

NASA's 1st moon crew in 50 years includes 1 woman, 3 men

CANAVERAL, Apr 3: NASA on Monday named the four astronauts who will fly to the moon by the end of next year, including one woman and three men.

The three Americans and one Canadian were introduced during a ceremony in Houston, home to the nation's astronauts as well as Mission Control.

"This is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

The four astronauts will be the first to fly NASA's Orion capsule, launching atop a Space Launch System rocket from Kennedy Space Center no earlier than late 2024.

They will not land or even go into lunar orbit, but rather fly around the moon and head straight back to Earth, a prelude to a lunar landing by two others a year later.

The mission's commander, Reid Wiseman, will be joined by Victor Glover, an African American naval aviator; Christina Koch, who holds the world record for the longest spaceflight by a woman; and Canada's Jeremy Hansen. All are space veterans except Hansen.

"This is a big day. We have a lot to celebrate and it's so much more than the four names that have been announced," said Glover.

This is the first moon crew to include a woman and someone not from the US - and the first crew in NASA's new moon program named Artemis.

Late last year, an empty Orion capsule flew to the moon and back in a long-awaited dress rehearsal.

During Apollo, NASA sent 24 astronauts to the moon from 1968 through 1972. Twelve of them landed. All were military-trained test pilots except for Apollo 17's Harrison Schmitt, a geologist who closed out that moonlanding era alongside the late Gene Cernan.

Provided this next 10-day moonshot goes well, NASA aims to land two astronauts on the moon by 2025 or so.

NASA picked from 41 active astronauts for its first Artemis crew. Canada had four candidates. (AP)

YRS to elect new team soon

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: The Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) in Jammu and Kashmir will soon elect a new team of Rajput youth through a democratic process, as per the announcement made by its Chairman, Raghuraj Singh, at



Yuva Rajput Sabha members addressing media persons in Jammu on Monday.

a press conference held here today.

The existing team's term has expired, and the YRS has a tradition of electing a new team every two years.

Singh commended the outgoing team for its efforts in fulfilling a long-pending demand on the birth anniversary of the last Maharaja of the Dogra dynasty, Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Bahadur, which was ultimately declared by the UT administration. He also thanked the citizens of

Jammu province for supporting the YRS in its endeavors.

Chief Patron of the YRS, Rajinder Singh, expressed hope that the new team would continue to serve the needy and helpless citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, following in the footsteps of their ancestors in selfless

service to mankind. He also raised concerns over the casual approach of the civil administration in conserving the rich heritage of the Dogras and urged for the propagation of the Dogra language.

The press conference was attended by several prominent members of the YRS, including Ranjeet Singh, Dharminder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Ramesh Singh, Vikram Singh, Rajesh Singh, Shamsher Singh, Surinder Singh, and Rajveer Singh.

HC upholds cognizance of trial court against employees for protesting against Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: High Court has upheld the trial court orders taking cognizance in the commission of offences against the accused persons for protesting and slogging against the Government.

The petitioners along with others are accused in FIR No. 79/2012 dated 09.10.2012 for commission of offences under Sections 332, 353, 336 and 147 RPC. The allegations against them are that on 09.10.2012, they were protesting against the J&K Government and had blocked the traffic movement.

It is submitted that they were persuaded to give up the protest but in vain and they continued to shout slogans against the J&K Government. When the SHO asked them about the permission for holding the protest, the protesters started abusing and pelting stones on them, as a result of which, one PSO, was injured. Later, the Police succeeded in dispersing the mob.

The trial court vide order dated 06.03.2018 ordered framing of charge against the petitioners for commission of offences under Sections 332, 353, 336 and 147 RPC.

A perusal of the charge sheet reveals that after the commission of alleged offence, the searches of the accused were conducted but

could not be traced and thereafter, the investigation was handed over to Sub-Inspector, who conducted the search of the accused persons and six accused persons were arrested and released on bail.

Thereafter some more accused persons were arrested and released on bail. The charge sheet has been laid against 12 accused persons.

"As the petitioners were arrested in the months of February and May, 2016, whereas the offence was committed on 09.10.2012, therefore, the period for which they have avoided their arrest, has to be excluded for the purpose of computing limitation and as such", Justice Rajnesh Oswal clarified.

Court further added that the trial court has not committed any illegality while taking cognizance of the offences as mentioned in the charge sheet. The arguments on behalf of the counsel for the petitioners are not applicable in the present facts and circumstance of the case.

"Both the trial court as well as revisional court have rightly determined the issue of limitation, therefore, this Court does not find any reason to interfere with the orders passed by both courts. Accordingly, the present petition is found to be without merit and the same is dismissed", court concluded.

