

## 12-14 age group vaccination from Wed

NEW DELHI, Mar 14:

The COVID vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years will begin from Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced.

The COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to the 12-14 years age group would be Corbevax manufactured by Biological E. Limited, Hyderabad, the Union Health Ministry said.

Tweeting the announcement in Hindi, the Minister said, "if the children are safe then the country is safe! I am happy to inform that the COVID vaccination of children in the age group

of 12 to 13 and 13 to 14 is starting from March 16. Also, every-one aged 60 years and above will now be able to get precaution doses."

Mandaviya also urged the families of children and people in the age group of 60 years and above that they must get the vaccination done.

The Union Government after due deliberations with scientific bodies has decided to start COVID-19 vaccination for 12-13 yr and 13-14 yr age groups (those born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 i.e those who are already above 12 years of age) of the population from March 16, 2022, the Ministry said in a statement. (PTI)

## Puneet Mahajan calls on Advisor to LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: BJP Health and Medical Cell convenor, Jammu & Kashmir and senior party leader, Puneet Mahajan



BJP Health and Medical Cell convenor Puneet Mahajan with Advisor RR Bhatnagar.

today called on Advisor to Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar at Civil Secretariat here and raised various issues of public importance.

Mahajan had a detailed interaction with the Advisor wherein he projected several demands and issues pertaining to the upgradation, renovation and amalgamation of Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar Jammu as the hospital Complex houses two facilities one caters to maternity and child care and other to general health problems. The

one is affiliated with GMC Jammu and the other is under the control of Directorate of Health which hampers proper utilization of the facilities of each other. Mahajan also raised long pending proposal and plan for the up gradation and expansion of this Hospital and stressed for its implementation on an emergency basis.

In this regard, he also handed over a memorandum to Advisor highlighting the issue.

Mahajan also raised the issue of pending cases of SRO-43 lying with Health and Medical Education Department and urged to consider on priority basis.

The Advisor observed that the UT Government is formulating development plans and policies reflective of needs and aspirations of the people of J&K and assured due consideration of the genuine issues projected during the interaction.

The Advisor urged Puneet Mahajan to continue his endeavors for promoting public welfare on all fronts.

## NC misleading people: Suri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Reacting sharply to the statement by J&K's former Chief Minister and president National Conference (NC), Dr Farooq Abdullah that "outsiders were being facilitated to take over businesses here", Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member, Raman Suri asked people not to be misled by these politicians who are pursuing divisive politics, as people from the entire Jammu and Kashmir are working, seeking healthcare facilities and doing businesses in rest of the country without being branded as "outsiders" similarly, people from throughout India were working in Jammu and Kashmir in different fields.

In a statement issued here, today he said that there exists no word like "outsider" in the entire India as people are free to work, move and seek facilities across the length and breadth of our mighty nation without any prej-

udice.

Raman Suri added that these politicians have always been dividing people in the name of religion, region, caste and creed but now time has changed and people are awakened. When people from Jammu and Kashmir go and work in other Indian states, seek employment, study, avail healthcare facilities or even make homes or businesses, no one calls them as outsiders but only Indians. Similarly, when our own people from rest of the country are guarding borders in Jammu and Kashmir, building infrastructures, doing businesses, running Central schemes and facilities like telecom, they are none other than our brothers and sisters, he added.

The BJP leader asked NC president not to divide people, who are now looking forward towards credible Government. The BJP led Government at the Centre, he added, is working for all and not for any 'insider' or 'outsider' in the most credible manner.

## Reserve one LS seat for STs in J&K: Hakla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Shamsheer Hakla Poonchi a prominent Gujjar leader and an intellectual of J&K while terming the creation of new Parliamentary constituency of Rajouri-Anantnag a great decision has demanded that the same be reserved for Schedule Tribe community.

Hakla in a statement today said that there exists a huge population of Gujjars-Bakarwals in newly created Lok Sabha constituency of Rajouri-Anantnag and reserving this constituency for the community is a genuine demand to ensure Gujjar-Bakarwal community a representation in Parliament and this is their right as per norms of Schedule Tribe under Indian Constitution.

