIR No 33/2012) under Section 376 RPC was registered in police Station Soura and the investigation culminated into the filing of the chargesheet under Section 376 RPC on 23 June 2012. Subsequently the trial ensued and culminated in conviction of the accused.

"It is established that accused at the time of committing heinous crime of rape with a minor girl who was studying in 4th class, was major married person living with his wife at rented room in neighbourhood of victim who used to go there for playing with younger brother of the accused who was also putting up with them there," the court had said after hearing the counsel for accused and additional Public Prosecutor Farooq Ahmad Malik. "The accused had gagged her mouth and committed heinous and barbaric crime of rape with her there and also threaten not to disclose the same to anyone," the court had said while convicting him for the offence under 376 RPC (rape).

32 percent.....

the age 15-49 group use some form of tobacco.

"Tobacco products mostly used by men are cigarettes (27%), bidis (4%), hookah and cigars or pipe (2% each). Among women and men, the use of any form of tobacco is slightly higher in rural areas (1.4% for women and 35% for men) than in urban areas (0.7% for women and 24% for men)," the data adds. "Over one-third (35%) of men who smoke cigarettes smoked 5 to 9 cigarettes in the past 24 hours."

The data stated that around 0.2 percent women in urban areas and 0.5 in rural areas use cigarettes while 21.1 men in urban areas and 28.7 percent in rural areas smoke cigarettes.

"0.1 percent women and 4 percent men in J&K are smoking bidis besides that 0.1 percent women and 2.2 percent men are smoking cigars or pipe in J&K while 0.7 women and 2.4 percent women are hookah smokers," it reads.

"Around 27 percent cigarette smokers use 5 or below cigarettes per day, 34.7 use 5-9 cigarettes, 29.9 percent use 10-14 cigarettes in 24 hours, 6 percent use 15-24 cigarettes, while 0.3 percent use 25 or above cigarettes in 24 hours.

Meanwhile, a survey conducted by Department of Community Medicine Government Medical College Srinagar revealed that around 23 percent of school going adolescents are smokers in Srinagar.

As per the survey, the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adolescent boys was found to be 29% ever smokers, and 23% current smokers.

"In addition, more than half (60.8%) of adolescents were exposed to tobacco smoke from others in public places. In the multivariate analysis parent smoking, peer smoking, exposure to movie with actors smoking, not

being exposed to anti-smoking media messages, not discussing in the class about danger of smoking, were significantly associated with current cigarette smoking among adolescents," the survey reads, "The prevalence rate is increasing in its spread, exposure to environmental tobacco exposure is widespread. Moreover adolescents should be enriched with knowledge on the dangers of tobacco use.'

The survey said that among the surveyed schools, 29% adolescents were those who smoked at least one puff. An estimated 23% of the adolescents were current smokers, it added.

"Among the respondents 181 (15.1 %) of them usually smoked 2-5 cigarettes on the days they smoked, and the majority (14.8%) of them buy their cigarettes often from shop. Moreover, 16.1% of the respondents who are smoking currently spend more than 1000 rupees for cigarettes in the last month preceding the survey," the survey reads.

"Overall, 235 (19.6%) of adolescents think that boys who smoke cigarettes have more friends. Likewise, 376 (31,4%) of adolescents think that boys who smoke are more

Almost all of the surveyed adolescents (94.6%) showed they definitely think that cigarette smoking is harmful to health. Only 18.6% of the surveyed school adolescents indicated that they discussed the harmful effects of smoking with a family member or with friends. Majority of adolescents (82.8%) indicated that once someone starts smoking it is difficult to quit. Parents of adolescents were smokers in 85.1% of current smokers. Similarly almost all of the adolescents smoking currently have smoker closest friends."

The official said that the majority of adolescents (84.6%) think that smoke from others is harmful to them. Moreover almost all the adolescents (95.7%) indicated that smoking should be banned from public places.

"Among those currently smoking, 172/276 (62.3%) of adolescents want to stop smoking cigarettes at the time of the survey. However, only 56/276 (20.2 %) of them tried to stop smoking cigarettes during the past year.'

"Moreover among half of the currently smoking adolescents indicated that they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to do and only half of them received help or advice that encourage them to quit smoking from ever smokers around 40% of the adolescents had quit smoking cigarette in the last year, and they have mentioned reasons for quitting."

3 terrorist.....

after an exchange of fire near the border fence when they were noticed very close to the Line of Control. An Army personnel and one of the terrorists were injured in the

"In a joint operation by Army along with police, three-four terrorists were intercepted on LoC in Poonch sector while attempting to cross the fence on the night of May 30 and 31, taking advantage of bad weather and heavy rain," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col

Devender Anand said in a statement. After tracking the movement at about 1.30 am, the spokesperson said an Army ambush, on challenging them, was fired upon and in the retaliatory firefight some terrorists have been hit.

"The area is cordoned and a search operation is in progress. Blood trails have been found. Three terrorists with some weapons, war-like stores including one IED and narcotics have been apprehended. One Indian Army soldier was injured in the ensuing firing and has been evacuated," Lt Col Anand said.

The injured terrorist has been shifted to a civil hospital under police custody. Sources said that for the first time Afghanistan made a pressure cooker IED recovered by troops from terrorists. Script in Urdu language with Peer Baba Manufacturer, Afghan has been written on the pressure cooker. The strain cooker is loaded with 10 kg of RDX.

The recovered utensil has been offered on the Amazon on-line buying website beneath the identity of Baba Strain Cooker. The Baba stress cooker is a specifically formed container made in Afghanistan that's used to prepare dinner giant quantities of meals. Considering the capability of this kitchen, the terrorists positioned about 10 kg of explosive materials in it in order that their plan to trigger nice harm in India would succeed.

Sources added that during the questioning the terrorists revealed that they planned to plant an IED loaded cooker at Poonch's Gulpur Bridge to target army convoys.

Officials said the incident took place at forward Karmara village in Gulpur sector after troops guarding the border picked up suspicious movement and challenged the persons which led to a gunfight.

The officials identified the arrested accused as Mohd Farooq (26), who received a bullet injury in his leg, Mohd Riaz (23) and Mohd Zubair (22), all residents of Karmara.

They are believed to have received the arms and narcotics consignment from across the border and were trying to smuggle it into this side when they were intercepted by the troops, the officials said. The seizure made

from the arrested persons included an AK assault rifle, two pistols, six grenades, a 10-kg IED which was planted inside a pressure cooker and 20 packets of suspected heroin.

Later, IED was later neutralised by the experts of the bomb disposal squad, the officials said. The search operation in the area was on, the officials said

J&K gets....

courses with intake of 4 PGs, 2 primary DNB and 2 Secondary DNB seats per year.

Secretary Health & Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, congratulated the entire health and medical education department for this achievement. He expressed happiness over the fact that even far-flung facilities like DH Poonch and DH Reasi have been able to start Post Graduate Courses in these hospitals.

Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, NHM J&K, while giving details about the development, said that implementation of DNB courses at the district level in J&K has been termed as a best practice in the Country. Under DNB programme in the UT, a total of 270 seats were granted to the accredited departments during session 2022 and start of 2023 consequent to the concerted efforts and hard work of the administrative department H&ME J&K, NHM J&K and the team of health institutions being monitored by Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department.

All the efforts are being made to scale up the DNB courses in all the District Hospitals and potential CHCs of J&K. During upcoming session, J&K is planning to submit more than 30 application in all District Hospitals", she added.

Earlier in the month of March, 20 seats were approved in the UT of J&K in which Government Medical College Srinagar received approval for 2 seats in FNB Paediatric Anesthesia. JLNM Hospital, Srinagar received 3 Post MBBS DNB seats in General Surgery, DH Udhampur received a sanction of 5 seats under Pediatrics, General Medicine and Orthopedics. DH Poonch received 2 seats in General Medicine. DH Ganderbal got a sanction of 2 seats each in DNB General Medicine & Diploma Pediatrics. DH Kulgam received 2 seats in Family Medicine and CHC Kupwara got 2 seats in Diploma Pediatrics.

Pertinent to mention that the DNB (Diplomate of National Board) courses have been introduced in the District Hospitals and new Government Medical Colleges besides old GMCs and SKIMS in order to strengthen the institutions, decongest the Govt. Medical Colleges and to address the shortage of specialists in the UT of J&K.

Implementation of DNB courses has led to an equitable distribution of health care services and manpower especially in far flung and hard to reach areas and beneficial to the population which have very meagre access to health care services in their areas, leading to low referrals from DNB institutions to Tertiary care institutions thereby further decreasing the Out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) of the patients.

DAK seeks.....

prominent due to high rates of

"Research has shown that smoking is linked to about 90 percent of lung cancer cases," he said adding that after lung cancer, foodpipe, stomach and colon are the other types of cancer that have been found to have high prevalence in Kashmir and smoking is a big

The DAK President said not only does smoking cause cancer, but it also increases the risk of dying from heart attack and stroke, the two leading causes of death and disability in the

"Smoking is a gateway for drug abuse which has reached unprecedented levels in Kashmir," he added.

Dr Nisar said JK is emerging as the smoking capital of North India as JK's cigarette consumption is almost double the nationwide prevalence.

According to the Global Tobacco Survey, 20.8 percent of JK people smoke, against the national average of 10.7

"The prime reason for increased use of tobacco in Kashmir is its availability," he said adding that "cigarettes and other tobacco products are freely available in Kashmir and can be purchased by anyone, whatever the age."

NIA Raids.....

(HM), AI-Badr, AI-Qaeda, etc. According to spokesman, the day-long raids and searches were conducted at locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts, as part of the ongoing NIA investigations into the activities of the recently formed militant groups, including The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwatul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers

A total of 51 locations have been searched in recent days in connection with the militancy conspiracy case (RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU), which was registered suo moto by NIA on 21st June 2022. The case relates to hatching of a conspiracy, both physical and in cyber space, and plans by the proscribed militant organisations to unleash violent militant attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms etc. The plans are part of a larger conspiracy to carry out acts of militant and violence, by radicalising local youth and mobilising overground workers, to disturb the peace and communal harmony of J&K, he said.

Cadres and workers of the newly formed organisations have been found to be involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunition, etc. They are spreading activities relating to militancy, violence and subversion in J&K, as per NIA investigations, he said.

Investigations have further revealed that Pak-based operatives are using drones to deliver arms/ammunitions, explosives, narcotics etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley. These operatives are using the social media to connect with the cadres and workers in India, reads the statement.



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WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY: TOBACCO SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES ON DECLINE IN J&K, SAYS SECRETARY H&ME

Leading personalities being roped in to help in campaign to educate people about ill effects of tobacco

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Tobacco smoking at Public places in Jammu and Kashmir is on decline even as leading personalities of J&K are being roped in to help in campaigns to educate people about ill effects of tobacco smoking, Secretary Health and Medical Education Bhupinder Kumar said on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters at the side-lines of an event regarding "World No Tobacco Day" at Dental college Srinagar, Kumar said that this day is being observed to educate people about the ill effects of tobacco consumption and how to work jointly to decline the percentage of tobaccosmoking and smokeless consumption", he said.

"Every year this campaign is being run and laws are in place due to which tobacco smoking in open is on decline in J&K," he said, adding, "Tobacco continues to remain a risk factor for deadly diseases like cancer and there is need to work jointly to fight this menace".

"We have started a campaign in this regard and leading personalities like Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Dr Sushil Razdan, Parvaiz Rasool are being roped in as brand ambassadors to be part of campaign of educating people about ill effects of tobacco so as to decrease its percentage and keep young generation away from it so as to develop a



healthy society," he added. He said that due to government efforts smoking in public places and women folk is on decline in J&K.

"All arrangements are being made to provide better facilities to Yatris," Kumar said.

Around 3000 vaccines in the health department have been already being referred to concerned agencies and among them around 2000 have been filled and it is a continuous process and all vaccines will be filled," Health and Medical Education Secretary Said.

Doctors who spoke during the event said that smoking is a gateway of drug abuse as almost all drug abusers start from smoking and then he is lured for drugs easily.

They said that 50 percent families get affected by second hand smoking, that is smoke that comes from the burning of a tobacco product and smoke that is exhaled by smokers and more importantly third hand smoking is the main concern which means smoking is residual nicotine and other chemicals left on indoor surfaces by tobacco smoke.

"People are exposed to these chemicals by touching contaminated surfaces or breathing in the off-gassing from these surfaces," they said, adding that "Cigarette contain around 4,000 chemicals which include 200 are hazardous and around 60 cause cancers and smoking is known for causing multi organ cancers."

They said that parents and teachers have to play a role in this regard to keep children away from smoking. "Taking of e-cigarettes is more hazardous and unregulated sale of imported cigarettes is there without labelling and branding with no hazardous symbols and signs," they said.

"Multi-pronged strategy is required to reduce cigarette consumption and its ill effects,' they added. Meanwhile, MD NHM Ayushi Sudan on the occasion appreciated the health department for taking such initiatives and she was impressed with the idea of naming brand ambassadors as according to her more and more people need to be involved to carry forward the message of ill effects of tobacco consump-

She said that the most important part of tobacco control is awareness and there is need to educate more and more people about its harmful effects and there is need to work in tandem to reduce the prevalence of tobacco consumption.

On the occasion Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Parvaiz Rasool who were present on the occasion and Dr Razdan in video message vowed to fight for tobacco control measures in I&K and hoped that their involvement will help in reduction in the number of tobacco users in J&K. They appealed people to quit smoking as tobacco is cause of many cancers

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of revenue department

GANDERBAL, MAY 31: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a meeting of Officials of the revenue department here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal to review their performance under various priority indicators.

Threadbare discussion was held regarding all revenue matters which includes Implementation of online services; Details of Revenue Court cases: Identification of land for Revenue Buildings; Attestation of pending Mutations, land acquisition cases.

The DC reviewed the disposal of online services under PSGA and stressed upon the officials that no application should be served out of timeline. He also directed that all the departmental land transfer cases should be disposed off within the shortest possible time, besides all



the land allotted cases should be taken with the concerned departments and ADC shall ensure close liaison with concerned HOD's.

While reviewing the pending payment regarding the land acquisition cases, the DC directed the concerned that the such cases should be disbursed in all rightful owner immediately.

The DC also reviewed the available infrastructure with the department and directed the concerned that no work should hamper due to lack of any basic infrastructure requirement.

While interacting with the officials the DC accorded a supportive hand to the department and directed all the Revenue Officers to remain available/ accessible to the public in office reiterating that public services and grievances redressal must be our foremost priority.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Mehrajud-Din Shah, ACR, SDM Kangan, all Tehsildars, and other concerned officials.

Work on duly sanctioned projects worth Rs. 4.5 crore started during follow up Block Diwas at Chararipora Pakherpora

BUDGAM, MAY 31: Work on duly sanctioned projects worth above Rs 4. 5 crores was started today in the follow up Block Diwas held by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo at Chararipora, Pakherpora of Charar-i-Sharief, Budgam.

The works include upgradation of 8 kms long Road length projects including Shuru Karpora-Shankerpora Road, Dalwan Shankerpora- Chraripora road, and Karpora-Qamrazipora Road projects. The road projects have been allotted at the cost of Rs 3.97 crores.

The DC also unveiled the work regarding the Additional Classroom complex at the High School.

He laid the foundation stone for construction of a playground at Pakherpora to facilitate better sports related arrangements for the local youth.