Sex racket busted in Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: Srinagar police today busted a sex racket in Baghi Mehtab area of Srinagar.

Police said that on the basis of a specific information a prostitution racket was busted today.

"The sex racket was being run by Irshad Ahmad Bhat son of Shaban Bhat of Kadalbal Pampore, Mohammad Shafi Hajam son of Abdul Qayoom Hajam of Karim Abad

Pulwama and others", police said.

Both these persons, 4 sex workers and 2 customers of Srinagar were arrested. The whole racket was run from rented house owned by one Altaf Hussain Afaqi som of Asadullah Afaqi of Chanapora.

A case of immoral trafficking act has been registered at Police Station Chanapora.

"The house owner had not done tenant verification of the tenants, he will also be booked", police said.

5 detained under preventive action

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Apr 3: Five persons, said to be drug-peddlers were detained by police for one month under preventive measures and sent to jail.

Official sources said that police flying squad vehicle from Poonch apprehended five persons from different locations within the jurisdiction of Police Station Poonch under suspicious conditions and during their search,



Doctor examining a patient at a medical camp in Arnia area of Jammu.

SVMM organizes Medical Camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: A multi-specialty free medical camp was organized at Dev Sthan Datti Maa Chingia in Arnia by Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission (SVMM) Charitable Hospital Ambhalla, Jammu.

The camp was inaugurated by Amar Chand Gupta, senior vice president SVMM in the presence of B.B Gupta, general secretary; B.S Jamwal, secretary; Subash Chander Gupta, associate member; Mohan Singh Chouhan, member; Shanker Dutt Sharma, member; Dr. Romesh Gupta, administrator SVMM, Kusum Lata, Sarpanch of the area, Dr. Vijay Bhagat and Suresh Kumar Gupta (ABMPM).

About 300 patients were examined in the camp and were given free of cost medicines.

The eye cases were examined by Dr. Suruchi Gupta who enlisted all the cataract cases to be operated by Phaco Surgery system free of cost at SVMM Hospital as follow up action.

Dr. Joginder Singh, Lecturer Medicine GMC Jammu provided his services in the camp with Dr. Sham Jurangal, Ortho Surgeon examined and Dr. Akriti Mahajan who extended dental care services.

General secretary B.B Gupta extended vote of thanks.

Railway Police seek help in identifying body

Excelsior Correspondent

VIJAYPUR, Apr 3: Government Railway Police (GRP) have circulated an image to identify the body of a woman who died after she fell from a train here on April 2nd, 2023.

A police spokesperson said that a 30-35 years old woman fell from Jammu Mail Express (number 14033) at Railway Track km 78.5 and died on-the-spot on April 2nd.

"The body of the deceased woman has been kept in the mortuary of Government Medical College Jammu for post-mortem/identification," said the spokesperson, adding, "anybody having information about the deceased woman, who's wheatish in colour, 5 feet-and-two-inch in height and wearing a grey-coloured-suit, can contact GRP Jammu on telephone numbers 9858646245, 0191-2474946 and PCR Jammu Helpline number (1512)".

Meanwhile, GRP Vijaypur have initiated inquest proceedings under relevant sections of the law.

Unknown man found with throat slit at Bathindi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: An unidentified man, believed to be around 40 years of age, was found with his throat slit at an under-construction shop in S a g a r Mohallah Doogian, Bathindi today.

A police spokesperson said that

soon after getting information, a police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured person to Government Medical College Jammu for medical attention. He remains under treatment at the time of this report.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Police have taken notice of the incident and urged anyone with information about the individual's identity to contact the incharge Police Post Bathindi on 9419162634 or PCR Jammu.

Ex-servicemen raise OROP demand

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Apr 3: As part of countrywide protest, ex-servicemen here today also staged protest demonstration in support of their demand of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

They took out a protest rally from Chowgan Kishitwar which culminated at DC office Kishitwar.

The protesters were raising slogans in favour of their demand of review of OROP so that all the ranks may get benefit without any disparity.

The protest rally was joined by hundreds of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris of Indian Army.

Later on they submitted memorandum of their demand to District Administration of Kishtwar.

SCIJ conducts cancer screening

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: State Cancer Institute Jammu (SCIJ) organized a screening camp for detection of oral cancer on high risk individuals who are on opinion substitution therapy and patients of substance abuse attending OPD at Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Jammu. The patients were also counseled about harmful effects of tobacco and alcohol consumption.