This representation of Gujjar Bakarwal community in the Parliament would pave a way for addressing their genuine issues and difficulties faced by them.

Hakla said that the Gujjar Bakarwal community resides in 20 districts of J&K U.T especially in hilly, mountainous and far-flung areas near forests and on the Indo-Pak LOC and International Border having a population of several lakhs.

He said that the Gujjars

Bakarwals of J&K U.T are politically, educationally, socially and economically backward hence Government of India had granted Schedule Tribe status to them in 1991.

Due to the indifferent attitude of successive Governments in J&K, the Gujjar Bakarwal community were deprived of political rights, he added.

## 10 bovines rescued, two arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Nagrota Police rescued 10 bovine animals and seized two vehicles.

As per police sources, a team from Police Station Nagrota led by SHO Inspector Vishav Pratap Singh under the supervision of SDPO Nagrota Pardeep Kumar laid a naka and intercepted two vehicles.

During checking, police team rescued 10 bovine animals from the vehicles and arrested two persons, who were identified as Asif Ali, son of Rafiqat Ali of Kokarnag District Anantnag and

Mansha Choudhary, son of Nawab Din of Channi Himmat District Jammu.

Two cases under relevant Sections have been registered at Police Station Nagrota and investigation started.

## Many states request GST compensation extension beyond 5 years: FM

NEW DELHI, Mar 14:

Many states have requested extension of the compensation mechanism under the GST beyond June 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation from July 1, 2017.

The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. The 5-year period ends in June 2022.

The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the Central Government is committed to giving GST compensation to states/UTs for 5 years as per the Constitutional provision.

To a query whether the Government has received proposals from state governments requesting extension of compensation mechanism for another five years in view of difficulties caused by the pandemic, she said

"Yes Sir. Many states have requested for extension of the compensation period during the deliberations in GST Council and in letters addressed to the Central Government".



GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 has already been paid to states.

Since collections in the compensation fund are falling short of requirement, for 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Centre has borrowed funds worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore and Rs 1.59 lakh crore, respectively and passed it on to states as back-to-back loans.

The compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss. (PTI)



PKC leaders and activists at a meeting in Jammu on Monday.

## J&K people fed up with anti-people policies of BJP: Uday

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (JKPYCC) office bearers took stock of the problems being faced by the party members. The meeting was chaired by Uday Bhanu Chib, president JKPYC.

While addressing the party cadre during the meeting, Uday Bhanu stressed upon the dire need to strengthen the Congress party at the grass roots level. Accusing the BJP Govt at the Centre of pursuing anti-youth policies, the senior JKPYCC leader asked the youth cadre to become proactive and remain present among the common people in order to be abreast with their problems and issues. He said that he is aware of the security problems of the cadre especially in the valley but impressed upon the party workers and activists that braving all odds they will have to make the country are guarding borders in Jammu and Kashmir, building infrastructures, doing businesses, running Central schemes and facilities like telecom, they are none other than our brothers and sisters, he added.

The BJP leader asked NC president not to divide people, who are now looking forward towards credible Government. The BJP led Government at the Centre, he added, is working for all and not for any 'insider' or 'outsider' in the most credible manner.

## Billawaria, Jyoti kick start construction of deep drain

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with councillor Jyoti Devi kick started the work of deep drain at Ward 53 Trikuta Nagar in



BJP senior leader, Baldev Singh Billawaria and corporator Jyoti Devi kick starting the work of deep drain in Ward 53 on Monday.

Kashmiri Pandits from Valley. He said that the Modi Government is working tirelessly for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir. He further said that the character of Congress and their allies has been exposed and it will be the

reason for their downfall in Jammu and Kashmir.

While appreciating councillor, Jyoti Devi for making Ward Number 4 a Model Ward, Billawaria said that she is always worried about the development related

problems of the people of her Ward.

