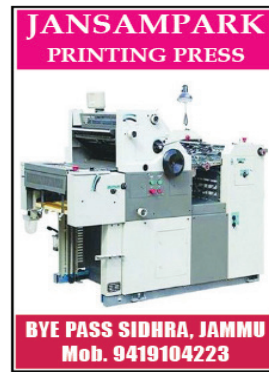




JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 97 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

All eyes on Jammu Lok Sabha seat as Campaigning ends

BJP's Jugal Kishore to lock horns with Congress party's Raman Bhalla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

The campaigning for the second phase of Parliamentary elections ended today for Jammu Lok Sabha constituency of Jammu and Kashmir thus throwing the ground open for the people to decide the fate of candidates wishing to get elected to the parliament.

A total of 22 candidates are in the fray for Jammu parliamentary constituency but there is direct fight between Bharatiya Janta Party and Congress party.

According to the news agency, BJP has given mandate to its sitting



Member Parliament (MP) Jugal Kishore Sharma whereas Congress has put the bet on its best possible candidate and former minister Raman Bhalla.



Jammu Lok Sabha seat has got a new shape after delimitation when twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch were separated from it and Reasi district,

which was earlier part of Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, was made part of it. At present Jammu seat comprises three districts, Jammu, Samba and Reasi whereas one Assembly segment of Rajouri, Sunderbani-Kalakote is also part of it. It has a total of 1780738 electorates including

921053 male, 859657 female and 28 third gender electorates. The Jammu district comprises 18 Assembly segments including Bishnah, Suchetgarh, Ranbir Singh Pura (Jammu-south), Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh, Akhnoor and Chamb. Samba and Reasi district comprises three Assembly segments each including Ramgarh, Samba and Vijaypur, and Gulabgarh, Reasi and Shri Mata Vashino Devi, respectively. The one of Assembly segment of Rajouri district which is part of Jammu LS seat is Kalakote-Sunderbani.

This seat witnessed two high profile events during the campaigning including the visit of union home minister Amit Shah, who held a rally in Paloura area of Jammu whereas Congress party's star campaigner Sachin Pilot also addressed a rally in R.S. Pura-Suchetgarh area of Jammu district.

Both the parties have tried to influence the voters by campaigning at micro-level by holding corner meetings, door-to-door campaign and targeting youth and women voters.

BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma has in the past remained the sole

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG attends Utthan Foundation's symposium on Sanatan Culture

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, APRIL 24

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended a symposium on cultural heritage, values and principles of Sanatan Dharma. The event was organized by Utthan Foundation Trust at Devkali, Ghazipur.

The Lt Governor, in his keynote address, commended the endeavour of the Utthan Foundation and highlighted the role of Sanatan culture in building a progressive society.

He said, the cultural heritage, values and principles of Sanatan Dharma continue to guide the citizens towards an egalitarian society where everyone is able to realise their full potential. He called upon the people to work towards securing a just and equitable society.

Sanatan culture is eternal, inclusive and inspires people to tread the path of humanism. Sanatan culture emphasizes on virtuous living and equality, equanimity, brotherhood and compassion for all, the Lt Governor said.

He said, India is on



the path to become Vishwa Guru and the cultural awakening today is inspiring one and all to serve humanity with dedication and devotion. The Lt Governor said, today India is shedding the vestiges of colonial past and people are taking pride in the glorious heritage.

The Lt Governor recalled the teachings of service of Sanatan Cul-

ture and urged people to create a caring society based on equality and justice and contribute in the development journey of the country.

This is a golden opportunity for all of us to work together for all-inclusive development. Every individual must contribute to build progressive and prosperous nation, the Lt Governor further added.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Over 17.80 lakh voters to decide fate of 22 candidates in Jammu PC on April 26

ECI establishes 2416 polling stations across PC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

Over 17.80 lakh voters will decide the fate of 22 candidates contesting from 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency in the second phase of Lok Sabha polls to be held on April 26.

The Jammu parliamentary constituency is spread over 18 Assembly segments in four districts including Reasi, Samba, Jammu and Rajouri.

