

# Buildup to super blood moon eclipses the finale

WELLINGTON, May 26:

In the end, the buildup seemed to eclipse the finale. People across New Zealand and around the world stayed up Wednesday to watch a cosmic event called a super blood moon, a combination of a total lunar eclipse and a brighter-than-usual supermoon.

During the buildup, a glittering moon rose above the horizon. As the Earth's shadow began taking bites from the moon, it created a dramatic effect. Half the moon vanished, leaving it looking like a black-and-white cookie.

When the full eclipse took hold, however, the moon darkened, turning a smudgy burnt orange colour for many viewers. In celestial terms, it was a wonder: a projection of the world's sunsets and sunrises onto the black canvas of the eclipsed moon. But for people peering up from their backyards, it wasn't quite the brilliant display they'd anticipated. Not quite super or blood-colored.

"It was not that vivid for those on ground," said Ben Noll, a meteorologist with New Zealand scientific research agency NIWA. "Personally, I thought there would be a bit more red in the sky."

Still, Noll thought that overall, the evening was sensational. He heard plenty of people cheer-



ing and cars honking in downtown Auckland where he watched it all unfold.

John Rowe, an educator at the Starmore Observatory & Planetarium in Auckland, said it was like the moon turned into a big, spooky smile looking down at him. That's because of a bright rim that remained at the bottom.

Rowe also enjoyed seeing surrounding stars appear to brighten as the light from the moon dimmed.

The full eclipse lasted about 15 minutes, while the whole cosmic show lasted five hours. A partial eclipse began as the moon edged into the Earth's outer shadow, called the penumbra, before moving more fully into the main shadow and then reversing the process.

Rowe likes to imagine it as if he's standing on the moon. The Earth would come across and block out the sun. The reddish light around the edges would be

## Govt didn't proceed systematically to tackle pandemic: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: JKPC Vice President and former minister Raman Bhalla continued visiting different areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency, especially focusing on areas having large population of poor and marginalized sections of society to

alleged. Bhalla demanded drawing on the existing surplus foodgrain stocks to provide free rations to the families of the marginalised and deprived sections of society as well as unorganised labour who have lost their employment opportunities until the ferocity of the pandemic. "Govt must provide



Raman Bhalla visiting marginalized sections in Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituency.

express his solidarity with them in hour of crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla claimed that BJP top leaders in J&K have now publicly admitted that lack of preparation and proper arrangements to deal with Covid-19 second wave in J&K made the situation worst resulting in surge in Covid-19 cases and also surge in Covid-19 deaths. He sought apology from BJP leaders for accusing Congress leaders for raising genuine and vital issues which finally they are accepting that Congress was not wrong in realizing Govt from time to time that what they should do and was being done on the ground by them.

"There were multiple early warning signs. Forget the signs, scientists clearly warned the Government this would happen - they ignored them. We could and should have been much better prepared. And now, where is the Government in this crisis? It is completely missing in action," he added.

## Make hospital admn responsible for avoidable deaths: Ex MLCs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Some former MLCs and other prominent people have demanded that hospital administration should be made responsible for avoidable deaths.

In a joint statement issued here today, Romesh Arora, Charanjit Singh Khalsa, Devinder Sethi, Sumant and Birender Gupta said that society will never forget services of corona warriors who laid life in service of humanity. They appreciated efforts made by Modi Govt, but added that system required to be improved in Jammu and Kashmir.

They said that death of Covid patients during night is a

## Hit & run case solved, accused arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Domana Police worked out a hit and run case with the arrest of accused.

As per police sources, yesterday a bullet motorcycle without registration number coming from Muthi side towards Janipur riding by unknown rider in a very rash and negligent manner hit and seriously injured pedestrian namely Chaman Lal, son of Prem Nath of Suryavanshi Nagar Muthi near JDA flats Muthi.

The profusely bleeding pedestrian was rushed to GMCH Jammu, but he succumbed to injuries. The bullet motorcycle rider escaped from the spot.

A case under FIR Number 139/2021 under Sections 279 and

# 70 % above 45 years vaccinated: DC Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, May 26: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Inder Jeet today said that 70 percent 45+ population (1.15 lakh ) has been vaccinated in Poonch district, while isolation centres have been established in all 229 Panchayats of the district.

Giving details of current COVID control and management measures taken in the district at a press conference, here today, the DC said Poonch reported a total 1098 positive cases during second wave, out of which 500 have recovered and the present recovery rate is 76 percent, while the positivity rate has dropped to 2 percent in last five days.