Similarly, work on the Chararipora-Kadipora WSS project was also started. The gravity scheme



shall have 10000 gallon Capacity SR and shall benefit as many as

100 households of the village. DuringthefollowupBlockDiwas, PRIs, elders and local youth delegations from villages Chraripora, Mehndipora, Shankerpora, Dalwan and other adjacent villages who participated, expressed their gratitude to the District Administration for taking note of their demands and addressing them within a month's

time period.

The DC said that all other genuine demands raised during last Block Diwas program have been taken up and discussed with all the concerned departments and speedy disposal will be ensured for those demands too.

He reiterated that the District Administration is committed to ensure robust development and better facility creation in all rural as well as urban areas of the dis-

The DC said that projects on which work has been started today after their completion shall ensure better education, connectivity and adequate potable water supply in the area and people would be benefited large-

He emphasised that work on all these projects be completed in a stipulated time frame.

He called for prompt redressal of public issues to ensure better service delivery to people.

Among others, ADDC Budgam, Dr. Akramullah Tak; SDM Chadoora, Executive Engineers of all wings, Tehsildar, BDO and all District and sectoral officers, officials were present on the occasion.

J&K to surrender 600 works of school education Department

'800 civil works completed in 2022-23'

& Kashmir government is surrendering more than 600 works approved under different schemes in the school education sector.

Documents in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) lay bare that government of J&K has proposed to surrender more than 600 civilworksapprovedbytheGovernment of India in 2018-19 and 2019-20, but couldn't be taken up for execution due toahostofreasons."J&KUTisalsoproposingto surrender more than 600 different types of not taken up works of 2018-19 & 2019-20 during current PAB amounting to Rs 67 crore," reads minutes of the meeting of project approval Board (PAB) forthe Jammu & Kashmirunder Samagra

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: The Jammu Shiksha scheme for the financial year

The meeting of the project approval board (PAB) for considering the annual work plan & budget (AWP&B) under Samagra Shiksha for Jammu & Kashmir was held on May 03, 2023 under the chairpersonship of secretary (School Education & Literacy), Union Ministry of Education.

In 2021, the Centre had asked the J & K government to submit a proposal for surrendering civil works which were approved under the SSA and RMSA schemes, but couldn't be taken up for execution till 2019-20.

In the PAB meeting held this year, the J&K government submitted that about 800 civil works including girls hostels, KGBVs, school buildings have been completed in 2022-23 and construction of about 3300 works are at different stages and shall be completed in the next six months.

"2538 works have been completed out of sanctioned works. The expenditure under the civil work component for the current year remained Rs160 crore (including spill-over works), which is quite high as compared to previous years, "a record

note of the PAB meeting reveals. The Samagra Shiksha scheme was unveiled by the Centre after subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) schemes

Rare vascular tumor surgery performed at GMC Anantnag

ANANTNAG, MAY 31: A very rare vascular tumor surgery involving the region deep inside the nose and arising from skull base was operated at Government Medical College Anantnag.

A doctor who was part of the surgery team told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that a 12-year-old boy was operated on for about five hours without causing any complications.

"Operating this kind of tumor is a big leap in the achievements and evolution of ENT Department of GMC Anantnag," he said, adding that the surgery took 4 to 5 hours and the procedure was done without any complications.

This tumor is also known as Juvenile Nasopharyngeal Angiofibroma (JNA).

"This particular case was operated by a combined endoscopic and lateral Rhinotomy approaches," he

Notably, vascular tumor also known as Juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma (JNA) is a rare benign tumor arising predominantly in the nasopharynx of adolescent males.

It is an aggressive neoplasm and shows a propensity for destructive local spread often extending to the base of the skull and into the cranium.

Clinically, however, it is obscure with painless, progressive unilateral nasal obstruction being the common presenting symptom with or without epistaxis and rhinorrhea.

The LENT Surgical team was headed by Prof(Dr) Sajad Majid Qazi besides Dr Salman Khursheed (Consultant), Dr Amir Yousuf(Assos Prof) and Dr Ehsan (Registrar). The Anaesthesia team was headed by Prof (Dr) Imtiyaz Naqash besides Dr Zaffar Malik (Ass Prof) Dr Omer (Registrar) and Dr Mehraj. The patient is doing well in the postoperative

Principal GMC and Medical Superintendent congratulated the whole team for performing this challenging procedure.

In 3 months, students suffer loss of 71 school hours in Sgr due to

curtailment in timing

WE ARE ASSESSING ITS **IMPACT: ALOK KUMAR**

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: In the past three months, students in J&K's summer capital district, Srinagar, have suffered loss of 71 school hours due to curtailment in school

Following the reopening of schools after winter vacations in February, the School Education Department announced school timing across Kashmir division from March-01 wherein it has shortened one hour for those

institutions falling within the municipality limits of Srinagar.

According to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), from March 01 to May 31, the School timing within the limits of Srinagar Municipal Corporation was 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, a departure from normal school timing in the city. The normal school timing in the city is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The shortening of school timing meant a loss of one hour daily for

thousands of children studying in private as well as government institutions in the city.

There were a total 71 working days from March 01 to May 31. This means students in Srinagar suffered an academic loss of 71 hours due to revision of school timing on Feb 28. Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Alok Kumar told KNO that the department would look into the matter.

"We are assessing it," he said

CMYK

HT - KASHMIR

13TH HEADLINES

@HEADLINESTODA17

Redresses scores of issues of immediate nature

DC presides over Mega Block Diwas at Kulgam

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 31: As part of public outreach programme and in order to take first hand appraisal of the issues of general people at their door steps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a grievances redressal camp at Kulgam and listened various issues and demands of people meant for the overall welfare and development of the area.

The programme witnessed participation of PRIs and people from Akhal, Laisoo, Nandimarg, Sonigam, K.B.Pora and other adjoining areas.

During the grievance redressal camp, various public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues before the Deputy Commissioner and sought timely resolution of



their grievances and demands.

After giving a patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC assured them that all their issues and demands shall be taken with the concerned authorities for their timely redressal and some of the issues and grievances of immediate nature were resolved on spot by the DC.

Officers from various departments who were present in the grievance redressal camp also responded to the grievances and issues of people raised during the block diwas function.

Among others, the Public Grievance redressal camp was attended by ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; GM DIC Bashir Ahmad, CEO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers besides other district and sectoral officers from various departments.

Similarly, grievances redressal camps were also organised at Manzgam and Devsar blocks where officers listened to the issues and grievances of people for timely redressal. Officers from various departments who were present in the grievance redressal camp also responded to the grievances and issues of people raised during the block diwas function.

Among others, the Public Grievance redressal camp was attended by ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; GM DIC Bashir Ahmad, CEO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers.

District Administration conducts Block Diwas at Gagren, Shopian

ADC listens to developmental, welfare issues & grievances, demands of people

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 31: In order to listen to developmental and welfare issues, and redress the grievances of people at their doorsteps, the District Administration Shopian today held a weekly Block Diwas programme at Gagren, Shopian.The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Yar Ali Khan presided over the outreach programme.The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of people from various spheres of life belonging to areas including Devpora, Saidpora, Reshinagri, etc.During the programme, various issues of developmental and welfare nature were put forth by PRI members, public representatives and people for Issues of public impor-

Officers present on the spot also responded to

tance including renovation various queries and issues of water bodies, macadamiraised by the people.

@headlinestodaynews

While interacting with sation/ construction of roads, better provision of the people, the ADC sought electricity and water supply feedback from people on and various other issues various issues especially were put across by people sanction of Animal/Sheep husbandry units and provi-ADC gave a patient hearsion of farm machinery/ ing to demands raised by equipment from agriculpeople and directed the ture/ horticulture.

concerned officers to He also sought feedback ensure prompt and speedy from people on the functioning of AWCs, pension redressal of issues and schemes and other welfare and agro-based, employment generation schemes.

Various officers on the occasion sensitised people on benefits, eligibility criteria of different schemes available with them and asked people to avail benefits under different schemes especially pension, Insurance schemes and employment generation schemes including beekeeping, mushroom, dairying, sheep, employment department schemes etc.

The ADC sought replies from officers and representatives of the line department on queries and grievances flagged off by the people and assured people that all the demands shall be taken up as per norms.

Among others, the programme was attended by district officers including CHO, CAHO, DIO, DSWO, BDO and representatives of line departments.

PHDCCI delegation calls on Lt Governor

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: A delegation of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The delegation, comprising of Sh Alok B. Shriram, former President PHDCCI; Col Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General & CEO PHDCCI; Sh A.P. Vicky Shaw, Chair PHDCCI-Kashmir and Sh Iqbal Fayaz Jan, Deputy Director PHDCCI J&K, apprised the Lt Governor on a range of issues relating to industry, trade, commerce and MSMEs in the region and lauded the Lt Governor-led UT Government for successful conduct of G20 Meeting in Srinagar.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegation assured them that all their issues and demands would be addressed on merit.

JKTPO organized ONDC onboarding drive in **Srinagar**

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and under the supervision of Managing Director JKTPO today organized a successful onboarding drive on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network at JKEDI, Pampore. This initiative, in collaboration with ONDC Seller Partner MyStore, aims to facilitate the onboarding of local sellers, artisans, retailers, small merchants, and traders onto the ONDC platform to gain access to a vast digital marketplace.

More than 75 local entrepreneurs participated in the drive and 30 were registered on-spot from various sectors viz Handloom & Handicrafts, Agro and Food, manufacturing sector, etc.JKTPO is continuously organising such activities including onboarding on e-commerce platforms to enable local entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products across world. The onboarding drive is a significant milestone in the continued efforts of JKTPO and ONDC to foster economic growth and promote digital commerce in Jammu and Kashmir. It builds upon the success of the ONDC awareness workshops that have been conducted since September 2022 in both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. These workshops have helped create awareness about the benefits of leveraging the the power of democratisation of e-commerce through ONDC and expand their reach beyond traditional boundaries. Managing Director, JKTPO expressed his optimism about the initiative "We have collaborated with ONDC to empower local entrepreneurs by providing them the platform to thrive in the digital era and unlocking their full potential.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed general public that I am permanent resident of jammu and kashmir and my date of birth (DOB) is 05/09/1979....Now I am applying for date of birth (DOB) certificate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with (BDO) office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...NAZIR AHMAD LONE S/O .. ABDUL AZIZ LONE R/O ...KACHWAMUQAM Block....WAGOORA Distt...BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contract card from Block office wagoora . if anybody having any objection in this regard He / She may contact with (BDO) office WAGOORA within aperiod of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT S/o:ABDUL REHMAN BHAT R/o-...KALANTARA PAYEEN BLOCK..... WAGOORA TehsilWAGOORA Distt ...BARAMULLA

JK Horticulture Planning & Marketing organizes day long meet on CA Storage Logistics

for resolution.

demands of people.

'Holistic measures to be taken to establish CA Storage capacity commensurate with production'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Planning and Marketing department today organized a one day meet on CA Storage Logistics here at SKICC.

The meet was attended by all stakeholders from government departments. banks and financial institutions, industry representative bodies, fruit associa-

tions and potential investors in this sector from within and outside J&K.

The aim of the day long event was to strengthen coordination among all stakeholders and efficiently move forward in bridging gap in the infrastructural requirements for CA storage in J&K.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Shabnam Kamili, who was also chief guest on the occasion, said that the government is keen to promote



private investments in setting up logistics facilities by providing incentives and simplifying the regulatory environment.

the development of highclass logistics infrastructure in J&K and create new business opportunities and in the long run enable the farmer to reap maximum

benefits out of his produce. She informed that the Meet was organized to bring all stakeholders at one platform and to devise a roadmap which shall result in expeditious, hassle-free and conducive environment for establishing the CA storage logistics at suitable locations in the entire J&K.

Vikas Sharma, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, informed that J&K is the leading producer of apples in the country with large varietal spectrum and harvest ranging from July till November, besides having a unique position in the global mar-

"To ensure availability of quality apples throughout the year and provide best returns to producers, we endeavour to augment our CA storage capacity in a big way", he maintained.

He further shared that, currently, we have around two lakh MT of installed CA storage capacity in J&K and to meet the requirements.

DLSA Budgam observed Anti Tobacco Day at Govt. Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College Budgam

■ Reyaz Badana

On the occasion of Anti-Tobacco Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with Government Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College Budgam, organised legal awareness event held on on May 31, 2023, at the Government Degree College Budgam campus aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and ignite a collective commitment towards building a healthier and tobacco-free society. The event brought together legal experts, faculty members, educators, and students to highlight the dangers of tobacco use.

Anti-Tobacco Day is an annual global initiative that highlights the dangers of tobacco use and encourages individuals and communities to lead tobaccofree lives. DLSA Budgam having mandate and commitment to promoting justice and public welfare, has partnered with Govern-

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Justice Tashi Rab-

stan, Judge of High Court of Jammu and

Kashmir and Ladakh, who is also the Admin-

istrative Judge for the district Srinagar,

visited the District Court Complex Moom-

inabad Srinagar and reviewed functioning

there.Justice Tashi Rabstan had a detailed

interaction with the Judicial officers post-

ed at Srinagar in the Conference Hall of

District Court Srinagar. Jawad Ahmad, Prin-

cipal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar,

apprised Justice Tashi Rabstan of working

of courts with relevant statistics and also

highlighted the various issues faced by the

Judicial officers.Justice Tashi Rabstan

addressed the Judges and took stock of



ment Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College Budgam, an esteemed educational institution, to emphasize the significance of this critical public health

Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Patron in Chief and the Executive Chairman's Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan JKLSA, the District Legal Services Authority Budgam has been at the forefront of empowering individuals with knowledge and resources

Justice Tashi Rabstan visits District

Court Complex Moominabad

to make informed decisions regarding their well-being.

Under the able guidance of its Chairman (PDJ) Budgam, Mr. Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, District Legal Services Authority has consistently championed the cause of "Justice for All". The awareness program commenced with an insightful address by resource persons of DLSA, Budgam faculty members of Government Degree College, Budgam and students, who emphasized on multifaceted aspects of tobacco con-

functioning of the courts. After giving a

patient hearing to the Judges, he assured

them of resolving the issues within a short

span of time. He sensitized the Judges about

their role in the society and urged upon

them to give their best to the society and

at the same time uphold the dignity and

honour of the institution. He emphasised

upon the need of speedy disposal of cases

with focus on and old cases. He also engaged

in discussions with the judicial officers to

understand their challenges.

DLSA Ganderbal observes Anti Tobacco Day; organizes series of Legal Awareness programmes

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 31: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal today observed 'Anti Tobacco Day' and organized series of Legal Awareness programmes regarding the NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace), Scheme 2015 at different locations in district. The programme was held under the supervision of Chairman

DLSA Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak. The programmes were conducted to spread awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and the legal services available to victims of drug abuse and the eradication of drug menace.The first programme was held at Government Boys High School, Sherpathri Ganderbal and was spearheaded by Advocate Hilal Ahmad Ganie, panel lawyer of DLSA Ganderbal.

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH (Office of the Registrar Recruitment at Srinagar)

e-mail: (non-gazettedsectionmainwing@gmail.corn)

NOTIFICATION

No. 972 of 2023/R R/NG dated 31-05-2023

It is for the information of all those candidates who have applied for the post of Lift Operator in the pay Level- 4 (25500-81100) in the High Court of Jarnrnu & Kashmir and adakh pursuant to Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2022/RG/NG dated 25-05-2022 that their written examination is scheduled tobe held as per the below mentioned

S. No.	Province	Date	Time	Venue
1	Jammu	17-06-2023	10:30 AM	High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu
2	Kashmir	17-06-2023	10:30 AM	High Court Complex, Srinagar

The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in

written examination only.