The camp was held by Preventive Oncology Unit, SCIJ under the overall guidance of Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta (Prof and Head, Community Medicine, GMC Jammu). The camp was conducted by Dr. Bhavna Langar (Associate Professor and Nodal

ED investigating several cases related to crypto/digital currency frauds: MoS Finance

NEW DELHI, Apr 3: Enforcement Directorate is investigating several cases related to cryptocurrency/ virtual digital currency frauds wherein a few crypto exchanges have also been found involved in money laundering, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the virtual digital assets have the potential for criminal misuse.

"Directorate of Enforcement is investigating several cases related to crypto currency/ virtual digital currency frauds wherein a few crypto exchanges

have also been found involved in money laundering," he said.

Necessary action as per provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) has been taken by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), he added.

"As on January 31, 2023, proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 936.89 crore have been attached/seized/frozen, five persons have been arrested and six Prosecution Complaints (PCs), including one supplementary PC have been filed before the Special Court, PMLA in these cases," the minister said.

Further, under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) assets amounting to Rs 289.28 crore have been seized.

The minister said one show cause notice to cryptocurrency exchange Zanna Labs Pvt Ltd, known as WazirX, and its Directors under FEMA for transactions involving cryptocurrencies worth Rs 2,790.74 crore have also been issued.

Crypto assets are currently unregulated in India. Frauds relating to crypto are dealt with under extant laws against fraud and cyber crime. (PTI)

5 of family hospitalized after consuming wild herb

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: After consuming a wild herb, as many as five family members from the Chokibal Kralpora area of North Kashmir Kupwara district were hospitalized due to apparent food poisoning.

The officials told Excelsior that such incidents are usual in this season as these families collect the herbs which are then consumed by them, leading to an altered state of mind.

"This is not typical food poisoning, because in food poisoning the patients suffer fever, vomiting and other related symptoms; those who have consumed this particular herb presented hallucinations and other related symptoms," Block Medical Officer (BMO), Kralpora Dr Mir Shafi told Excelsior.

He said that the family had accidentally taken the poisonous herb following which they were immediately hospitalized and upon reaching GMC, Baramulla, they were shifted to Srinagar for further treatment.

The affected persons have been identified as Nasir Ahmad Dar (23) son of Ab Majeed Dar, Ab Majeed Dar (55) son of Ab Khaliq Dar, Aisha Begum (51) wife of Ab Majeed Dar, Iqra Banoo (22) wife of Nasir Ahmad Dar and Shakeela Banoo (32) wife of Parvaiz Ahmad Dar all residents of Kralpora Chowkbal Kupwara.

The officials said the condition of the patients is being monitored and that they are currently stable.



Red Cross personnel and workers of BMS give wheel chair to a needy person at a camp in Jammu on Monday.

BMS organizes Medical Assistance Camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) along with its affiliated Union Bhawan Nirman Mazdoor Sangh organized a Medical Assistance Camp under the banner of Parvasi Mazdoor Sehyog Samiti for migrant labourers at Channi Himmat in collaboration with Red Cross Society Jammu.

The camp was organized for migrant construction workers who are facing major diseases and are unable to earn livelihood.

BMS approached Secretary Red Cross Society, Sat Pal Sharma and brought to his notice the plight of poor workers after which the camp was organized today in which the Secretary along with other officials of Red Cross were also present and they distributed necessary item kits to the beneficiaries along with a wheel chair to one Tej Ram Kori whose both legs have become dysfunctional after an accident.

Harbans Choudhary, working president BMS; Ashok Choudhary, Sangathan Mantri BMS and Mukesh Kumar Yadav, general secretary Marbal Workers Union were also present on the occasion and thanked BMS and Red Cross Society for extending helping hands for the welfare of downtrodden people.

Ganju re-elected president of Consular Corps Diplomatique India

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: K.L. Ganju, o.c.v.c. (cdr.), Doctor Honoris Causa, Consul General (Hy.), Advisor to the Foreign Minister, Union of Comoros was elected president of the Hony, Consular Corps Diplomatique-India for the second consecutive term (2023-2026).

The General Body Meeting of HCCD-India was held on March, 31 at Hotel ITC Maurya, Chanakypuri, New Delhi. After highlighting his achievements during the first term his name was proposed by Purshottam Bhaggeria, Hony. Consul of Moldova and Secretary General HCCD - India and World Federation of Consuls.

K.L. Ganju's name as president for second term was unanimously approved by the General Body.

Police rescues 444 bovine animals

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Apr 3: During the past few days, acting on specific inputs of transportation of bovine animals, police parties of Police Stations Batote, Chanderkote, Ramban, Ramsao, Banihal, Dharamkund and Gool intercepted 33 vehicles and some persons who were taking bovines by foot from Jammu to Srinagar.