Jyoti Devi said that people were facing problems due to the poor condition of this deep drain. Due to the breach of the boundary wall of the drain the dirty water finds its passage in lanes and by lanes of the area which can create health hazards, she added.

He said that there was an old demand of the people to construct the drain which has been fulfilled now and people will get a lot of relief from the construction work of this deep drain. She complimented Billawaria for always supporting development related works.

## Govt formation: BJP appoints Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh as observers for UP, U'khand

NEW DELHI, Mar 14:

The BJP on Monday appointed its top leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, as central observers for Government formation in the four states where it returned to power.

In the latest round of assembly elections, the BJP won Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur, and on its own it touched the halfway mark in Goa. Punjab was won by the AAP.

The BJP parliamentary board, its apex decision making body, appointed Shah as the central observer for Uttar Pradesh and party vice president Raghuraj Das as co-observer.

Singh along with co-observer Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi has been assigned to oversee the selection of the leader of the legislature party in Uttarakhand.

Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Singh Tomar have been appointed as observers for selection of the leader of the legislature party in Manipur and Goa, the BJP said in

a statement issued by its general secretary Arun Singh.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju is the co-observer for Manipur and his cabinet colleague L Murgan is the co-observer for Goa.

While it is all set that Yogi Adityanath will again be elected as the legislative leader in Uttar Pradesh, the party has to take call on deputy chief ministers in the state, as one of the two in the previous Government, Keshav Prasad Maurya, lost the elections along with 11 ministers.

In Uttarakhand it is not clear who will lead the Government in the State as chief minister Pushkar Dhami lost the election.

In the backdrop of these circumstances and maintaining caste arithmetic in its favour, the BJP has appointed its heavyweights, former party presidents Shah and Singh, for ensuring smooth formation of Government in both Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The senior leaders as observers will look to select a team in these four states which can effectively steer the ship till next general elections. (PTI)

## BJP leader appeals Govt to settle issue of daily wagers

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 14: Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Trade Unionist P.C Sharma has appealed the Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha to regularise 60,000 daily wagers of all departments who are registered on Government web-portal.

In a statement issued here, today he said being trade union leader he spearheaded a prolonged agitation for 20 years for the regularization of these hapless workers and their demand is genuine and justified.

He said in 1994 blanket ban on regularization of daily wagers was imposed but due to lack of manpower in various departments they were engaged time to time for the smooth functioning of Government organs. Although daily wagers were not engaged against any particular policy but their services have been utilized in the interest of Government on essential works without any break. They were promised regularisation from time to time but all in vain.

He appealed Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh for their personal intervention in framing a concrete policy in this regard.

## Several join AAP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Several people joined Aam Aadmi Party at Laxmipuram, Chinore, AAP office in Raipur-Domana Constituency today.

During a meeting in the office on Sunday, in presence of Manish Sinha, Central Co-observer, S. Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member, Om Parkash Khajuria, convenor, Jammu Province, Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Co-Convenor, Jammu Province, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Media in-charge Jammu Province, Raj Kumar Nischal, Secretary, Jammu Province, Amit Langer, Joint Secretary, Jammu Province, getting impressed with the magical and dramatic socio-welfare schemes launched in Delhi by AAP under dynamic leadership of its leader Arvind Kejriwal.

Those who joined AAP include, Advocate Manish Kumar, Gurpreet Singh, Neeru Manhas, Ranjodh Singh, Ashwani Kumar, SN Sapru, Shanker Dass, Surinder Singh and Mohan Jit Singh.

Other dignities present on APHQ contributes for Govt School

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: On the guidance of SJM Gillani Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed J&K, the officers and officials of Armed Police Headquarters J&K Jammu led by Mahmood Ahmad SSP Staff Officer to ADGP Armed J&K Jammu contributed ceiling fans and printer to Government Girls High School Gandhi Nagar here today as a goodwill gesture.