Instructions for the written examination:

I) The written examination shall start at 10:30 AM, however, the candidates shall report at the venue one hour before the scheduled time of the examination. II) The candidates shall bring all the original documents along with their self attested photocopies.

Ill) Test will be conducted of only those candidates whose documents are found valid. IV) For identification purpose, the candidates shall also produce either of the following

a) Aadhar Card

b) Election Card

c) Passport

V) No TA/DA shall be paid to the candidates.

VI) Mobile phone and other Electronic Gadgets are not allowed inside the Examination

VII) Mere appearance in the test shall not confer any right to seek appointment against the post.

VIII) The candidates belonging to Jammu ProvincQ who have applied for the said post

shall appear for the prescribed written examination on the scheduled date and time at the venue shown at Sr. No. 1 in the Notification i.e., High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu and tli candidates belonging to l(ashmir Province shall appear for the prescribed written examination on the scheduled date and time at the venue shown at Sr. No. 2 in the Notification i.e., High Court Complex, Srinagar.

DIPK-2566/23 Dated 31 May 23

By order. / (S. Satinder Singh) **Registrar Recruitmept**





Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri Listens to People's Issues at Fatehpur Gurrian

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 31: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, conducted a productive public grievance redressal camp at Fatehpur Gurrian of Rajouri block under the Weekly Block Diwas, today. The DC was accompanied by a team of officials from various departments to address the issues faced by the local residents.

13TH EADLINES

During the camp, the proactive involvement of the locals was evident as they raised several pertinent issues and demands, including the pressing need for macadamization of roads, urgent up-gradation of schools, resolution of staff shortage in government institutions,

care infrastructure, among oth-

The Deputy Commissioner displayed exceptional patience and attentiveness as he listened to the grievances put forth by the public and their representatives. He assured them that their concerns would be expeditiously taken up with the concerned departments, ensuring their prompt resolution.

Addressing the event, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, emphasized that the primary objective of such public outreach camps is to establish a strong connection with the public and ensure that their concerns are heard and resolved in a timely manner. He further reiterated the administration's



commitment to hold similar public grievance redressal camps in different areas of the

Notably, the Deputy Commissioner, in his address, highlighted various government schemes and programs, urging stakeholder departments to synergize their efforts for achieving 100 percent saturation of these initiatives. He emphasized the importance of effective delivery of government services, ensuring they reach the doorsteps of the general public.

water scarcity, the DC promptly directed the concerned officer from the Jal Shakti Department to implement effective measures to alleviate the sufferings of the public. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for maintaining a proper water supply schedule to avoid any inconvenience faced by the residents.

In response to the other issues and demands raised during the public outreach camp, the DC reiterated that the timely and quality disposal of public concerns remains the top priority of the district administration. He urged the officers to work with renewed vigor and dedication to alleviate the sufferings of the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner

unwavering commitment to providing all basic amenities to the public at their doorsteps. He emphasized the dedicated efforts being made to ensure the necessary infrastructure and services are provided promptly.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to collaborate in achieving the desired objectives under different government initiatives, thereby enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the district. He assured the public that the administration would continue its relentless pursuit of development, sparing no effort in providing necessary infrastructure and services.

Moreover, the DC issued onthe-spot directives to the con-

CS stresses on online issuance of 'Life Certificate' &

bringing eligible services under Auto-appeal till June 15

ing the priority and time-bound resolution of the issues highlighted by the public.

In conclusion, the public outreach camp at Fatehpur Gurrian, as part of the weekly Block Diwas program, provided an effective platform for the public to express their grievances and demands, while enabling government officials to attentively listen and take necessary actions to address them.

The people of Fatehpur Gurrian expressed their deep appreciation for the District Administration's proactive efforts in organising the public outreach camp and providing them with an invaluable platform to voice their concerns.

District Admin Doda moves 439 teachers to rationalize staff in **Govt Schools**

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 31: Setting in motion the process of rationalization of teaching staff, District Administration Doda has identified 439 teachers across the district, whose services can have more usage at some teacher scarce government Schools.

The teachers will be transferred to schools where they are fewer in number based on the public feedback received during Block Diwas and other public outreach programmes of the administration.

The teacher-pupil ratio and availability of subject specific teachers was worked out by the department before the rationalisation of the teaching staff to provide quality education in the government schools across the

A special Committee headed by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Pran Singh has put in extraordinary efforts to rationalise the staff as per the educational needs of the students in every Government School of the district.

It is pertinent to mention here that the administration has already made subject experts and best study material available on the ADHBUT Doda portal (Online Classes and Study material) for the convenience of the students. The administration is striving to make the educational standard of the students of this District at par with other parts of the country and make them able to compete and succeed in every field, said the DDC while briefing on the rationalisation process.

Sr Malaria Inspector accorded warm farewell at Doda

HT News Network

DODA, May 31: Chief Medical Officer's Office Doda today accorded a warm farewell to Sr Malaria Inspector, Om Parkash Shan on his retirement at a grand function. Chief Medical Officer, Dr A H Zargar besides staff of CMO, Dy CMO Office and Planning Section were present on the occasion.

The CMO hailed the retiring official as a dedicated, hardworking and reliable employee of the Health Department who always remained available at the beck and call of his seniors and colleagues for which he would be remembered for his utmost services.

The official was presented gifts as a token of respect for his tireless services in the department.

Shan thanked the staff of the Health Department for the warm farewell and assured to be available for every possible help to the department after his retirement. Chief Medical Officer, Dr AH Zargar besides staff of CMO, Dy CMO Office and Planning Section were present on the occasion. The CMO hailed the retiring official as a dedicated, hardworking and reliable employee of the Health Department who always remained available at the beck and call of his seniors and colleagues for which he would be remembered for his utmost services.

GDC Kishtwar organises awareness Seminar on "World **No Tobacco Day**"

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 31: An awareness seminar on "No Tobacco Day" was organized today in the Botany Department of Government Degree College Kishtwar on the direction of the College Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar.

As many as 60 students participated in the seminar to raise awareness about the harmful and deadly effect of tobacco on human health.

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day, as declared by WHO, is "We need Food, not Tobacco." The HoD of the Botany Department, Prof. Faisal Mushtaq also spoke about the ill effects and long-term consequences of this deadly product on health, society, environment and fam-

Several students from the second semester spoke in great detail on the topic. Prof. Sushil Kumar explained various symptoms caused by long-term use of tobacco on the body.

A question/answer ses-

sion was held at the end, during which the faculty provided detailed explanations to all the queries related to tobacco raised by the students. It was also pledged that everyone would strive hard to spread the message of the No Tobacco Campaign among the masses in general and other students in particular. The other staff members who participated in the event were Talat Samreen (Lab Assistant) and Daleep Kumar (Lab Bearer).The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day, as declared by WHO, is "We need Food,

■ HT News Network SRINAGAR, MAY 31:

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today stressed on making the issuance of 'Life Certificate' online and bringing all other eligible services under the Auto-appeal system by 15th of June.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while launching new online services of H&UDD pertaining to applying for obtaining license by Architects and Draftsmen in Municipal Corporations of Jammu/ Srinagar and all the Municipalities across J&K.

On the occasion Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary. IT, Commissioner, JMC; CEO, JaKeGA; Scientists from NIC besides other concerned



physically or virtually through video conferencing from Jammu.

The Chief Secretary lauded the efforts of the IT Department and local chapter of NIC for development of all these services inhouse with their own expertise and resources. He said that the performance of the Department is excellent with more to be done in the days ahead.

He advised the concerned to further expedite the auto appeal feature on the national platform of Serviceplus. He asked them to onboardatleast 100 services on this portal by next

next month. He also directed for all incorporating of all required improvement relating to the departmental websites by upgrading their content and utility besides making them compliant with the standards set under Nation-

week and all the eligible

services under the Auto-

appeal system by 15th of

al e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeS-DA). He asked them to improve their ratings by bringing all the services and portals at par with their guidelines so that our score reaches the optimum range of 1 within this time period.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, PrernaPuri informed the meeting that by launching these 6 services of H&UDD today the number of online services offered by the UT reached to 480 today. She apprised tgat all these services have been linked with payment and SMS gateways for ease of applicants.

She further added that soon more services would be made online as these have been identified for development and in coming weeks the number of such services is going to touch 500 mark here.

Sixth phase of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan concludes in Reasi

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 31: the sixth Phase of Kissan Sampark Abhiyan was successfully completed in 9 blocks of the Reasi district under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, K.K Sharma, Chairman HADP ADDC, Jyoti Slathia and under close monitoring of Harbans Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer (DNO HADP).

The resources persons of agriculture and allied sectors along with PRIs of concerned Panchayats participated in the farmers' orientation programs.

Training was imparted through audio visual aids at all the venues identified in 9 blocks of the District.

Farmers were also made aware about Daksh Kissan (online learning portal) and KISSAN SATHI (IT Dashboard) for digitization of various schemes and services.

Informative booklets in three languages regarding Schemes under HADP were also distributed among farmers. ADDC Reasi,



Director SBI RSETI, Visiting Officer, Sanchi Sharma, SMS SDL Kewal Krishan attended the training programme in Panchayat Kotli Manotrian-A where marigold and other seasonal vegetable seedlings were also distributed.

Chief Agriculture Officer along with Sub Division Agriculture Officer attended the programme in Panchayat Kothian in Pouni block. District Agriculture Officer Extension, Dharmari, ASCO Dharmari and SMS SDL attended the programme in Panchayat Thuroo-B.

On world no tobacco day, DAK seeks blanket ban on tobacco products in Kashmir

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 31: On world no tobacco day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday has sought blanket ban on all tobacco products in Kashmir.

"Ban on tobacco products would prevent cancer that has reached to epidemic proportions in the valley," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to union health ministry figures, Jammu and Kashmir has reported an estimated 51,577 cancer cases in last four years with lung cancer most prominent due to high rates of smoking.

"Research has shown that smoking is linked to about 90 percent of lung cancer cases," he said adding that after lung cancer, foodpipe, stomach and colon are the other types of cancer that have been found to have high prevalence in Kashmir and smoking is a big factor.

The DAK President said not only does smoking cause cancer, but it also increases the risk of dying from heart attack and



stroke, the two leading causes of death and disability in the valley.

"Smoking is a gateway for drug abuse which has reached to unprecedented lev-

els in Kashmir," he added. Dr Nisar said JK is emerging as the smoking capital of North India as JK's cigarette consumption is almost double the nation-

wide prevalence. According to Global Tobacco Survey 20.8 percent of JK people smoke, against the national average of 10.7 percent.

"The prime reason for increased use of tobacco in Kashmir is its availability," he said adding that "cigarettes and other tobacco products are freely available in Kashmir and can be purchased by anyone, whatever the age."

CBC's programmes act as communication channel between Government and Masses: President MC Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 31: President Municipal Council Rajouri, Mohammad Arif Jatt today highlighted the importance of a two way communication channel between the Public and Government for effective governance and optimum development.

Mohammad Arif Jatt was speaking as the Chief Guest on the Day-2 of Multi-Media Exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, G-20, Mission LiFE, Yuva Utsavand other allied themes organized by Central Bureau of



Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India here in Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University.Dr. Ali Asghar Shah Dean Academic Affairs, BGSBU was Guest of Honour and Ghulam Abbas Chaudhary, Joint Communication, Director CBC and PIB J&K Rajouri(J&K), Ministry of presided over the function along with faculty BGSBU, Staff of CBC J&K and representatives of Health, JalShakti, Agriculture, Social Welfare and WildLife Protection departments Rajouri.The MC President appreciated the Central Bureau of Communication, J&K for organizing the event

in Rajouri. He said that CBC's programmes serve as a bridge of communication between Government and Common Masses –. He said the valuable information disseminated through displays and Expert Lectures will encourage the locals to avail the benefits of various Centrally sponsored schemes and become entrepreneurs. He highlighted the role of teachers in students' life, Unity in diversity and role of responsible and aware citizens.Ghulam Abbas, JD, CBC & PIB, J&K, in his address, said that CBC has the mandate of disseminating information and awareness among common.

DC Udhampur holds public grievances redressal camp at Block Majalta

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 31: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya today visited block Majalta and listened to public issues and demands at a public outreach programme held at Kesar Resort under the weekly Block Diwas Program.

BDC Chairman, DDC Councillor and District Officers of various departments, besides PRIs members participated in the outreach

BDC, Dina Nath, DDC Majalta, Amit Sharma, Sar-



panches, Panches and the general public of the area projected several demands and problems being faced by them. They sought effective implementation of JJM, establishment of Dispensary, new electric poles,

steps to ease traffic congestion at Battal and Mansar Morh, blacktopping of roads, restoration of damaged street lights, release of pending payment under 14th FC, posting of Urdu Teacher in schools of the

area, installation of transformer and Handpumps, filling up of vacant post in health and education department, organising awareness camps, construction of bridge over nallah at Majalta, improvement of conditions of various PMGSY and PWD roads etc.Responding to the issues and demands raised by PRI members as well as the general public of the area, the DC passed on-spot directions for redressal of their grievances. He asked the officers to take first hand appraisal of all the grievances of PRIs and redress on priority.





CHEADLINES

EDITORIAL

Unemployment and Rising Crimes in Kashmir: A Looming Crisis

Kashmir has unfortunately been marred by a significant rise in crimes in recent years. While various factors contribute to this distressing trend, one critical element that cannot be overlooked is the growing issue of unemployment. Unemployment has become a ticking time bomb in Kashmir, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and fueling desperation among its youth.

Unemployment has emerged as a significant challenge in Kashmir, particularly among its youth. The region's lack of diversified industries and limited job opportunities exacerbate the problem, leaving a vast segment of the population grappling with financial insecurity and hopelessness. The youth, who should be the driving force of progress and development, find themselves disillusioned, disheartened, and increasingly vulnerable to radicalization or criminal activities. When basic needs are not met, individuals are forced to resort to illegal means to survive, leading to a surge in crimes such as theft, drug abuse, and even extremism.

The correlation between unemployment and crime is well-established globally, and Kashmiris no exception. Studies have shown that a lack of gainful employment significantly increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. The absence of legitimate income sources, coupled with a sense of marginalization, amplifies the allure of illegal activities. In the absence of sufficient job opportunities, some individuals may turn to the shadow economy, perpetuating a vicious cycle of criminality and instability.

Addressing the issue of unemployment in Kashmir requires a multi-faceted approach, involving both short-term relief measures and long-term structural changes. The government should prioritize the creation of employment opportunities by promoting entrepreneurship, investing in skill development programs, and attracting diverse industries to the region. Public-private partnerships can play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and generating sustainable employment avenues. Additionally, fostering a conducive business environment, improving infrastructure, and offering financial incentives can further incentivize job creation.

Education and vocational training programs hold the key to unlocking the potential of Kashmiri youth and mitigating the impact of unemployment. By equipping young individuals with relevant skills and knowledge, they can become valuable contributors to the workforce. Investment in educational infrastructure, curriculum enhancements, and vocational training initiatives tailored to local market demands are essential steps towards empowering the youth and creating a capable workforce.