Giving further details, the Deputy Commissioner informed that 70 percent 45 plus persons, i.e 114992 have been vaccinated in the district and 1469 Covid Kits were provided to the positive patients in home isolation.

He also said that 5 bedded Covid Care Centres have been established in all 229



Panchayats of the district and all logistics arrangements for the convenience of the Covid patients will be made available in the centre.

He said the administration is preparing the list of NGOs working in the district to seek their services, whenever and wherever necessary.

It was further informed that 83255 households have been screened/ mopped for various illness/ symptoms and the district administration has notified 24 micro containment zones in the district to contain the spread of infection.

Elaborating further, he said oxygen plant at Mandi and Poonch are under construction, while DPRs have been prepared for Surankote and Mendhar Hospitals.

# Div Com visits Khour, Jourian; inspects Covid care facilities

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Akhnoor and Khour sub division of district Jammu and inspected the Covid care centres and development activities in rural areas.

The Divisional Commissioner inspected Covid care centres at Akhnoor, Khour and Jourian.

He visited Government Ayurveda Medical College Akhnoor and inspected the facilities being developed there for Covid patients. He directed concerned officers to ensure cleanliness in covid care centres, functioning of Oxygen concentrators.

He also visited Sub District Hospital Akhnoor and inspected the non Covid health care facility in the hospital. BMO Akhnoor apprised the Div Com about the status of vaccination and percentage achieved so far. The Div Com directed the BMO to expedite the process and motivate people to take doses of the vaccine.

Divisional Commissioner



Div Com inspecting Covid care facilities in Khour.

also visited Community Health Centres at Dhangar, Khour and Jourian and inspected the medicare facilities being provided to the patients and status of vaccination.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also visited various villages and inspected the isolation facilities being created at Panchayats level for the patients who cannot manage home isolation. He instructed the concerned departments to ensure regular sanitation, uninterrupted water and

power supply to these centres. He also interacted with the elected public representatives, PRI members and inquired about the development requirements of their respective area.

Meanwhile, he also visited the construction site of Indri Pargwal Bridge which is being constructed over River Chenab. The locals demanded resumption of the work on the bridge for its early completion to benefit the people of adjoining villages.

## Kathua shows improvement in Covid situation with 87% recovery rate: DC

Excelsior Correspondent

BANI, May 26: Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Yadav today said that the Covid situation in Kathua has shown encouraging improvement with 87% recovery rate and decline in bed occupancy to 50%.

The DC was briefing media persons regarding Covid-19 situation in the district and measures undertaken at various levels to control its spread.

He said that against 1114 new cases 1374 patients recovered in last 7 days, showing 87% recovery which is around 5% high against the last week.

Appreciating the efforts of all the stakeholders, the DC credited citizens for their cooperation in implementing the Corona Curfew restrictions and showing enthusiastic participation in Covid Vaccination drives.

Rahul Yadav said that Kathua district has witnessed 17 deaths in last seven days, which also depicts a considerable decline in Covid death rate.

The bed occupancy rate in all Covid dedicated Institutions has also witnessed a lowering trend as only 50% of beds are presently occupied, he informed.

He informed that the process of establishing Rural- Covid Care Centres in all 257 Panchayats of the district is going on in full swing. He said the facility has already been created in 213 Panchayats with beds and other patient care amenities. He disclosed that district administration has placed an order to JKMLC to equip all Rural- CCCs with Oxygenated Beds without any delay.

Regarding Covid Vaccination Drive, the Deputy



Commissioner said the district administration has launched a special drive to cover Vulnerable Groups including Lawyers, Journalists, Shopkeepers, Street Vendors, Dhaba owners and their staff, besides employees of PHE, PDD directly associated with Covid mitigation and control efforts.

He said the vaccination drive will be scaled up in coming days to ensure 100% vaccination of targeted age groups.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav held a meeting with elected PRIs, prominent citizens and Local religious leaders of Bani town at Tourism Reception Centre, Bani.

DDC Member Bani, Reeta Thakur; SSP Kathua R.C Kotwal; SDM Bani, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; BMO Bani, Dr Radha Krishan; BDO Bani, Akhil Aasotra; BDO Duggan Joginder Kumar and local religious leaders were also present.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon the PRI representatives, religious leaders and field functionaries to mobilize people for Covid vaccination in the Sub division, which has registered lowest Vaccination rate and high positivity rate in the district. He appealed the people not to pay heed to the rumours as the vaccination is the only solution to minimise the chances of getting infected.