Mahmood Ahmad SSP Staff Officer to ADGP Armed J&K Jammu along with Incharge CST APHQ J&K Inspector Nissar Ahmad, Incharge Research and Development APHQ J&K SI Krishan Saroop Rathore and PA to Staff Officer ASI Satesh Banshi Koul presented the items to Headmaster of the School Ganesh Khajuria in presence of staff and students of the school.

The school management led by its Headmaster expressed their gratitude and highly appreciated this goodwill gesture of officers and officials of Armed Police Headquarters J&K Jammu.

the occasion were, Raj Kumar Bhagat, former Commission Secretary, Hari Chand Jalmeria, Senior Advocate, High Court, Dr GS Charak, president All India Kissan Sabha, J&K, Thakur Dewan Chand, Trade union leader, Ramesh Lal Bhagat, Trade Union leader, & many other well-wishers of Aam Aadmi Party.

## Journalist booked under PSA

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: Srinagar-based journalist and editor Fahad Shah was today booked under the Public Safety Act.

Umair Ronga, Shah's legal counsel, said Police had "sensed" that the court may grant the bail to the journalist so they booked him under the PSA.

He said that the authorities have taken recourse to the PSA to prolong his detention and prevent him from doing his job.

Shah is founder of The Kashmir Walla, a digital magazine and news portal based in Srinagar. He is in Police custody and was granted bail in two cases but was booked under PSA a day before the hearing of the third case registered against him.

## Bail denied to 4 in abetment to suicide case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Principal Sessions Judge Udhampur Yash Pal Bourney has rejected the bail applications of four accused in the much publicized abetment to suicide case occurred in hilly Seoh Dhar area of Basantgarh Tehsil in Udhampur district.

After hearing Public Prosecutor for the state and counsel for the accused, court observed, "Shiv Raj has not been traced so far dead or alive and their release at this stage would certainly affect adversely the trial. However, accused Hassan Din is admitted to interim bail after taking into account the nature of evidence against him".

However, the court rejected the bail of other four accused persons namely Din Mohd, Sadeeq, Ashiq Ali and Mohd Hassan.

## JEE-Main 2022 rescheduled to avoid clash with Class 12 board exams

NEW DELHI, Mar 14:

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has rescheduled the first session of engineering entrance exam JEE-Main as its dates were clashing with Class 12 board exams, according to officials.

The exam will now be held on April 21, 24, 25, 29 and May 1 and 4. Earlier, the first session was scheduled from April 16 to 21.

"Representations are being received from candidates seeking change of dates of first session on account of clashing of their board exam date with JEE-Main. In view of persistent demand from student communi-

ty, the NTA has decided to reschedule the dates," a senior NTA official said.

The Joint Entrance Examination-Main comprises two papers.

Paper one is conducted for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes -- BE and B.Tech -- at NTIs, IITs and other centrally-funded technical institutions, and institutions and universities funded and recognised by participating state governments.

It is also an eligibility test for JEE (Advanced), which is conducted for admission to IITs.

The second phase of the exam is scheduled from May 24 to 29, 2022. (PTI)

## Hindu Biradri from Kulgam for removal of encroachments

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: District Kulgam Hindu Biradri in a one day convention here, today highlighted various issues confronting the displaced people of the area in particular and that of Kashmir Pandit community leading an exiled life for last 32 years in general and urged the Government to settle them without further delay.

The meeting which was chaired by Prof Omkar Nath Kaul also adopted the Constitution and discussed many important issues.

In the Constitution, it was resolved that the Biradri will work collectively for lasting settlement of the exiled community. It also resolved to collectively work for political empowerment of exiled community. It also framed temporary body.

The speakers on the occasion stressed the Government to look into burning issues of Hindu Biradri of district Kulgam and of entire displaced community in general. During the convention it was also resolved that they will take up the major issues and concerns of Biradri members with higher ups in administration for immediate solution. This included issues like fighting against illegal encroachments of land, shrines and other assets of Hindu Biradri of district Kulgam.