According to the figures provided by the office of Returning Officer 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, there are 17,80,835 registered voters in Jammu PC including 9,21,095 male, 8,59,712 female and 28 transgender electors. Among these 37,822 (37,025 male and 797 female) are service voters.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set

up 2416 polling stations across the constituency including 18 Green Polling Stations, 46 Pink Polling Stations and 18 PwD manned polling stations. Reasi district with three Assembly Constituencies, including Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, has 23,52,62 voters including 12,33,23 male, 11,19,36 female and three transgender voters. Among these 1393 are service voters (1364 male, 29 female). The ECI has set up 425 polling stations across the district including 97 vulnerable and 16 critical.

Samba district, comprising three Assembly Constituencies including Ramgrah (SC), Samba and Vijaypur has 2,59,198 voters, including 1,32,861 male, 1,26,336 female and one transgender voter. Among these 10,269 (10,073 male, 196 female)

are service voters. The ECI has set up 365 polling stations in the district, including 72 critical.

Similarly, Jammu district, comprising 11 Assembly Constituencies including Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura-Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb has 11,89,389 electors, including 6,13,988 male, 5,75,378 female and 23 transgender voters. Among these are also 24,315 service voters (23,768 male, 547 female). The ECI has set up 1488 polling stations across the district, including 38 vulnerable and 15 critical.

Likewise, Rajouri district with only Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency falling in Jammu PC, has 96,986 voters (50,923

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Police appeals public to be vigilant against 'mischievous' persons posting photos with DGP on social media

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Jammu and Kashmir police have appealed to the public to be vigilant against "mischievous" persons posting their photos with Director General of Police and other officers on social media platforms without permission.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that it has come to the notice that some persons who have photographs along with DGP or with other senior officers of police, which many a times come to be allowed because of

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Amidst persistent thundershowers, J&K braces up for 3-day heavy rainfall from Apr 27

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 24

As the parts of Kashmir continued to witness thundershowers in the afternoon hours for the last couple of days, the weatherman here has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall in Srinagar and elsewhere from April 27. Talking to the news agency, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the afternoon thundershowers are expected to continue for tomorrow as well, but a three-day wet spell is expected in Jammu & Kashmir from April 27.

"As per the forecast, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in J&K areas especially in Srinagar, South Kashmir areas, Ramban and Doda from April 27

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Amit Shah scathing attack on Cong on 'Inheritance Tax' remarks

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 24

Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister and Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Shri Amit Shah strongly criticized the Congress, particularly Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Congress Party advisor Sam Pitroda, for advocating the concept of 'inheritance tax'. Shri Shah targeted them, stating that after Sam Pitroda's remarks, the true intentions of the Congress party have been laid bare, exposing their agenda. Shah remarked that Sam Pitro-



da's statement regarding wealth redistribution has unveiled the appeasement politics of the Congress. In essence, it confirms the party's intention to confiscate the property of the majority and redistribute it among the minorities. This revelation under-

scores that the Congress has never prioritized the empowerment of India's poor, Dalits, youth, tribes, and backward classes.

Senior BJP leader remarked that Sam Pitroda's remarks have fully exposed the true face of the Congress party. He pointed out that the idea of 'Survey' was initially introduced in the Congress manifesto. During his tenure as Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh stated that minorities have the primary claim on the country's resources. Such ideology has long been associated with the

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BJP getting overwhelming public response: Jugal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

On the last day of election campaigning, Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP candidate from Jammu-Reasi constituency, during his road show in different areas of Janipur, Ban Talab, Mishriwala, said that the party is getting overwhelming response from the public and will register splendid victory in the Lok Sabha seat.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the mood of the public is once again in favour of BJP across the country and in Jammu too, the voters are waiting for the polling day to cast their votes to return the party candidate to the parliament to show faith in Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and bless him to run the government for the third consecutive term.



Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the BJP-led NDA government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, served the nation for two terms from 2014 onwards and during all these years, many transformative decisions have been taken to provide best development infrastructure and bring socio-economic upliftment of the poor, needy, marginalized class. For the first time, Jammu also got all that no one would have ever thought as the previous governments of

Congress never displayed any concern and seriousness to include Jammu in matters of development and public welfare.

Jugal said that the people of Jammu have themselves seen the ground realities related to massive development, where more and modern means of communication, connectivity, travel, have been added and varied schemes reached at the doorsteps of the people and today there are lakhs of beneficiaries. He said

that the BJP is going to public with its splendid performance of ten years and the people are convinced that it is the only party and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who work for every citizen, without any discrimination.