Kashmir's breathtaking natural beauty and cultural heritage make it an ideal destination for tourism. Investing intourism infrastructure, promoting sustainable tourism practices, and marketing the region effectively can create a robust tourism industry. This, in turn, will generate employment opportunities across various sectors, such as hospitality, transportation, and entertainment. Additionally, infrastructure development projects, such as road connectivity, power supply, and internet connectivity, are vital for attracting investment and stimulating economic growth.

The rising tide of crimes in Kashmir demands urgent attention and a holistic approach. Unemployment stands as a significant contributor to this alarming trend, pushing desperate individuals towards illegal activities. To break this cycle, the government must prioritize job creation, invest in education and vocational training, and focus on infrastructure development and tourism promotion. By addressing the root causes of unemployment, we can pave the way for a prosperous and secure future for Kashmir, where its youth can find hope, purpose, and dignity. Failure to act decisively now risks perpetuating a cycle of crime and instability that could have far-reaching consequences for the region's social fabric and overall well-being.

The Return Of National Talent Search Exam (NTSE) From Class VIII



The National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) - to scout for and support school level talent is set to make a comeback in a new avatar, offering a higher number of scholarships to students from youngerage, and ensuring increased representation of girls and rural students.

The government may opt for a single national-level examinstead of a two stage one earlier

The education ministry is also considering holding the new NTSE at class 8 level instead of class 10 and "nurturing" the selected stu-dents right through class 12, with added assistance of its stellar pool of alumni, it is learnt.

NTSE a reputed exam to identify, nurture and give financial support to meritorious science and social science school students was put on hold in 2021 amid reports raising concerns over its urban and gender tilt. In the revamped NTSE, a more district-centric approach is planned to ensure a more representative pool of selected students.

It is proposed that scholarships be distributed perdistrict in the ratio reflecting the population of rural and urban children. A similar ratio is likely to be used to set aside scholership share for girls and boys.

Towards the same end, it is further proposed that the Centre fully take over



the NTSE testing system with a single national level exam delivered across schools

So far, NTSE involved a two stage selection process with states conducting the first round as per their own norms. Students recommended thereafter by the states were eligible for final Stage 2 exam conducted by the National Council for Education Research & Training (NCERT).

Reports showed that NTSE has been considerably successful in identifying talent, motivating children and helping them financially.

However, it was also red flagged that the selection process was not reaching as many talented students in remote areas as desired, especially girl students and often those in government school systems.

REVAMP REASON

A third-party evaluation of NTSE by Centre for Market Research & Social Development (CMSD) in 2021 that showed a wide variation in the benefit spread over the last decade is a case in point.

It showed that 31.5% awardees are from the North and Central Zone, 28.0% from West Zone, 22.6% from South Zone, and 13.6% from East Zone. The Northern Hilly Sta-tes Zone and North East Zone accounted for just 1.3% and 1.1% awardees, respectively, this report submitted to NCERT showed.

Further, 88% of the surveyed awardees were found to be from the urban areas while only 12% were from the rural area.

On the gender front, of the total 10,924 students who benefited in ten years, 8,661 (79%) were boys. and only 2,263 (21%)

were girls.
A 2017 evaluation of the scheme by Academy of Management Stu-dies (AMS) had also said "girls have remained under represented in the list of awardees" and pointed to a decline of five percentage points in awardees coming from rural areas, from 17% in 2007 to 12% in 2013.

areas, from 1/% in 2007 to 12% in 2013. It also said private unaided schools exhibited a dominant presence over the years, while government schools remained grossly under-represented.

The AMS report also said the average number of students being offered the scholarship has remained "abysmally low" at only 5-6 awardees per 100,000 students en-rolled, which indicated that

a vast number of deserving students have remained deprived of this im-portant benefit.

The above reports also recommended opening the talent search scheme at an earlier level of class 5 or class 8.

An August 2021 review meeting of NCERT took note of both the third party evaluation reports and their recommendations to increase number of scholarships and recon-figure awardee selection ratio for more gender inclusivity.

While an online exam format has also been discussed in the government, the Centre Government is likely to continue with an OMR-based pen and paper test to ensure accessibility of the test to rural students. NTSE 1963 ONWARDS

The exam to talent hunt school-children from across the country has been around in some format or the other since 1963, with modifications over the years.

As in the year 2020, NTSE was conducted for class 10 students. Meritorious students were selected after a two-stage selection pro- cess and awarded scholarships for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to se- cond-degree level.

2,000 scholarships were awarded last, with reservation of 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST, 27% for other backward classes, and 4% for a group of students with benchmark disabilities. A scholarship of 1,250 was awarded per month for class XI and XII, 2,000 per month for un-der graduation and post graduation, and as per UGC norms for higher studies.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Stubbing Out the Tobacco Menace: World No Tobacco Day 2023

Sheds Light on Smoking's Devastating Toll. Grow Food Not Tobbaco



As the world grapples with a plethora of challenges like a dog chasing its tail, from conflicts to climate change and the relentless COVID-19 pandemic, another crisis lurks in the shadows, quietly fanning the flames of global food scarcity. World No Tobacco Day 2023 brings to the forefront the alarming consequences of tobacco cultivation, casting a smoky haze over the interconnected issues of food security, public health, and environmental degradation. With a staggering 349 million people choking on acute food insecurity, it's high time we snuff out the damaging effects of tobacco production that not only burns through economies but also leaves a bitter taste of death and destruction.

1. Tobacco: A Deadly Harvest Stifling Food Production

Tobacco's greedy tendrils sprawl across 3.2 million hectares of fertile land in over 124 countries, hogging valuable real estate that could be used for cultivating sustenance.

This gluttonous crop, responsible for claiming over 8 million lives annually, diverts essential resources away from food production, turning our stomachs with its wastefulness.

2. Lighting the Fuse on Acute Food Insecurity

Like a lit match sizzling towards a powder keg, 79 countries worldwide find themselves teetering on the precipice of acute food insecurity.

Most of these nations, primarily low- and middle-income countries, bear the brunt of this crisis, with over 30 located on the African continent.

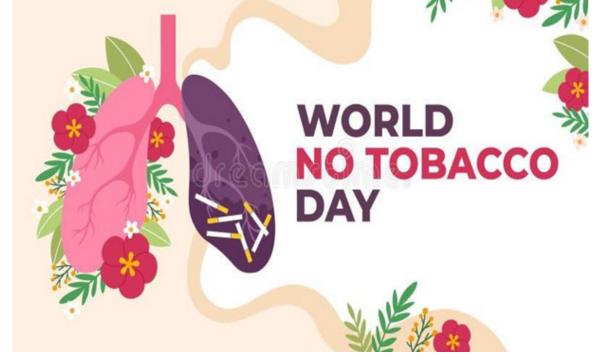
The tobacco industry's relentless expansion onto fertile lands only adds fuel to the fire of this already dire situation.

3. Going up in Smoke: Startling Trends in Tobacco Culti-

From 2005 to 2020, global tobacco cultivation receded by a mere 15.8%, while in Africa, it blazed

ahead with an alarming increase of 19.8%. In the lands of Southeast Asia, tobacco holds sway, with India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh puffing up the figures.

These trends serve as an ominous smoke signal, urging us to extinguish tobacco farming and ignite



sustainable food production instead.

4. Choking the Health of Farmers and the Vulnerable Tobacco cultivation poses a noxious threat to the

well-being of farmers and their families, with women and children suffering the most severe consequences.

Like innocent lambs caught in a smoke-filled room, children, with their lower body weight, fall prey to the nicotine seeping through their delicate skin.

Safeguarding the health of these vulnerable groups necessitates a united effort to stub out tobacco cultivation.

5. Smoke Signals of Environmental Destruction

Throughout its lifecycle, tobacco exhales toxic fumes, poisoning our planet and inflicting harm on all living beings.

Tobacco farming, like an insatiable beast, gobbles up resources, degrading soil quality with its ravenous appetite for pesticides and fertilizers.

These lethal chemicals escape into our waterways, tainting lakes, rivers, and the very elixir of life itself. Land once earmarked for tobacco growth now lies barren, choking on its own diminished fertility, unable to nurture other crops like food.

With tobacco farming contributing to approximately 5% of global deforestation, the NOx, SOx and

 $\mbox{CO2}$ emissions further exacerbate the blaze of climate change.

6. Unmasking the Tobacco Industry's Dirty Tricks

Like a snake slithering in the grass, the tobacco industry hides its deceitful farming tactics behind a smokescreen of misinformation.

These crafty maneuvers aim to divert attention from the industry's hand in exacerbating global food insecurity, health crises, and environmental devastation

World No Tobacco Day acts as a beacon of truth, exposing these wicked ploys and igniting awareness and action.

To wraps it up, World No Tobacco Day 2023 ignites a fervor among governments, organisations, and individuals worldwide to snuffout tobacco cultivation and ignite the embers of sustainable food production. By extinguishing this harmful habit and redirecting resources towards nourishing crops, we can douse the flames of acute food insecurity, save lives, and inhale a future where health and sustainability reign supreme. It's time to flick the ashes of the tobacco crisis aside and sow the seeds of progress and wellbeing for generations to come.

The Author is a Engineer | Educator | Volunteer aasifhussain14@gmail.com

HT - OPED

13TH HEADLINES

Living beings, be it humans or animals or even plants draw sustenance from each other's presence driven by the need to feel secure, intermingle amongst themselves or their own ilk or even compete for a higher position in the hierarchy of their being. The ecosystem is made in such a way that both biotic and abiotic parts of this system either sustain themselves or wither away wrought by the time and tide of events respectively. In the animal kingdom within this planet of ours, there are very few large sized animals which go solo (alone) in all their endeavours from 'womb to tomb' excepting in their formative years. Tiger is one such large sized carnivore which holds the pride of place in our ecosystem that epitomizes power in its entirety, since it goes all alone in his hunting, living, procreating and finally marking of his territorial limits of his hunting efforts. The magnificent 'Panthera Tigris', a striped carnivore with thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes is a combination of grace, power, strength, agility, and enormous power to have earned the pride of place as the national animal of India. For many readers of this article, it may be news that as late as March 1973, Asiatic Lion used to be national animal of India.

But then seeing its very limited spread in a remote western corner of Gujarat at Gir forest, and not in entire India a more magnificent carnivore with an evenly spread from Himachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh to Kerala upped the ante and fitted in the bill for being nominated as the national animal of India. In order to conserve the Tiger population in the country, GOI launched 'Project Tiger' on 01st April 1973 exactly half a century ago, the largest conservation effort anywhere in the world in co-operation with WWF(World wild life). 'Project Tiger' was set up under the PM ship of Mrs Indira Gandhi as its chairman with Dr Karan singh as vice -chairman and Rajasthan forest officer K.S Shankhla as the first project director. Since this magnificent beast is always on the radar of poachers, freelance hunters, as also dwindling catchment areas for their prey the NTCA(National tiger conservation authority) was formed in December 2005 following the recommendations of 'TIGER TASK FORCE' constituted by the PM of India for reorganized management of 'Project Tiger' and the many tiger sanctuaries in India.

The stated recommendations of the said task force were

- Reinvigorating the constitution of governance. Strengthening efforts towards protection of tiger,
- checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals, and breaking the international trade network in wild life body parts and derivatives of tiger.
- Expanding the undisturbed areas for tiger by reducing human presence.
- Repair the relationships with the local people who share the tiger habitats by investing in forest, by fielding strategies for co-existence.
- Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringe areas of the tigers by forming protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies

Be that as it may the aim of my write up is to put under the scanner the above mentioned recommendations in the right perspective to watch if they have yielded desired results or not and also see which way the project is headed? India has seen an extensive

50 yrs of 'project tiger'—is it on rails?

'Being alone is a power few can handle'—Anonymous

expansion of protected areas, tiger reserves and now, a push for tiger corridors all driven by colonial exclusionary conservation practices. As per the data from the 'National wildlife database cell', India has a network 990 protected areas which cover approximately 5.27%

of the total geographical area of country. This includes 106 national parks,565 wild life sanctuaries,100 conservation reserves, and 219 community reserves. Adding to this is India's network of 55 tiger reserves (TRs). Notification of PA's (protected areas) in India is overseen by central legislation called as 'Wild life protection act' (WLPA) whereas the NTCA (National tiger conservation author $ity) a \, body \, \bar{constituted} \, under \, the \, same$ law oversees TRs.

The year 2021-22 saw some states in the country going on a PA declaration $spree, with {\color{red}Maharashtra}\, state\, board\, for$ wild life alone notifying three (3) new wild life sanctuaries and almost 30 new conservation reserves in various stages of approval. As stated above since the launch of' Project Tiger' in 1973, the tiger has been made the center of focus of conservation of governance in India. That brings me to my first point of contention in direct contravention to the recommendations of the 'Tiger task force' i.e governance rules of 'tiger Conservation by eliminating human presence' which is a flawed concept of animal conservation. The latest tiger census reports indicate the last recorded tiger population of India standing at 2967, which is 70% of the world tiger population. What an impressive data. The 55 tiger reserves in India cover a total area of about more than 74,000 sq km out of which, 41500 sq km forms the critical tiger habitat whereas the remainder is the so called 'Buffer zone'. The idea of corridor-based conserva-

tion has off late caught the fancy of Indian conservationists. The NTCA in its 2014 report 'Connecting tiger populations for long term conservation' cited how the Indian sub-continent alone holds 6 global priority tiger conservation landscapes of long term significance and 32 tiger corridors as also ensuring connecting these with one another. The (NWAP) 2017-31, National wildlife action plans also stressed upon identification of wildlife corridors outside PAs

(protected areas) That is where the whole rub lies. Even for a layman on casting a glance at any of the maps of any tiger conservation corridor will reveal how the tiger reserves and corridors are being imposed on a raft of forest lands, human habitations, agricultural fields, pasture scarce water sources. The first recom-

mendation of Tiger task force has to be clubbed with the third recommendation which in so many words say —to expand the tiger corridors by reducing human presence compelling us all to see the lopsided aspect of governance. These landscapes are actually living, breathing human inhabited places, home to adivasis like the Korkus, Gonds and Baigas in the central province of India and even in the neighbouring 'Melghat

tiger reserve and Pench tiger reserve spanning over both states of Maharashtra and MP. I

have myself witnessed the majority of Korku tribesmen evicted from the STR(Satpura tiger reserve) at Madhai near Hoshangabad for making way for the tiger corridors when I visited STR in 2011. Now using the imagery of these corridors, the state can acquire any land and convert it into a protected area which will sound a death knell to these tribal people. Although conservation corridors are an old concept it has given a new fillip to coercive control of lands thus exacerbating societal tensions in the country as such. This is self-evident in the way abrupt and break neck speed with which certain states are going about this concept with relocations speeding up in other protected areas. As per the

data shared by the MoEFCC(Ministry of environment forest and conservation) in the lok sabha as late as

critical tiger habitat(CTH) of 52 tiger reserves around 14,441 families had been shifted . NTCA in 2020 was altogether on a different plane with their assertions that 63,916 families in 761 villages living inside the CTH(Critical tiger habitat) of tiger reserves and 18,493 families of 215 villages had been relocated from the notified CTH since the inception of Project tiger. Ground report tells us the number of people impacted is far more and will only grow with more tiger corridors in the offing, thereby pooh-poohing one of the stated recommendations of 'Tiger task force' that

2019 out of 57386 families living inside the

lays stress on expanding the tiger corridors by reducing human presence.