After checking of these vehicles, it was found that 444 bovine animals were loaded in them with utmost cruelty and without arrangements of food and water and these bovine animals were being transported to valley without permission of competent authority.

These 444 bovine animals were rescued. In this regard, 33 FIRs were registered against these bovine smugglers in different police stations of district Ramban under Sections 188 IPC, 11 PC Act and investigation was set into motion.

The overall rescue operation was made by police parties under the command of Inspector Rajesh Khajuria, SHO Batote; Inspector P.D Singh, SHO Chanderkote; Inspector Anil Choudhary, SHO Ramban; Inspector Naemul Haq, Inspector Afzal Wani, SHO Banihal and Inspector Nazir Ahmad, SHO Gool under the supervision of Pardeep Singh, Sen Dy.SP Hqs Ramban, Nissar Ahmad Khoja, SDPO Banihal and Nihar Ranjan, SDPO Gool with the overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

Drug peddler held with Charas-like-substance

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Government Railway Police (GRP) today claimed that they have arrested a drug peddler and seized Charas-like-substance from his possession.

They said Imran Malik of Sunjan, Jammu, was arrested with 9 rolls of the contraband by a team of Police Station GRP Jammu led by SHO concerned, Inspector Rohit Dev Singh, during routine patrolling/checking at Narwal Naka of Railway Station Jammu, on April 1, 2023.

"The accused has been booked in case FIR number 10/2023 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act registered at Police Station GRP Jammu and further investigations taken up," said police.

Step rise in unemployment rate in J&K worrisome: NC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today said the 23.1 percent unemployment rate in J&K against 7.8 percent at National level is the living spectacle of the incumbent government's failure in providing jobs to the skilled and educated youth of J&K.

The data, party's State spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said has again exposed the claims of the incumbent admin on fostering employment extravaganza in J&K. "Yet again the CMIE has put the unemployment rate in J&K at staggering 23.1 percent. The figures have laid bare the hoax of the much-touted job extravaganza promised by GOI. Exposing the tall claims of the J&K government, these figures have again placed J&K much lower than the national average, thus busting the fake narratives propelled by the government on

Modi Govt using every penny for welfare of people: Ritika

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Chief spokesperson, BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, Ritika Trehan today asked Mahila Morcha activists to ensure that programmes related to celebration of Social Justice Week - which will begin from the party's Foundation Day on April 6 - be implemented at the booth level to reach out to the people trumpeting the work of the BJP Government at the Centre and State.

In a statement issued here, Trehan said that BJP is the largest political party, having the largest number of MPs, MLAs, and Governments in the states and at the Centre under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for the second consecutive term, she said. Under Modi's leadership, the Centre is dedicated to the welfare of the poor, exploited, deprived, Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and backward classes, she added.

JTC, SKF for issuance of ration coupons to migrants

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: A meeting of Jagti Tenement Committee, Soan Kashmir Front J&K was held today under the chairmanship of its president, Shadi Lal Pandita at Jagti township Nagrota near here.

Addressing the meeting Pandita said ration coupons of 2023 have not yet been issued to the migrant relief holders which should be issued at the earliest so that the relief holders do not face difficulties in the coming days.

Pandita said that JTC and Soan Kashmir organizations will take to the streets again by holding a hunger strike, protest, dharna and take the issues of the community to the Government.

Pandita said that the JTC and SKF had been on hunger strike earlier and protested for 870 days but the Government did not address a single issue of Kashmiri Pandits.

Pandita said that

ARTO Doda suspends 8 RCs, 4 licences

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Apr 3: ARTO Kuldeep Singh, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, has suspended eight Registration Certificates and four driving licences in the district for vehicles used in unlawful trades. Ten vehicle owners have also been issued show cause notices to present their case before disciplinary action is taken under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act.

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Doda has already suspended 51 driving licences for traffic violations and involvement in illicit trades such as bovine smuggling and banned drugs. Show cause notices have also been issued to owners of private EECO Vans and other vehicles carrying passengers without proper permission and insurance.

13 goats die as house collapses

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Apr 3: At least 13 goats were killed after a muddy house collapsed due to heavy rain at Dhokri Panchayat in Poonch district today.

Official sources said that after continuous rainfall, a Kucha house collapsed at around 4 am today. At last 15 goats were trapped under debris, two of them were saved while 13 goats were killed.

They said that a police team reached the spot in the morning. Cattle-shed owner Khadim Hussain, son of Mohd Hussain said that his whole family was dependent on these goats. He demanded assistance from the Administration.