BJP leaders during a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

## Govt should adopt multi-pronged strategy to fight COVID: Sethi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Jammu and Kashmir BJP, Chief spokesperson, Sunil Sethi, while assuring the people that the party is with every citizen in fight against COVID, today said that the administration should adopt multi-pronged strategy to defeat Corona Virus.

Addressing press conference along with party spokespersons Balbir Ram Rattan and Rajni Sethi here at party headquarter, Sethi said that in view of the suspected third wave of COVID, the administration should set up Committee of Experts to suggest means to minimize loss of human lives and protect people from the dreaded virus. The Committee should also be assigned the task to suggest requirements related to infrastructure for better and timely treatment as Coronavirus keep changing its pattern to attack a person and the treatment pattern should be more advanced and effective.

"The administration should not hesitate to involve political, social and religious organisation and NGOs as well for defeating COVID", Sethi suggested.

As far party, J&K BJP presi-

dent, Ravinder Raina is making efforts, day and night, for better infrastructure and having covered almost whole of Jammu personally and pursuing matter with the Government. "Our MPs, elected representatives in Urban Local Bodies, BDCs, DDCs and senior leaders too are doing splendid job during the pandemic".

Sunil Sethi shared that new Oxygen Generation Plants with manifold systems to meet the demand are being installed in Community Health Centres (CHCs), Trauma and Emergency Hospitals in Jammu province. The objective to set up Oxygen Generation Plants in CHCs is to provide adequate Oxygen along with other facilities with improved infrastructure in rural areas.

Sethi reiterated BJP's resolve to reach every nook and corner of the UT under 'Seva hi Sangathan' programme and provide every kind of possible help in the pandemic time.

BJP is doing constructive politics of standing with people. "We criticize Government when we find that works are not upto mark despite our reporting", he said.

# J&K's Food Testing Labs get NABL Accreditation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 26: In a significant development, Food Testing Laboratories of Jammu and Srinagar have joined elite list of prestigious institutions of the country engaged in analytical work of food & food products by achieving NABL accreditation as mandated under Section 43 of Food Safety & Standards Act 2006.

National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 to Food Testing Laboratories of Jammu and Srinagar under chemical testing for quality assurance.

Commissioner Food & Drug Administration in a statement said that the department without the assistance of any consultant since 2019 mobilized all the resources & manpower to get NABL accreditation of Food Testing laboratories Jammu and Srinagar.

A team of in-house experts, both from Food and Drug Wings of the Department was constituted by Commissioner Food & Drug Administration in consultation with Financial

Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department. The progress on this account was reviewed on weekly basis by Commissioner FDA and monthly by FC Health and Medical Education," it added.

Giving further details it was revealed that the Food Laboratory Jammu was granted NABL accreditation in the month of March 2021 while the Food Laboratory Srinagar has been accorded NABL accreditation recently on 22nd May, 2021. "The NABL certification has been achieved in a record time in the prevailing pandemic situation, as food testing is an essential part of the Food Safety ecosystem to assure that the food conforms to the prescribed legal standards and is safe to consume.

This accreditation certification will enable the food regulatory mechanism in Jammu & Kashmir to deliver quality service in the interest of consumer safety & public health to achieve the goal of adulteration free and disease free society. This will also improve the sampling and inspection system at the grass roots level to meet quality aspects & necessary standards of Food Safety in the interest of public health," Shakeel ur Rehman, Commissioner Food & Drug Administration said.

## RVS IT hands over five oxygen concentrators to DC Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: RVS IT - London procured and shipped 5 oxygen concentrators to India which were today handed over to Anshul Garg, District Magistrate (DC Jammu), by RVS IT - Jammu (sister concern of RVS IT London), for Jammu hospitals.

As Jammu hospitals and care agencies struggle to meet this dire medical emergency, RVS IT

Rajesh Gupta Director of RVS IT Jammu said, "RVS IT feels and understands the local needs. We have donated 5 oxygen concentrators to DC Jammu which is least we could do. We are happy that the same are already being used in various local hospitals. As a responsible organisation, RVS IT is motivating and incentivising its more than 65 staff members in Jammu to get vaccinated. This is our small contribution to help our country and our people during these tough times".

Vikrant Gupta, Director of RVS IT based in London said, "I am very happy and proud that oxygen concentrators sent from the UK have reached Jammu for immediate use as they will fulfill the urgent needs of various Covid Care Centres across the city."

RVS IT is a London based MNC providing IT technical services to businesses based in the United Kingdom, Europe and the USA with more than 65 staff members working from its Jammu based Network Operations Centre.