As if the above stated facts don't nail the inflated conservation efforts of GOI, the center for financial accountability (CFA) in a recent report cited a spurt in the infrastructure projects in and around the protected areas. As per CFAs analysis, MoEFCC received around 2592 proposals for environment clearance between July 2014 and April 2020, of which 2256 proposals were approved marking a 87% clearance rate. What a stupendous achievement. But at what cost? More importantly 270 projects were located in and around these protected areas, thus deflating the very purpose of creating these protected areas. Is the minister of forest, environment and conservation taken on board for these anomalies? Further 680 projects were given wildlife clearances between 2015 -2020 by national board for wildlife(NBWL) as revealed in the Rajya sabha by the MoEFCC in September 2020. The majority of oil and gas deposits are located in these landscapes with corporate extraction instead of being monitored is being facilitated through ease given by these clearances. Is this facet not interference in the tiger conservation? If not, then why not? What $will it \, take \, the \, GOI \, to \, apply \, due \, diligence \, in \, according$ clearance to these corporate interests?

The 'Convention of biological diversity since its inception in 1992 recognised the role of indigenous people (tribals in our context) through articles 8(i) & 10(c). Yet these indigenous people have been excluded at both state level and the national level in India from these discussions and decisions about the land usage, their inhabitants and natural resources they depend upon. In the Indian context the FRA(Forest rights act) passed in 2006 envisions and ensures the same by legally recognizing the role of these adivasis and other forest dependent communities in the protection, conservation and management of the ecosystems. But does it happen in our context.? While posted at Itarsi in MP way back from 2010 till 2012 I was witness to scores of Korku tribal people living on the margins with their families trudging miles on the Betul-Hoshangabad highway with small wicker baskets perched on their heads in search of Tendu leaves . Why couldn't these people be ensured a proper captive area in their near vicinity for tendu leaves collection and their marketing by the state government? It shows that they have been disregarded by the authorities in their welfare. The FRA empowers these tribals to stop any activity which is detrimental to their growth. But then all boils down to its implementation, which is a big NO in India. This brings me to the last recommendation as enshrined by the Tiger task force —"Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringe areas of the tigers by forming protective enclaves through investing in forest, water and grasslands economies of the people'. But having gone through the details as appended by me in this write up as also diluting the FRA by the authorities is there a remote chance of these targets being met? As if the above dichotomies are not enough, few months back the union state minister of MoEFCC, Ashwini Kumar Choubey came up with a most preposterous idea of renaming the Jim Corbett tiger reserve on the name of 'Ram Ganga' tiger reserve which incidentally flows in the midst of this tiger reserve. With the 'Project tiger well with in crossing half a century of its inception I am of the considered opinion that a major and thorough course correction of this project is the need of the hour so as to meet the lofty aspirations of conservation of this magnificent carnivore as set forth by our former PM Mrs Indira Gandhi and the erst while vice chairman Dr Karan singh of PROJECT TIGER.

The writer is a retired army officer

JK economy: Setting the record straight



VISHAL SHARMA

I&K's economic growth story over the last three years has been remarkable. The story's been remarkable in that even at the peak of covid pandemic, the economic growth never slipped into the negative territory. J&K has seen many upheavals during the last 30 years and every time it has come out stronger. However, it was never expected to hold out on the economic front in the midst of what was a perfect economic storm. But it did!

If GSDP numbers (at current prices) from the fiscal year 2018-19 (Rs 159859 cr) to 2022-23 (209752 cr) are anything to go by, then J&K's economy is not only resilient, but also one that can bounce back and progress in difficult times quicker than that of most other State/UT economies, because, as the $clich\ goes\ its\ fundamentals\ are\ strong.\ GSDP$ during this period grew phenomenally at around 23 %.

In fact, during the past decade, GSDP has grown substantially. From Rs 98367 cr in the fiscal year 2014-2015, GSDP at current prices in the year 2022-23 (IR) is expected to be Rs 209752 cr. This represents an increase of 53 %. GSDP is projected to grow at more than 10 % in the next fiscal year and is projected in absolute terms to be Rs. 230727 cr.

Although, there may be an argument that GSDP at current prices may not reflect the true economic growth in the J&K as it is not inflation adjusted, the gross capital formation, which represents outlays on addition to fixed assets and net changes in the levels of inventories has shot up from Rs 8251 cr in the year 2018-19 to Rs 9739 cr in 2020-21.

GSDP growth is a function of growth in public and private expenditure. This is, therefore, best captured by higher than normal public and private sector spends over the same period. While capex in public sector from 2018-19 (Rs 11114 cr) to 2021-22 (Rs 35208 cr) has registered an increase of 68%, which is the highest increase in the last 10 years, private sector spending has also moved toe to toe with the public sector capex.

This is borne out by the private sector contribution to gross value added (GVA), which is tentatively expected to be 75 % (assumed figure) in the year 2020-21. This figure was 63 % in the year 2019-20.

Consistent GSDP growth has expectedly made J&K richer. Today the per capita income of J&K is Rs 165755, which is roughly equivalent to 2072 USD. Per capita income in 2018-19 was Rs 118828 which roughly equals 1747 USD at the conversion rate in vogue then. Increase in per capita income has made average resident of the UT richer and today he has on an average 300 USD more to spend.

Wherever GSDP grows, people end up having more money in their pockets, thus, improving their living standards. Nowhere is it more evident than in the growth of more eateries, more malls, and stores of merchandise in J&K over the last few years.

These places of shoppers and consumers would not have come up or conversely the existing ones wouldn't have stayed in business, if they did not have consumers. And there would not be any consumers, if the



extra money generated by the recent economic growth had not found its way into the pockets of the consumers.

This assertion is further corroborated by the headcount ratio (people below poverty line) in J&K. Today amongst 36 states and UTs in the country, J&K is the 16th best performing UT. Although it's not something to gloat over and there is a fair bit of ground to cover, the situation is not as bad as it is generally

thought to be. On the top of it is of course the GST growth story, which has even belied our wildest imagination! GST growth in J&K from 2017-18 to 2021-22 has followed an upward trajectory except in the year 2019-20 when it slightly dipped.

In terms of the actual achievement vis-a-vis the annual targets, GST collections in UT have

gone from 57.14 % in 2017-18 to 93.47 % in 2018-19 while they have soared to a high of 98.29% in 2020-21 and to 106.78% in 2021-22.

Higher GST collections are reflective of higher than normal growth of businesses and businesses grow only when they have consumers to serve! No business grows to create idle capacities or inventories, which are not routinely getting replaced.

The naysayers though would have us believe otherwise. Those with a little or no knowledge of fiscal numbers and the intricacies of the GSDP, headcount ratio, tax rises etc, would say that these numbers tell half the story or no story at all. They say that J&K's economy has shrunk and that people have become poorer! Where are the stats to support that

There is another argument that is made by

these people about unemployment rate in J&K being the highest it's ever been. This can't be far from truth!

MOSPI data on unemployment in J&K reveals a declining trend from January -September, 2022. While unemployment rate in J&K has decreased from January 2022 onwards, the national unemployment rate painfully has gone in other direction, albeit not linearly, over the corresponding period. This is as per the CMIE data, which is often used by some people to clobber the govern-

As far employment initiatives undertaken by the government, around 21000 youth have been absorbed in the public sector in the last two years. In addition, 202749 self employment opportunities have been created so far during the current financial year and this number is expected to rise by the time the current fiscal year draws to a close. In fact, there has been a steady increase in the creation of self employment opportunities in J&K from2017-18 (40723) to 2021-22 (217864).

How would an increase in employment on sustained basis be even possible if J&K was not growing? And to those who are saying that there has been no employment created in J&K, well, they only need to look at numbers. Pythagoras reminds us that numbers rule the universe. He also has a word for those who don't rely numbers to make their case: "Be silent or let thy words be worth more than silence." There's a message in this for all, but for this though they will have to look beyond rhetoric!

> The writer is a Milken IFC fellow on capital markets

Amit Shah Visits Manipur Border Town In Bid To Restore Normalcy

HT News Network

PUBLICATIONHEADLINES

ΓODAY

New Delhi: Union minis-Moreh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a review meeting in this border town on Wednesday to take stock of the security situation in the northeastern state which has been witnessing sporadic violence for nearly a month.

Amit Shah, on the third day of his visit to the state, also met a delegation of the Kuki community and a team representing others communities, and they expressed strong support for the government's initiatives to restore normalcy.

"Took stock of the security situation with senior officials in Moreh (Manipur)," he tweeted.

A home ministry spokesperson said Mr Shah held a security review meeting in the Moreh town, bordering Myanmar.

"Held a meeting with the delegations of Kuki and other communities at Moreh. They expressed strong support for the government's initiatives to restore normalcy in Manipur," Mr Shah said in another tweet.



The home minister is on a four-day visit to Manipur and making efforts to restore peace to the state.

On Tuesday, the Meitei and Kuki groups expressed commitment to peace and assured that they would work for restoring normalcy in the trouble-torn state.

Mr Shah had also held a security review meeting with senior officials of the Manipur Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army in Imphal on Tuesday. He had said peace and prosperity of Manipur are the government's top priority and instructed them to strictly deal with any activities that disturb

This is the first time the home minister is visiting the northeastern state since the ethnic clashes began in Manipur on May 3. The state witnessed a sudden spurt in clashes and firing between militants and security forces on Sunday, after a relative lull for over a fortnight.The death toll from clashes has gone up to 80, officials said.

The ethnic violence first broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest the Meitei community's

demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The violence was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations. This is the first time the home minister is visiting the northeastern state since the ethnic clashes began in Manipur on May 3. The state witnessed a sudden spurt in clashes and firing between militants and security forces on Sunday, after a relative lull for over a fortnight.The death toll from clashes has gone up to 80, officials said.

"Wait For Probe To End": Minister To Wrestlers As Protests Intensify

HT News Network

New Delhi: Union sports minister Anurag Thakur today accused the protesting wrestlers of "changing goalposts" and in the government's first comment on the issue in recent days, reiterated that they should not take any step that "hurts the sport or other athletes".

"The athletes themselves had said that the platform is not for doing politics. But later political parties came and went and shared this platform," the minister told reporters today, refering to the visits by opposition leaders to the wrestlers' protest site in Delhi's Jantar

Declaring he would not comment on it, the minister added, "I'll ask the athletes to wait for the conclusion of Delhi Police's investigation. The Delhi Police has informed the Supreme Court and filed an FIR (First Information Report). Until the investigation is complete, do not take any step which will harm the sport and the players".

This was the government's first comment on the issue since the champions were manhandled by



the Delhi Police on Sunday, when they tried to hold a protest near the new parliament which was inaugurated that day by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Visuals of Vinesh Phogat, Olympian Sakshi Malik and others being pushed and pulled and pinned to the ground by Delhi Police personnel, had shocked the nation. The police later filed a case against the wrestlers and closed the Jantar Mantar protest site to them.

In absence of any intervention or comments from the government, the wrestlers had gone to Haridwar yesterday to consign their medals to the river Ganga. But they postponed their decision after requests from farmer leader Rakesh Tikait. Mr Tikait and farm and khap leaders have sought five days to resolve the issue.

MrThakur today said the government had accepted the wrestlers' demand for a committee to probe the issue and removed the federation chief against whom they were protesting.

The government, he added, has spent crores on training of the athletes and the improvement of sports infrastructure. Even now, the Wrestling Federation of India is working on the directions of the Indian Olympics Association, he said.The wrestlers have been on the warpath since January, demanding action against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, whom they accused of sexually harassing seven athletes, including a minor.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a BJP MP who has denied any wrongdoing, today asserted that would accept any punishment if the allegations against him were proven.

"If a single allegation against me is proven, I will hang myself. If you (wrestlers) have any evidence, present it to the Court, and I am ready to accept any punishment," he said. Declaring he would not comment on it, the minister added, "I'll ask the athletes to wait for the conclusion of Delhi Police's investigation. The Delhi Police has informed the Supreme Court and filed an FIR (First Information Report). Until the investigation is complete, do not take any step which will harm the sport and the players".

This was the government's first comment on the issue since the champions were manhandled by the Delhi Police on Sunday, when they tried to hold a protest near the new parliament which was inaugurated that day by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM Modi To Visit Bihar In **June Ahead Of Opposition Leaders' Meeting**

■ HT News Network

Patna: Ahead of the opposition leaders' meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar in June and is likely to address a public meeting, Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Bihar unit president Samrat Choudhary confirmed.

"BJP is doing 'Jan Sampark Abhiyan' from May 30 to June 30 across Bihar to add more people to the party, and for that, we have invited PM Narendra Modi to visit the state. We got a positive response from PM, and are looking forward to his visit," Samrat Choudhary said on Wednesday.

"The date and venue will be finalised later but we have received a confirmation regarding PM Modi's visit to the state," he added.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has taken upon himself the task of uniting Opposition forces against the BJP-led government at the Centre ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, will chair a meeting of Opposition parties in Patna on June 12.

EAM to visit South Africa to attend BRICS meet, and **Namibia**

HT News Network

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will be on an official visit to South Africa from June 1-3 to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting, and to Namibia from June 4-6, in the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to the southern African nation. In South Africa, besides participating in the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting in Cape Town, EAM will also hold a bilateral meeting with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor.

He will call on President Cyril Ramaphosa and is expected to hold bilateral meetings with other BRICS Foreign Ministers and participating 'Friends of BRICS' Ministers from other countries. He will also have an interaction with the Indian Diaspora in Cape Town, a statement said. EAM Jaishankar will then visit Namibia in the first visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to Namibia. During the visit EAM will call on the top leadership of the country and also meet with other Ministers of the Government.

India, Bahrain hold Foreign Office Consultations

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) India and Bahrain held the Sixth Round of Foreign Office Consultations in Bahrain, during which the two sides reviewed the bilateral cooperation in the spheres of political, security, space, trade, renewable energy, fintech among other things.

The FOC were co-chaired by Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA) on the Indian side, and Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary (Political Affairs) of the Bahrain Foreign Ministry. The Indian Embassy in Bahrain said in tweets:

"6th round of India-Bahrain Foreign Office Consultations were held in Bahrain, co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA) @MEAIndia, and H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary (Political Affairs)

Gyanvapi Case To Continue In Court, Mosque Committee's Challenge Rejected

HT News Network

Varanasi: In a setback for the mosque committee in one of the main cases involving Varanasi's Gyanvapi Mosque, the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea that requested it to scrap a civil suit being heard in a local court.

The lawsuit filed by a group of Hindu women worshippers seeking the right to pray in the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi was valid, the court ruled, allowing the case to continue in the Varanasi District Court.

The litigants in the case - Lakshmi Devi, Rekha Pathak, Sita Sahu and Manju Vyas - had filed the case in August 2021 seeking the right to regularly worship goddess Shringar Gauri and other deities whose idols they claimed were located in the mosque's complex.

The maintainability of this case was upheld by the Varanasi district judge in September 2022.The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM) Committee and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board had petitioned the high court to overturn the September 2022 ruling, arguing that it is not maintainable under the Places of Worship Act of



Allahabad High Court, after hearing the arguments, had reserved its decision on December 23, 2022. The case was one of the several spawned from a ruling in April 2021, when the Varanasi court directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a comprehensive survey of the mosque complex following a petition by Hindu groups. A pre-existing legal order has allowed hundreds of Hindu women to symbolically worship the goddess Shringar Gauri once a year in the complex. A preexisting legal order has allowed hundreds of Hindu women to symbolically worship the goddess Shringar Gauri once a year in the complex.