Prof. Koul in his address said that Biradri will not stop till goals and objectives mentioned on the draft of Constitution are achieved. He appealed community to get united and make collective efforts for regaining already lost glory and ethos of the community.

## Dr Bhavna delivers lecture at CDC Ludhiana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Renowned Pedodontist Dr Bhavna Kaul (Professor and HoD Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry, I G G D C J a m m u ) delivered a lecture during a PG course conference organized at Christian Dental College (CDC), CMC Ludhiana under the auspices of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Punjab.

Dr Kaul was invited as guest speaker in CDC Ludhiana. She delivered lecture on the topic "Pediatric & Preventive Dentistry PG orientation and Rapid Revision Course". The conference was attended by Super Specialists in Pediatric

and Preventive Dentistry and Post Graduate students from all over India.

In her lecture, Dr Kaul apprised the Post Graduates on "Regenerative Endodontics" and highlighted the history as well as scope on the recent advances in Regeneration of the soft and hard tissues of teeth in small and young children. She said that these procedures are being conducted under her supervision in the Department of Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC) Jammu.

In addition to this, Dr Kaul said, trauma, surgeries in mouth of small children, feeding appliance and NasoAlveolar molding in new born cleft patients and also latest procedures involving space maintenance after premature loss of milk teeth are conducted in IGGDC Jammu.

and Preventive Dentistry and Post Graduate students from all over India.

In her lecture, Dr Kaul apprised the Post Graduates on "Regenerative Endodontics" and highlighted the history as well as scope on the recent advances in Regeneration of the soft and hard tissues of teeth in small and young children. She said that these procedures are being conducted under her supervision in the Department of Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC) Jammu.

In addition to this, Dr Kaul said, trauma, surgeries in mouth of small children, feeding appliance and NasoAlveolar molding in new born cleft patients and also latest procedures involving space maintenance after premature loss of milk teeth are conducted in IGGDC Jammu.

## CBI books ED officer for amassing disproportionate assets

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 14: The CBI has booked an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 37 lakh in a period of four years, officials said on Monday.

The officer Rajkumar Ram, who was then posted in Bengaluru, had assets worth over Rs 1.18 lakh on April 1, 2016 in his name as well as that of his homemaker wife which swelled to Rs 57 lakh as on March 31, 2020, they said.

During the period, Ram had a total income of over Rs 1.34 crore with expenses of about Rs 1.16 crore.

After going through his income from verified sources and expenses, the CBI concluded that he has amassed Rs 37 lakh as disproportionate assets in connivance with his wife, the FIR has alleged. (PTI)

## Five vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Satwari, RS Pura and Phallian Mandal Police seized five vehicles involved in illegal mining.

As per police sources, teams from Police Station Satwari led by SHO Inspector Sameer Jiilani, Police Station RS Pura led by SHO Inspector Jai Pal Sharma and Police Post Phallian Mandal led by PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal raided different locations in their respective areas and seized five vehicles involved in illegal mining.

DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same.

The mining was being done in violation of order of High Court of J&K.

In order to strictly implement the drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators of the law, Jammu Police has initiated strict action.

## JKPJF demands security to Shia community in Pakistan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: JK People's Justice Front (JKPJF) has called upon the Pakistani Government to provide security and protection for all sections of the Pakistani people and to ensure the security of their lives and freedom of practice of religion.

Condemning the attack over Shia community in Peshawar the chairman of the Front and religious scholar Aga Syed Abas Rizvi demanded that the justice be given to the community. He also demanded that proper security arrangements be made for the Shia mosques and

Imambargahs as it is shameful that followers of Islam are targeted like this in an Islamic country.

This attack shall be seen as act of terrorism, he said. Terrorism and blasphemy is a curse that can destroy security and stability in any country, he added.

The Shia leader said Pakistan's Shia minority has long been the target of violence by Sunni Muslim Islamist militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban or Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) who analysts say have been emboldened by the Afghan Taliban seizing power last August, the statement added.