Officials of RVS IT Jammu handing over oxygen concentrators to DC Jammu Anshul Garg.

have been working to serve and support its people back home. RVS IT has already spent more than £4,000 procuring and shipping equipment, and helping distribute needed medicines, food and other supplies.

Detailing some of the work done by the RVS IT in Jammu,

## Rattan Dogra heads FOIJ

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Rattan Dogra, president Association of

Industries, Ganganal was today unanimously inducted as Chairman of Federation of Jammu (FOIJ), replacing Lalit Mahajan, who completed his tenure.

In a virtual meeting of the FOIJ held here today, new office bearers of the Federation for the term 2021-22 were elected. While Dogra took over as chairman, Viraaj Malhotra was

inducted as secretary general while Lavinder Singh Puri as convener, under the constitutional provisions of the Federation. Lalit Mahajan, president Bari Brahmana Industrial Association; Jatinder Aul, president Small Scale Industries Association Digiana and Deepak Dhawan, president Birpur Small Scale Industries Association, were elected as co-chairmen of the FOIJ.

Dogra after taking over the charge as Chairman, assured the members that with the support of constituents of the Federation, the relevant issues pertaining to the industrial sector of Jammu province will be taken up with the Govt functionaries in J&K and Delhi.



Media person being inoculated at DPR office in Jammu on Wednesday.

## Over 200 media persons vaccinated on 2nd day of special vaccination drive

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Over 200 media persons associated with various print and electronic media, including those doing back office work, were inoculated on the second day of special vaccination camp held in Directorate of Information and Public Relation Office, Jammu. The camp was held on the directions of Director Information and PR, J&K Mr. Rahul Pandey in coordination with the District administration.

Deputy Director (PR) Jammu Gul Hassan Kraipak was the nodal officer incharge of the vaccination drive.

Those vaccinated included journalists, photo journalists, staff of circulation and advertisement departments of various media houses, radio channels and others.

The UT administration has decided to vaccinate the media persons on priority because ever since the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic journalist like been working tirelessly just like front line workers to bring the factual report to the people from the ground zero. They are also playing a vital role in spreading awareness about Covid-19 among the people.

The District Administration and Information department thanked the media for extending their full cooperation in the vaccination drive.

The two day special vaccination drive for media persons was organised by District Administration Jammu in collaboration with Directorate of Information and PR in which more than 550 media persons of 18-45 age group got their first dose of vaccine.



NPP staging protest against Modi Govt in Jammu.

## NPP holds protest against Govt for failure to contain Covid, inflation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 26: Accusing the BJP Govt of having completely failed in saving the nation from death and devastation, the NPP activists led by party chairman Harsh Dev Singh staged a silent protest at Jammu today to ventilate their deep sense of shock and anger over the deteriorating health scenario in the country.

The protestors carrying placards sought explanation from the Central BJP leadership for loss of precious lives due to corona pandemic as well as for raging inflation and growing unemployment in the country.

Addressing the media, Harsh Dev squarely held the Central BJP rule responsible for the catastrophe that had struck the nation. Not only had all pervasive corona terrified the nation but its fall out in the form of deadly diseases like black fungus, white fungus, yellow fungus, septic etc had made the situation worse confounded. The Govt had not only floundered in providing the much needed health infrastructure, essential drugs and vaccines etc to save the precious lives, but had miserably failed to control inflation which had reached a new high during BJP rule.

He said the fast spiralling prices of petrol, diesel, LPG, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil etc had multiplied the woes and

sufferings of the marginalized sections. The poor workforce was rendered jobless and unemployment problem had assumed alarming proportions. The fast rising prices of essential commodities at such a crucial juncture had invariably shaken the faith of the common masses in the BJP Govt. The poor people and daily earners not only faced the threat of corona contagion but felt extremely insecure in the wake of starvation staring them in the face due to loss of livelihood.

Alleging that the present crisis in the country was the outcome of governance fiasco, Singh said that while other countries worked overnight for strengthening their respective health institutions and related infrastructure, setting up oxygen plants, new hospitals and augmentation of existing health facilities, the Modi Govt was busy in winning elections. He further started offering and exporting millions of doses of vaccines to other countries in January, 2021 declaring that it produced more than sufficient for its population to be protected.

Asserting that the BJP govt had failed on multiple fronts, Singh said that it had lost the right to rule especially in the wake of prevalent situation created due to massive avoidable deaths, growing unemployment and raging inflation.