'PM Modi thinks he knows more than ...: Rahul Gandhi

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI) Stepping up its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said there is a group of people who think they know more than "God', and the PM is one such "specimen".

"We have a group of people in India who are absolutely convinced that they know everything. They think, may be, they know more than God. Our Prime Minister is one such specimen," he said while addressing a gathering of the Indian diaspora in San Francisco in United States, on Tuesday.

Attacking the PM, Rahul further said, "I think if you sat Modi ji down next to God, Modi ji will start explaining to God, how the 'universe' works. These all are ...But, this is what is going on."

"We have a group of people who think they understand everything. They can speak to scientist and explain science to them, they can speak to historians and explain history. They can explain 'warfare' to the Army. At the heart of it, is the 'mediocrity'. They actually don't understand anything," he added. Citing what necessitated him to do the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra',



Rahul said, "All the instruments that were needed to do politics in India, they were controlled by the BJP-RSS. People are threatened, cases are put upon people, agencies are used. In some way it had become difficult to act politically. Therefore, we decided to walk from Kashmir to Kanyakumari."

The Yatra-led by the former party president which had started from Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari in September last year, traversed through several states including Karnataka and concluded in Jammu and Kashmir in January. The party had said that was its "most decisive mass contact programme"."Government tried everything to stop 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. They used all its strength to stop the Yatra. They used police, but nothing worked and impact of the Yatra had increased," he said.

Karnataka turning into crucial chessboard in runup to 2024 election

■ By BD Naraayannkar

Bengaluru, May 31 (UNI) With the internecine wranglings in Karnataka Congress and JDS levelling allegations of electoral malpractice against the ruling party, Karnataka is fast becoming a crucial chessboard in the runup to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

An intense power struggle is ensuing between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, which casts a shadow of uncertainty over the party's future prospects in Karnataka.

A distinct factional divide is apparent, and it is reflected in CM Siddaramaiah's consistent attempts to validate his authority, amidst the intermittent raking up of power-sharing formula by Shivakumar's

These constant attempts to assert his authority through his outspoken opposition to moral policing and the heft to revoke hijab



ban raises doubts about Congress government's stability in Karnataka and efficacy of Siddaramaiah's leadership.

In a striking contrast, Shivakumar appears to have been marginalised within the party's rank, despite bringing Congress back to power in the state with strategic acumen. He finds himself overshadowed by senior Congress leaders, which is resulting in internal discontentment and erosion of support.

This also reflects the party's inability to utilise the full potential of its talented members like Shivakumar, who is know for his

organisational skills and political maneuverings.

Adding salt to the wounds is Priyank Kharge's rise, who is strategically positioning himself as an alarming force in the state politics, which is reflected in his strong statements against RSS and Bajrang Dal, threatening them of strict action if they "tried" to disturb peace in the state.

There are also media reports of his tussle with MB Patil to get the IT-BT portfolio by arguing that he had held it in the previous Congress government and did a good job. Patil, on the flipside, argued that the ministry should be given to

under the industries sector. Ultimately CM Siddaramaiah alloted the portfolio to himself, ending the stalemate.

Priyank Kharge's assertion is no surprise, given the hierarchical system that the Congress party practises since its beginning. After all, he is the son of Mallikarjun Kharge, the incumbent All India Congress Presi-

AstheCongressisgripped with internal fighting, Deve Gowda and HD Kumaraswamy led JDS have adopted a two-pronged strategy to fight the grand old party after being ripped apart in the recent assembly election.Firstly,the JDS supremo Deve Gowda sent a strong message of supporting the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by attending the inauguration of the New Parliament Complex. Secondly, it actively is exposing the electoral malpractices of the Congress party in the just-concluded state elec-

"Some MLAs From E Shinde **Faction In Touch With Team Uddhav": Sanjay Raut**

■ HT News Network

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut today claimed some lawmakers from the Shiv Sena headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde were in touch with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

His remarks came a day after an editorial in the Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' claimed 22 MLAs and nine MPs from rival Shiv Sena were feeling suffocated due to "step-motherly treatment" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and could quit the group led by CM Shinde.

Asked whether lawmakers from the rival Sena camp are in touch with the Shiv Sena (UBT), Mr Raut, who is the party's spokesperson, told reporters here, "Communication is always there. They (those from the Shinde camp) ventilate their grievance, but it is not right to tell this publicly. They have made a mistake (to leave Uddhav Thackeray) and they have to handle it."

"Those in the Shinde group will have to contest on the BJP symbol. This is the stand of the BJP. We have this information," the Rajya Sabha member further said.

Latching on to Shiv Sena MP Gajanan Kirtikar's remark that his party was getting step-motherly treatment, the editorial in 'Saamana' on Tuesday dubbed the Shinde group $MLAs \, and \, MPs \, as \, "hens \, and \, cocks" \, imprisoned \, in \, the \, BJP's$ coop and added that it cannot be said when they could be slaughtered. The Thackeray-headed Shiv Sena (then undivided) exited the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2019 and joined hands with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party to form a government in Maharashtra.Last year, Mr Shinde and 39 other MLAs revolted against the Shiv Sena leadership, leading to a split in the party and collapse of the Thackeray government. Mr Shinde subsequently joined hands with the BJP to form government.



Ukraine war reaches Moscow as drones hit both capitals

HT News Network

MOSCOW: Ukrainian drones struck districts of Moscow on Tuesday in what President Vladimir Putin said Kyiv's 'response' to a Russian strike on a military intelligence headquarters in Ukraine that was hit by air for the third time in 24 hours.

Tuesday's early morning raid targeted some of Moscow's wealthiest areas including where Putin and the elite have residences. He was later in the Kremlin and received a briefing on the attack, a spokes-

A Ukrainian "headquarters of military intelligence was struck two or three days ago," Putin said on state television. "In response, the Kyiv regime chose a different path to frighten Russians," referring to the attack on Moscow earlier Tuesday.

Russia's defence ministry said eight drones sent by Kyiv and targeting civilians were shot down or diverted, though Baza, a Telegram channel with links to the security services, said more than 25 were involved. Two people were injured while some apartment blocks were briefly evacuated, according to Moscow's mayor.

US does not support attacks inside Russia, State Department says

On the other hand, the United States said it does not back attacks inside Russia, but Moscow bore responsibility for the war with Ukraine.

"As a general matter, we do not support attacks inside of Russia. We have been

HT News Network

Rare wailing air raid sirens and mobile

phone alerts calling for evacuations rattled

residents of the South Korean capital, Seoul,

early on Wednesday after North Korea

tried to launch what it said was a satellite.

booster and payload plunging into the sea, but not before prompting emergency alerts

and evacuation warnings in parts of South

Korea and Japan."I was so panicked. Nine-

one-one lines were busy and the internet

was slow," said Lee Juyeon, 33, a resident

in the densely populated city of about 10

million who has a 9-month-old child."So

without knowing what was really happen-

ing, I was about to head down to a basement

wearing a wrap carrier with my baby."The

sirens started in Seoul at 6:32am as the

city issued a "Presidential Alert" asking

citizens to prepare for a potential evacua-

tion. Then came a second mobile alert, at

least 10 minutes later, as the interior min-

istry said the city's alert was sent in error.

Lee did not evacuate after seeing a televi-

sion headline saying the alerts related to

a North Korean space vehicle flying farther

south, but she showed photographs of

friends packing bags, readying to leave.

Although residents of Seoul are used to

living in the shadow of threats from their

nuclear-armed neighbour, an element of

complacency has crept in among many in

the city about the risks and how to respond.

The two countries are still technically

Nuclear-armed North Korea's sixth satellite launch ended in failure, with the

Evacuation alerts, sirens cause panic

in Seoul after North Korea launch



focused on providing Ukraine with the equipment and training they need to retake their own sovereign territory," a State Department spokesperson said as Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Sweden.

The spokesperson said that the United States was still assessing what happened in Moscow, where residential buildings were hit for the first time since Russia invaded Ukraine, while Putin blamed Kyiv.

The State Department spokesperson claimed Russia had carried out air strikes in Kyiv on Tuesday for the 17th time in May. "Russia started this unprovoked war against Ukraine. Russia could end it at any time by withdrawing its forces from Ukraine instead of launching brutal attacks against Ukraine's cities and people every day."

Since Russia sent troops into its neighbour in February last year, the war has largely been fought inside Ukraine, though Moscow has reported some attacks on its territory and said one was an assassination attempt against President Putin.

Lawmaker Maxim Ivanov called it the most serious assault on Moscow since the

Nazis, saying no Russian could now avoid "the new reality".

Earlier this month, two drones exploded over the Kremlin in an attack Russia also blamed on Kyiv and said was aimed at

"The sabotage and terrorist attacks of Ukraine will only increase," said another Russian lawmaker, Alexander Khinshtein, who called for a radical strengthening of

"Do not underestimate the enemy!" Ukraine 'pleased'

Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak denied Kyiv was directly involved in Tuesday's attacks, though he said "we are pleased to watch" and forecast more.

At a messy stalemate for most of 2023 with Russian troops entrenched in some eastern Ukrainian regions, the war has killed tens of thousands, uprooted millions, reduced cities to ruins and caused havoc in the global economy.

Kyivs aid four people died around Ukrainein Russia's latest attacks on Tuesday, with 34 wounded including two children. "Russia is trying to break us and break our will," said Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Kly-

In the capital, Ukraine said it shot down more than 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones. Eleven people were hurt. Kyiv is promising a counter-offensive backed with Western weapons to try to drive Russian occupiers from territory seized in Moscow's selfstyled "special military operation" to

UN agency sees melting ice as a global threat

■ HT News Network

orological Organisation (WMO) are con-

ended in an armistice. Some office workers in the Seoul's central district said they had considered during their commute how to respond to the alarm, such as by withdrawing cash or hoarding water.

at war seven decades after the Korean War

"I understand it was a mistake, but even if it has to be simple, that alert message should have said what went on and where to go," Kim Jong-hyun, 48, said on his way to work after dropping off his child at school.

Later on Wednesday, Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon apologised for confusion over the city's alert but defended the decision to send one as a precaution for public safety. He said the city would improve the wording in future messages and on warning systems. "Alerts" and "evacuation" were the most trending topics on Twitter in South Korea on Wednesday morning, with confused tweets scrambling to grasp what

was going on or to find evacuation areas. "Hey guys, given Twitter is still working, I guess it is not a war," one user using the handle @Kimisnim__ said.

GENEVA: The United Nations' weather agency announced on Tuesday it was making the cryosphere a new top priority, saying the melting of sea ice, glaciers and permafrost posed a global threat. Member states at the UN's World Mete-

cerned about the impacts of melting ice on sea levels, natural disasters, ecosystems and economies. "The cryosphere issue is a hot topic not

just for the Arctic and Antarctic, but it is a global issue," said WMO chief Petteri Taa-

WMO countries meeting in Geneva called for increased funding for more coordinated observations and predictions, and better data exchange, research and ser-

Greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels, says WMO chief

Nations far from the polar regions, such as in the Caribbean and Africa, voiced concerns that changes in the cryosphere would affect the whole planet.

"What happens in polar regions and high mountain regions doesn't stay in those regions," WMO spokeswoman Clare Nullis told reporters.

"More than a billion people rely on water from snow and glaciers melt which is carried by the major rivers of the world. When those glaciers retreat... you need to think what's going to happen to the water secu-

Besides implementing the 2015 Paris climate accords and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the WMO said better monitoring was needed to track the scale and speed of change. "You cannot manage what you're not measuring," said Nullis. "And we really need to think hard about water resource management."

The melting of glaciers and the Greenland and Antarctica ice sheets account for about 50 per cent of sea level rise, which is accelerating. This will have growing impacts on small island developing states and densely-populated coastal areas, says the WMO.

The Greenland Ice Sheet ended with a negative total mass balance for the 26th year in a row. Sea ice in Antarctica dropped to 1.92 million square kilometres in February – the lowest level on record and almost one million square kilometres below the 1991-2020 mean. Meanwhile, the Arctic permafrost is considered a "sleeping giant" of greenhouse gases, said Nullis, as it stores twice as much carbon as is in the atmosphere today.

"deNazify" its neighbour.

rity of those people."

Nato to deploy more troops to Kosovo to curb violence

HT News Network

ZVECAN: The US-led military alliance Nato is planning to send 700 extra troops to Kosovo and put another battalion on high alert to go in as unrest in the region has intensified since ethnic Albanian mayors took office in the country's northern Serb-majority area after votes last month.In the town of Zvecan on Tuesday, dozens of Nato soldiers in anti-riot gear from the United States, Poland and Italy secured a municipal building as Serbs again protested against the Albanian mayor.The Serbian protesters dispersed around 4pm and will return on Wednesday morning,



the Serbian Tanjug news agency reported, citing Serbian officials in Zvecan. Some 30 Nato peacekeeping soldiers defending three town halls in northern Kosovo were injured in clashes with Serb protesters on Monday. Fifty-two protesters were wounded. Nato already has some 4,000

soldiers currently in Kosovo and Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the decision had been made to send more."We have decided to deploy 700 more troops from the operational reserve force for western Balkans and to put an additional battalion of reserve forces on high alertness so if needed," he told reporters in Oslo.A Reuters reporter saw four big Nato convoys heading to the north late on Tuesday afternoon. The United States and

allies have rebuked Kosovo for escalating tensions with Serbia, saying the use of force to install mayors in ethnic Serb areas undermined efforts to improve troubled relations with neighbouring Serbia. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has placed the army on full combat alert and ordered units to move closer to the border.Serbs refused to take part in the local elections in April and ethnic Albanian candidates won the mayoralties in four Serb-majority.

UN-Designated Terrorist, Who Trained 26/11 Attackers, Dies In Pak Jail

■ HT News Network

Lahore: Hafiz Abdul Salam Bhuttavi, an UN-designated terrorist who trained the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) attackers for the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and acted as the outfit's chief on at least two occasions, died in a prison in Pakistan's Punjab province while serving a sentence for terror financing, his aide said on Wednesday. Bhuttavi, who founded LeT headquarters in Muridke in Pakistan's Punjab, was deputy to the outlawed Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief and Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed. The JuD is the front organisation for the LeT."Bhuttavi, 77, was incarcerated at District Jail Sheikhupura, some 60 km from Lahore, since October 2019 in a terror financing case. On May 29, he felt severe pain in his chest and was shifted to hospital where he was pronounced dead (due to cardiac arrest) on arrival," a JuD official told PTI. His funeral was held at the LeT/JuD headquarters in Muridke in which a large number of followers of the banned organisation participated amid high security. A source in the Punjab government told PTI that JuD chief Hafiz Saeed, who is lodged at the Kot Lakhpat jail since 2019 serving multiple sentences in terror financing cases, had requested the government to allow him to attend Bhuttavi's funeral but permission was not granted.An Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore had given Bhuttavi a jail term of 16 years in a terror financing case.

Chinese town tense after mosque clashes

■ HT News Network

BEIJING: China deployed hundreds of police and made arrests in a mostly Muslim south-western town after clashes erupted over the planned partial demolition of a

The town of Nagu, Yunnan province, recently pushed ahead with plans to raze four minarets and the dome roof of the Najiaying Mosque, a resident said on Monday. The area is home to a sizable enclave of Hui, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group who have come under

pressure in the face of crackdown. On Saturday, police officers wielding truncheons and

riot shields repelled a crowd outside the mosque. "They want to proceed with forced demolitions, so the people here went to stop them," a local woman said.

"If they try to knock it down, we certainly won't let Police have made an unspecified number of arrests

over the incident and several hundred officers remained in the town as of Monday, the two witnesses said. People in areas around the mosque had struggled

intermittently with internet outages and other connectivity issues since the clashes, they added. A notice issued on Sunday by the Tonghai government

 which administers Nagu — said it had opened an investigation into "a case that severely disrupted social management and order". The notice ordered those involved to "immediately

stop all illegal and criminal acts", vowing to "severely punish" anyone who refuses to turn themselves in.

Those who voluntarily surrender before June 6 will be treated with leniency, the notice added.

Pakistan Court Extends Imran Khan's Bail By 3 Days In Corruption Case

HT News Network

 $Is lamabad: The Islamabad \ High \ Court (IHC) on \ Wednes$ day extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan's bail in the National Crime Agency 190 million pounds Al Qadir case, violation of section 144 during a rally held in Islamabad and for instigating violence on May 9 after his arrest, Dawn reported.

The IHC has extended Imran's bail in Al-Qadir Trust case for 3 days. The Court also directed him to approach the relevant accountability court within the same time, Dawn reported.

Imran Khan has to appear today as his previous bail related to all cases, which was granted two weeks ago, has now expired, Dawn reported.

Dawn is a Pakistani Daily reporting on the current events of Pakistan related to Politics and social issues.

On May 12, the court issued a directive prohibiting authorities from arresting the PTI chief in various cases, including undisclosed ones, registered throughout the country until May 15, Dawn reported.

In the subsequent hearing, the court further extended the restriction on arrest until May 31.

The court will also hear additional bail petitions of the former PM, concerning cases pertaining to a violation of section 144 during a rally held in Islamabad to show support for the judiciary, as well as the incidents of violence that occurred on May 9.

The hearing of these two cases is expected after the Al Qadir hearing on Wednesday, Dawn reported.

Later today, an accountability court will take up the bail plea of Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, in the Al Qadir Trust case, Dawn reported. According to the legal advisor of Imran Khan, the PTI chief will leave for Islamabad from Zaman Park on Wednesday.

Pak Airlines Jet Seized In Malaysia For Unpaid **Dues, Passengers Stranded**

HT News Network

A Boeing Co. 777 jet operated by Pakistan International Airlines Corp. was impounded on May 29 in Kuala Lumpur over unpaid charges to a leasing company, forcing the carrier to send a replacement aircraft to pick up stranded passengers.

A Malaysian court ordered the plane to be seized on the lessor's request, PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan said in a statement.

The state-owned airline will seek legal remedies to free the plane, Khan said, saying that the disputed amount has already been paid. This is the second time in the past two years that a PIA aircraft has been seized in the southeast Asian nation.

Ukraine's "Last Warship" Destroyed, Claims Russia

■ HT News Network

Moscow: Russia on Wednesday claimed it destroyed the last major warship of the Ukrainian naval forces, which it said was stationed in the southern port of Odesa. On May 29, a high-precision strike by the Russian Air Force on a ship anchorage site in the port of Odesa destroyed the last warship of the Ukrainian Navy, the 'Yuri Olefirenko'," the Russian army said in its daily briefing. On May 29, a high-precision strike by the Russian Air Force on a ship anchorage site in the port of Odesa destroyed the last warship of the Ukrainian Navy, the 'Yuri Olefirenko'," the Russian army said.

CMYK



HT - BUSINESS



JKEDI to act as bridge between Industry & students: Director JKEDI

@HEADLINESTODA17

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: The Director, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today presided over an interaction program organized by Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

The event aimed to foster a strong connection between the industry and students, with JKEDI playing a pivotal role as the bridge.

The interaction program witnessed an active participation of students and faculty members. It provided a platform for students to engage directly with experts, enabling them to gain valuable insights into the professional world and its requirements. The event also served as an opportunity for JKEDI to understand the aspirations and potential of the talented youth in

Speaking at the program, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, JKEDI emphasized the Institute's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship and fostering employability skills among the youth of the region. "JKEDI is playing a crucial role in bridging the gap between the indus-



try and students. We will guide you and inform you about various Government Initiatives of Startup policy, incubation facilities and

various entrepreneurship related initiatives", he said.

"Our Institute has been actively working towards fostering an entreconnecting students with industry professionals, the Institute seeks to inspire and support budding entrepreneurs, encouraging them to explore innovative business ideas and venture into new domains," he The Director expressed gratitude

to the Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar, for hosting the interactive program and providing a platform for this fruitful engagement. He also extended his appreciation to all the Faculty members and student participants for their active involvement in the event.

"Such programs promote the discovery of new synergies and provide a platform and access to relevant knowledge which leads to competitive advantage. This will help the students to develop higherlevel thinking, oral communication, self-management, and leadership skills," said Mohammad Shafi Bhat, Principal, Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

Hakim Mohammad Ilyas, Incharge Incubation and Entrepreneurship Cell, Faculty members Sabina Nazir and Masrat Farooq among others were present on the

Kishtwar: 3200 Metric Ton illegally extracted Sand seized in Atholi

■ HT News <u>Network</u>

KISHTWAR, MAY 31: A joint team of Officers of different enforcement departments today carried out a successful operation against the illegal mining here under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav. The team comprising District Mineral Officer, Dr. Brijesh Manhas, Tehsildar Satish Rana and S.I Amrinder Singh seized a whopping 3200 metric ton illegally extracted sand found dumped on the roadside in Tehsil Atholi of the Paddar Sub division of District Kishtwar.

To curb the rampant illegal extraction of minor minerals and safeguard the environment, the enforcement authorities have launched a major crackdown in the District. Upon inspection, it was established that the perpetrators had violated the law, prompting the Enforcement team to take decisive action. As a consequence, the offenders have been directed to present themselves at the District Mineral Office on Monday, 5th June 2023, for the compounding of the offense. The DMO Kishtwar has issued a stern warning to all potential wrongdoers, making it abundantly clear that any future involvement in illegal extraction activities will not be tolerated. Meanwhile, the district administration has stepped up surveillance in the areas prone to illegal mining and transportation of construction material. The mule track leading from the Main road to the riverbanks of Chenab at Navnatnoo area in Tehsil Nagseni has been identified as a potential site for illegal activities. The District Administration is actively monitoring the situation and has taken necessary measures to ensure strict adherence to the law.The enforcement actions carried out by the district administration exemplify its commitment towards maintaining ecological balance in the district.

Training/Interactive session on e-Office held at **Kulgam**

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 31: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a training cum interactive session of ministerial staff of various departments on e-Office was today held at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The training cum interactive session was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam,

The technical experts from NIC Kulgam gave a detailed presentation on the steps involved in operation/usage of e-Office, dos and don'ts of the process and troubleshooting tips to ensure on-spot resolution of any technical glitches and errors. Among others, ACR Mir Imtiyazul-Aziz and other officers were present at the event.

DLSA Srinagar conducts Door to Door Campaign Raises awareness about the harmful effects of Tobacco consumption

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: On the eve of Anti Tobacco Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar today conducted a door to door campaign aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of Tobacco consumption and

educating citizens about the health hazards of smoking and other forms of Tobacco use.The door to door campaign was conducted by PLV's of DLSA Srinagar under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad. The Chairman DLSA emphasized the need for more awareness campaigns to

combat the growing problem of Tobacco consumption in the society. He further stated that Tobacco consumption is a serious health hazard that needs to be addressed at all levels.

With these campaigns we are trying to reach out to as many people as possible with the message of quitting Tobacco and leading a healthy lifestyle, he

Jahangir Bakshi expressed his hope that these small though effective initiatives will serve as a wakeup call for all Tobacco users to quit Tobacco and join hands with us against the use of Tobacco by working togeth-

Secretary DLSA Srinagar,

years of unblemished and exemplary services. Among other postings, she served as Supervisor and CDPO- ICDS in various projects across the UT, Deputy Director Employment Doda, GM DIC Doda, and DPO ICDS Many officers and staff members spoke about her

retiring DPO

HT News Network

ICDS Doda bids adjeu to

In her speech, the retiring Officer urged the colleagues to take it as an opportunity to serve the people, espe-

Forest Department organizes one-day Training workshop on 'Continuous Forest Inventory'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: A one day Training cum Capacity workshop was today organized by J&K Forest Department on Continuous Forest Inventory for Forest Officers at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag.

The program was organized in collaboration with Forest Demarcation Division. Kashmir Region and Photo Interpretation Division in which about 40 Officers and officials partici-

During the inaugural session, Conservator of Forests, South Forest Circle, Irfan Ali Shah informed that Forests covers about 48 percent of total land area in the J&K, so inventory based assessment of the forest resources is of utmost importance in the present scenario.

He stressed that data and information are required to manage a renewable natural resource such as forest sustainability and this information is largely obtained through forest inventories which provides the data for planning, monitoring, evaluation,



research, growth and yield, biodiversity, and timber

Shah informed that traditionally, the Forest Officers along with Revenue Officers demarcated the forests using traditional equipment's but with the advent of modern technology, our Foresters need to adopt themselves with the advanced technologies like GPS, GIS, PDA, formation of KMZ and KML files and even drone technology. He informed that these training programs are a step in

this direction. The CoF directed all forest officers to ensure Inventorization of Forest vegetation at specified grid points strictly in accordance with Forest Records and scien-

He informed that under the deliverable theme "Kabza Mukt Janglat" or encroachment free forests, this year till now 208 Kanals of forest land has been evicted out in South Kashmir. Further 201 numbers of Forests have been surveyed under deliverable, "Digitize, Fence, Secure" last year. The Demarcation Division itself is going to install hundreds of BPs including Main Line and Check Line BPs.

He informed that different survey teams of forest officials constituted to ascertain the existence of already installed BPs across South Kashmir have completed this exercise last week and a report has been submitted in this regard already with the headquarters. He said with this pace, we will be able to achieve the complete consolidation and settlement of forest boundaries in South Kashmir in the next 2-3 years.

He also envisioned use of differential Global Positioning System technology for ascertaining location of grid or survey points more accurately with greater precisions.

The Technical session was taken by Shabir Ahmad Dar I/c ICT Lab PI Division and briefed about Technoletation surveys.

In the afternoon, the trainees were given exposure to various field exercises and skills viz Forest vegetal analysis in Mattan Forests of Lidder Forest Division.

The programme was also attended by Divisional Forest officers of South Forest Circle including Dr. Mehraj Ahmad Sheikh, DFO Lidder Forest Division and Mohammad Ramzan Mir, DFO Anantnag who spoke on different aspects of Forest management planning.

Range officers, Rels, media fraternity and other forest officials.

achievements and services she rendered in the ICDS Department and her people friendly approach during her tenure in other departments.

DODA, MAY 31: Staff of Integrated Child Development

Projects (ICDS) of all the 8 projects of Doda and the staff

of District Programme Office ICDS Doda bade farewell

to Shahida Parveen, DPO ICDS Doda on her superan-

nuation from government services after rendering 40

cially children, adolescent girls, and pregnant women.

World No Tobacco Day observed across District Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, MAY 31: A series of awareness programmes were held today under the aegis of District Health Society Doda to observe World No Tobacco Day.

The programme was organized on the theme, "We need food, not tobacco" as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration. Two major events were held at ANMT School Doda, SDH Bhaderwah, besides in other medical blocks of the District.At Bhaderwah, the programme was chaired by CMO, Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar, in presence of BMO. The CMO highlighted the importance of the day and said that tobacco has been clinically proven as the main cause of cancer which affects millions across the world. He further said tobacco is considered as one of the major threats to public health in the 21st century. The CMO Doda also called for creating mass awareness about the hazards of smoking and its other forms. He stressed upon the voluntary organizations to organize programmes and help in sensitizing the society about the effects of smoking on public health.

The participants pledged to spread the message in the society in a big way and save the human lives from the dreaded diseases like cancer, tuberculosis caused due to smoking. At ANMT School Doda, the programme was chaired by Principal Anusuya Bhan.

The speakers said that the students and youth are the best ambassadors to circulate the message and create awareness to develop drug and tobacco free society. Awareness rallies were also organized by the health department, with the active participation of school

Anti Tobacco Day DLSA Samba holds awareness program for students of GHS Badhori

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 31: Under able aegis of JKLSA and as per the Action plan for the month of May, 2023 issued by Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and also under the radiant guidance of Yesh Paul Kotwal, Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge Samba), District Legal Services Authority, Samba today organised an awareness program in the Government High School, Badhori, Raya, to mark the observance of "Anti Tobacco Day" (2023) under the theme "We need Food not Tobacco." Dr. Geetanjali Rajput, MLHP, Block Purmundal was the resource person. She highlighted the hazards of smoking and other tobacco products and said quitting this habit is best for the health of an individual addicted to it. She also educated the student participants about the health risks associated with tobacco use, including smoking and smokeless tobacco products. Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary, DLSA Samba also spoke as to how a balanced diet is essential for students in order to maintain their physical and mental well being and how education plays an important role in eradicating the evils like drug abuse and use of Tobacco. The objective of organizing the awareness camp was to raise the awareness among the students on the risks posed by tobacco smoking and magnitude.

DIO Kupwara Mohammad Yousuf Mir accorded warm send-Off

DC Kupwara appreciates services of outgoing officer.

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 31: Mohammad Yousuf Mir, District Information Officer (DIO), Kupwara, who attained retirement today after serving for more than 40 years in department was accorded a warm farewell at District Information & Public Relations Office, Kupwara in an impressive and well attended function.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner(DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray; besides Assistant Director Information, Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam Khan; Senior functionaries of the department, Officials of District Information Centre Kupwara and Tehsil Information Centres of Karnah and Handwara participated in farewell function.

Deputy Commissioner commended the role of the outgoing DIO and said that the officer showed his best performance and worked professionally in the district. Wish-



ing him a prosperous post retirement life DC said that "I have found outgoing officer cool, calm, soft spoken but very professional and dedicated".DC said that outgoing DIO has dedicated the prime period of his life for the Government and department in service delevery". The Assistant Director Information, Mohamad Aslam Khan in his speech said that other staff of information department should replicate the professionalism and dedication of outgoing District Information officer.

Inspiring Banker Mohammad Abdullah Qureshi Welcomed Home After Retirement.

■ Zubair Qureshi

The retirement of Mohammad Abdullah Qureshi, a highly esteemed Senior Manager of J&K Bank's Sogam Kupwara Branch, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and heartfelt joy in his native village of Baghbella Karnah, a border tehsil of Kupwara district. Having dedicated years of service to the banking sector, Qureshi's contribution and commitment were honored by his family, friends, and community members.Mohammad Abdullah Qureshi, known for his professionalism and diligence, held various positions within the esteemed J&K Bank during his illustrious career. His expertise and leadership in the banking sector have been instrumental in driving growth and facilitating financial services for the local community.

As news spread of Qureshi's retirement, Baghbella reverberated with excitement and anticipation. The village, nestled in the picturesque landscape of Karnah Border Tehsil, eagerly awaited his return to cele-



The homecoming event was marked by a warm reception, as community members and well-wishers gathered to express their gratitude and appreciation for Qureshi's dedicated service. The air was filled with joyous chants, heartfelt applause, and expressions of admiration for his achievements.While talking to Zubair Qureshi, he stated, "I am deeply humbled and overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from my village. It is a moment of great joy to be back among my family, friends, and the people who have always supported me throughout my career. I am grateful for their love and encouragement."

How do kidney stones happen? Its risk factors, and more

@HEADLINESTODA17

ach year, more than half a million **■** people go to emergency rooms for mated that one in ten people will have a kidney stone at some time in their lives.

13TH HEADLINES

The prevalence of kidney stones in the United States increased from 3.8% in the late 1970s to 8.8% in the late 2000s. The prevalence of kidney stones was 10% during 2013–2014. The risk of kidney stones is about 11% in men and 9% in women. Other diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity may increase the risk for kidney stones.

What is a kidney stone?

A kidney stone is a hard object that is made from chemicals in the urine. There are four types of kidney stones: calcium oxalate, uric acid, struvite, and cystine. A kidney stone may be treated with shockmon symptoms include severe pain in lower back, blood in your urine, nausea, vomiting, fever and chills, or urine that smells bad or looks cloudy.

Urine has various wastes dissolved in it. When there is too much waste in too little liquid, crystals begin to form. The crystals attract other elements and join together to form a solid that will get larger unless it is passed out of the body with the urine. Usually, these chemicals are eliminated in the urine by the body's master chemist: the kidney. In most people, having enough liquid washes them out or other chemicals in urine stop a stone from forming. The stone-forming chemicals are calcium, oxalate, urate, cystine, xanthine, and phosphate.

After it is formed, the stone may stay in the kidney or travel down the urinary tract into the ureter. Sometimes, tiny stones move out of the body in the urine without causing too much pain. But stones that don't move may cause a back-up of urine in the kidney, ureter, the bladder, or the urethra. This is what causes the pain.

Symptoms

Some kidney stones are as small as a grain of sand. Others are as large as a pebble. A few are as large as a golf ball! As a general rule, the larger the stone, the more noticeable are the symptoms.

The symptoms could be one or more of the following:

severe pain on either side of your

lower back more vague pain or stomach ache that doesn't go away blood in the urine

nausea or vomiting fever and chills

urine that smells bad or looks cloudy



wave lithotripsy, uteroscopy, percutaneous age-but usually not without causing a lot x-ray" (kidney-ureter-bladder x-ray) which nephrolithomy or nephrolithotripsy. Com- of pain. Pain relievers may be the only will show the size of the stone and its positreatment needed for small stones. Other treatment may be needed, especially for the surgeons to determine if the stone is or other complications. In severe cases, however, surgery may be required.

Causes

Possible causes include drinking too little water, exercise (too much or too little), obesity, weight loss surgery, or eating food with too much salt or sugar. Infections and $family\,history\,might\,be\,important\,in\,some$ people. Eating too much fructose correlates with increasing risk of developing a kidney stone. Fructose can be found in table sugar and high fructose corn syrup.

There are four main types of stones: Calcium oxalate: The most common type of kidney stone which is created when calcium combines with oxalate in the urine. Inadequate calcium and fluid intake, as well other conditions, may contribute to

their formation. Uric acid: This is another common type of kidney stone. Foods such as organ meats and shellfish have high concentrations of a natural chemical compound known as purines. High purine intake leads to a which, under the right conditions, may infection, it is removed with surgery. form stones in the kidneys. The formation of these types of stones tends to run in

and are caused by infections in the upper urinary tract.

Cystine: These stones are rare and tend to run in families. What are Cystine Stones?

Diagnosis of a kidney stone starts with a medical history, physical examination, and imaging tests. Your doctors will want The kidney stone starts to hurt when it to know the exact size and shape of the causes irritation or blockage. This builds kidney stones. This can be done with a high to flush out the stone out in the urine. If

tion. The KUB x-ray is often obtained by those stones that cause lasting symptoms suitable for shock wave treatment. The KUB test may be used to monitor your stone before and after treatment, but the CT scan is usually preferred for diagnosis. In some people, doctors will also order an intravenous pyelogram or IVP, a special type of X- ray of the urinary system that is taken after injecting a dye.

Second, your doctors will decide how to treat your stone. The health of your kidneys will be evaluated by blood tests and urine tests. Your overall health, and the size and location of your stone will be considered.

Later, your doctor will want to find the cause of the stone. The stone will be analyzed after it comes out of your body, and your doctor will test your blood for calcium, phosphorus and uric acid. The doctor may also ask that you collect your urine for 24 hours to test for calcium and uric acid.

Treatment

The treatment for kidney stones is similar in children and adults. You may be asked to drink a lot of water. Doctors try to let the stone pass without surgery. You may also get medication to help make your urine less acid. But if it is too large, or if it blocks higher production of monosodium urate, the flow of urine, or if there is a sign of

Shock-wave lithotripsy is a noninvasive procedure that uses high-energy sound

thotripsy. I think I have a stone. What do I do?

See a doctor as soon as possible. You may be asked to drink extra fluid in an attempt kidney stones pass without causing dam- to the bladder or an x-ray called a "KUB" of the stone that has passed, bring it to your

doctor. Or, the stone may need to be removed

HT - HEALTH

Why do doctors examine the contents of the stone?

There are four types of stones. Studying the stone can help understand why you have it and how to reduce the risk of further stones. The most common type of stone contains calcium. Calcium is a normal part of a healthy diet. The kidney usually removes extra calcium that the body doesn't need. Often people with stones keep too much calcium. This calcium combines with waste products like oxalate to form a stone. The most common combination is called calcium oxalate.

Less common types of stones are: Infec $tion-related \, stones, containing \, magnesium$ and ammonia called struvite stones and stones formed from monosodium urate crystals, called uric acid stones, which might be related to obesity and dietary factors. The rarest type of stone is a cystine stone that tends to run in families.

Consequences Kidney stones increase the risk of developing chronic kidney disease. If you have had one stone, you are at increased risk of having another stone. Those who have developed one stone are at approximately 50% risk for developing another within 5 to 7 years.

Prevention

Drinking enough fluid will help keep your urine less concentrated with waste products. Darker urine is more concentrated, so your urine should appear very light yellow to clear if you are well hydrated. Most of the fluid you drink should be water. Most people should drink more than 12 glasses of water a day. Speak with a healthcare professional about the right amount of water that's best for you. Water is better than soda, sports drinks or coffee/ tea. If you exercise or if it is hot outside, you should drink more. Sugar and high-fructose corn syrup should be limited to small quan-

Eat more fruits and vegetables, which make the urine less acid. When the urine is less acid, then stones may be less able to form. Animal protein produces urine that has more acid, which can then increase your risk for kidney stones.

You can reduce excess salt in your diet. waves to blast the stones into fragments Whatfoods are high in salt? Everyone thinks Struvite: These stones are less common that are then more easily passed out in the of salty potato chips and French fries. Those urine. In ureteroscopy, an endoscope is should be rarely eaten. There are other inserted through the ureter to retrieve or products that are salty: sandwich meats, obliterate the stone. Rarely, for very large canned soups, packaged meals, and even or complicated stones, doctors will use sports drinks. You want to try to get to a percutaneous nephrolithotomy/nephrolinormal weight if you are overweight. But, high-protein weight loss diets that include high amounts of animal-based protein, as well as crash diets can add to the risk of stone formation. You need adequate protein, but it needs to be part of a balanced diet. Seek guidance from a registered dietitian rapidly to extreme pain. In most cases, resolution CT scan from the kidneys down you strain your urine and can save a piece when embarking on a weight loss diet or any dietary interventions.

NEWS

Boost Your Thyroid Health With These 6 Nutritionist-Approved Herbs



he thyroid gland, often overlooked yet crucial, plays a vital role in our body. Shaped like a butterfly, this gland secretes hormones that regulate essential functions such as food metabolism, weight management, sleep patterns, mood stability, and mental well-being, including anxiety and depression. Giving attention to specific foods and nutrients like iodine, protein, and healthy fats promotes optimal thyroid function. Lovneet Batra suggests that incorporating certain herbs into one's diet can support thyroid health. Adding a touch of fresh or dried herbs to a dish not only enhances its flavors but also provides added health benefits. Here are some herbs that have the potential to improve thyroid function:

1. Ashwagandha

This nutritional herb contains alkaloids, steroidal, and saponin chemicals, which are essential for active hormonal pathways in the system. It involves increasing the production of the T4 hormone with the help of the conversion of T4 to T3.

2. Ginger Root

Ginger has numerous health benefits. And it can even help relieve persistent hypothyroid symptoms. Ginger also has other beneficial effects in terms of weight reduction and regulation of the FBS and lipid profiles in hypothyroid patients.

3. MoringaMoringa

Oleifera also regulates the production of thyroxine and triiodothyronine due to the "presence of polyphenols in addition to thiocyanate and also promotes good metabolism.'

4. Black Cumin Seeds (Nigella)

Black cumin seeds are a great way to boost thryoid health. "It decreases inflammation, helps to reduce TSH and anti-TPO antibodies, and raises T3," Lovneet Batra adds.

5. Sage

Sage contains rosmarinic acid, which inhibits immunoglobulin effects on the thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) receptor and also decreases the peripheral conversion of T3.

6. Licorice

Licorice, as per the nutritionist, assists in protecting the thyroid gland from oxidative damage and helps to lower levels of cortisol (which inhibits the secretion of TSH, the thyroid-stimulating hormone, from the pituitary gland).

Know the Right Way to Consume Almonds, Especially in Summer Season

ow to consume almonds in summer: Almonds are ■a tasty, nutritious food that everyone knows.

Although a bit costly, for the health benefits it contains, most people are not reluctant to spend to buy almonds.

However, there are differences in the way each person eat almonds. Some people like to eat soaked almonds at night, some people like to eat them raw or roasted.

The fiber, protein, vitamins and omega 3 fatty acids in almonds helps to keep the body healthy and fit. Although almonds are good for the body, consuming too much green almonds in the summer can be harmful instead of good for the body.Green almonds produce body heat and consuming them in summer can lead to bile duct condition. Therefore, it is better to eat soaked almonds at night instead of eating

Soaked almonds help the body absorb nutrients easily. Due to the high in body temperature, you may face problems like blisters and acne.

Eating raw whole almonds is even more risky because digestive problems also increase in the sum-

Amazing soaked almonds are not only easy to digest but also



regulates the body heat. Soaked almonds removes bile and protects against many digestive problems.

Almonds are good to take without skin: Peeling soaked almonds at night and eating them in the morning is said to be more beneficial for health.

Almond skin contains a chemical called tannin, which prevents the body from absorbing nutrients. So it is the best to peel it and eat soaked almonds.

Needless to say, they are rich in vitamin E, which is good for hair and skin health too. It also helps to

create new cells. Almonds are high in fiber and

protein, and when eaten on an empty stomach they do not make you feel hungry throughout the

1. Blood sugar control

They are rich in protein, fiber, vitamins and fats. It is useful for diabetics to take almonds. It also helps control blood sugar.

2. Resists aging

Almonds are rich in anti-oxidants and vitamin E. Regular consumption of soaked almonds helps to reduce fine lines on the body and reduce aging.

The article above is for informa-

tional purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical

Always seek the guidance of your doctor or other qualified healthcare professional if you have any questions regarding your health or medical condition.

How Many Almonds Should You Eat In A Day?.

Health experts suggest that around four to five almonds in a day are enough for an average man. However, the amount may differ from person to person, as per their tolerance. Hence, it is always better to consult an expert before deciding on including soaked almonds in your daily diet. Eat healthy, stay

What Is The Right Way To **Include Almonds In Summer** Diet?

We understand almond generates excess heat in the body, hence, experts suggest avoiding raw almonds during the summers. According to nutritionist Gargi Sharma, one must soak almonds over-night, peel the skin and then consume. She further explains that the peel of almonds contain tannin, which makes the food hard to digest, creating excess body heat.





says French sports minister

PARIS: French sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said Wednesday that Novak Djokovic's political message about Kosovo was "not appropriate" and warned the former top-ranked Serb player that he should not do it again.

Speaking on TV station France 2, Oudea-Castera said French Open director Amelie Mauresmo spoke with Djokovic and his entourage to insist on the principle of "neutrality" on the field of play. "When it comes to defending human rights and bringing people together around universal values, a sportsperson is free to do so," she said. But Oudea-Castera added that Djokovic's message was "militant, very political" and "must not be repeated."

Djokovic has drawn criticism from Kosovo's tennis federation after offering his thoughts on clashes in northern Kosovo between ethnic Serbs and police and NATO peacekeepers

After a first-round victory in Paris on Monday, Djokovic wrote in Serbian on the lens of a courtside TV camera: "Kosovo is the heart of Serbia. Stop the violence."

Kosovo's tennis federation said Tuesday that Djokovic's comments were "deplorable" because he was stoking tensions between Serbia and Kosovo.

A former province of Serbia, Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence is not recognized by Belgrade. Ethnic Albanians make up most of the population, but Kosovo has a restive Serb minority in the north of the country bordering Serbia.

Djokovic, who has won 22 Grand Slam titles, is scheduled to play in the second round at Roland Garros on Wednesday.

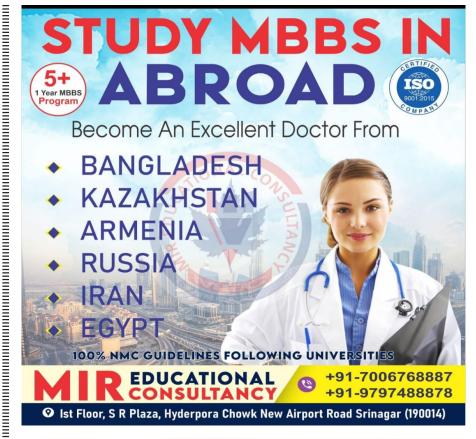
Speaking to reporters in Serbian, Djokovic said Monday that he thought what he wrote on the TV camera was "the least I could do. I feel responsibility as a public figure ... as well as a son of a man who was born in Kosovo."

Without mentioning Djokovic by name, French Open organizers indicated in a statement issued Tuesday that no rules had been broken, saying: "Occasionally, discussions about international news events enter the realm of the tournament, which is understandable."

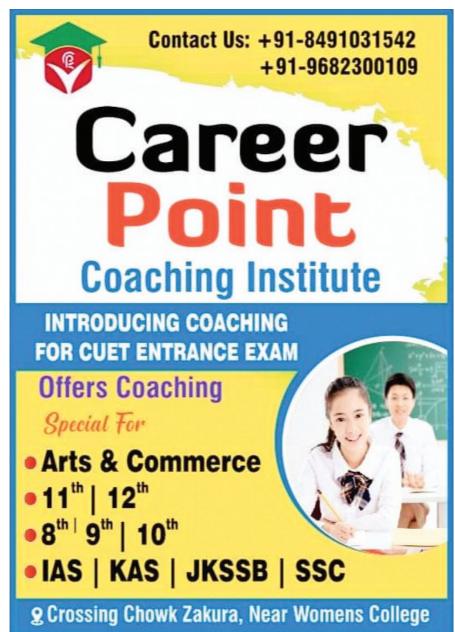


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