Jugal Kishore Sharma assured the people to keep working for the development of every area of the parliamentary constituency and put more efforts to get more schemes for all.

Jugal was accompanied by BJP Vice President & former minister, Sham Lal Sharma, DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, former MLAs Devender Singh Rana and Shiv Dev Singh Manhas, Jammu North district president Omi Khajuria, BJP senior leader Adv Ravinder Gupta, Yuva Rajput Sabha ex

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Battle for Dogra Heartland: BJP vs. Congress-NC-PDP Alliance in Jammu Lok Sabha Seat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 24

The political landscape in the historic Dogra land of Jammu is poised for a gripping electoral showdown as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) locks horns with a formidable alliance comprising the Congress, National Conference (NC), and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Following the recent delimitation, the contours of the Jammu Lok Sabha seat have been redrawn, setting the stage for an intense electoral battle.

Once a bastion for the BJP, the Jammu Lok Sabha seat has now emerged as a symbol of prestige for the party, particularly in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. The

fervor surrounding this election stems from the historical significance of Jammu, where the Praja Parishad spearheaded the movement to abolish Article 370. With the BJP rallying behind the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party aims to retain its stronghold in the region.

However, the electoral landscape has witnessed a significant realignment with the formation of an alliance between the Congress, NC, and PDP, presenting a formidable challenge to the BJP's dominance. The alliance is banking on the support of influential figures such as NC chief Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who has thrown his weight behind the Congress candidate.

As per news agency,

the inclusion of Reasi district and the creation of a new assembly seat named after Mata Vaishno Devi have added a new dimension to the electoral calculus. The contest in this region is expected to test the acceptance of the BJP, particularly in light of its development initiatives and the changes implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Crucially, the election will also highlight the aspirations of marginalized communities, including West Pakistani refugees, residents of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and members of the OBC community. These constituencies hold significant sway in determining the electoral outcome, with issues

such as reservation, land ownership rights, and access to basic amenities taking center stage.

Candidates representing various parties have articulated their visions for the region, with BJP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasizing the development work undertaken by the Modi government. Conversely, Congress candidate Raman Bhalla has criticized the BJP's track record, highlighting concerns over unemployment and deteriorating tourism. In this charged electoral atmosphere, Ankur Sharma of the Ekam Sanatan Dal Party has positioned himself as a proponent of political change, advocating for the rights and dignity of the Dogra community.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: DEO Ganderbal discusses preparedness with Nodal Officers

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 24

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir today conducted a detailed meeting with designated Nodal Officers to review and strengthen the district's election readiness.

During the meeting, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Nodal Officers updated the DEO on the current status of preparations, including logistics, transportation of polling staff and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), voter education, and facilities at polling stations.

Specific focus was placed on manpower, training management, expenditure monitoring, and the arrangement at Dispatch and Reception



centers, among others.

The DEO emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to the Election Commission of India's guidelines and took a first-hand appraisal of various critical aspects and activities necessary for the smooth conduct of the elections.

He directed the Nodal Officer for AMF/CEO to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities at all polling booths to accommodate electorates, polling staff, and security personnel effectively.

A special focus was put

on enhancing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

The Nodal Officer for SVEEP was tasked with expanding outreach through collaboration with Self-Help Groups, ASHAs, and Anganwadi Workers to ensure ground-level communication is effective.

College HODs were urged to engage students and staff in innovative activities under the SVEEP to boost voter awareness and participation. The DEO also

instructed all officers to ensure that all logistical and operational plans are in place to facilitate electorates, polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the Election Day.

He stressed the need for all designated Nodal officers to maintain close cooperation and coordination with executing departments to ensure a transparent and peaceful election.

The meeting saw the attendance of SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Dy DEO, ACR, SDM Kangan, and other key district officers and officials, all committed to delivering a free and fair electoral process.

Airtel enhances network coverage across Leh, Ladakh, ahead of summer vacation rush

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, today announced the expansion of its network across the picturesque regions of Leh and Ladakh. This development comes just in time for the upcoming travel season, encouraging travelers to enjoy unlimited 5G service across the region.

Airtel's network footprint now encompasses 40+ zones within Ladakh, ensuring that residents and travelers alike to enjoy reliable connectivity throughout their journeys. This is in line with Airtel's commitment to provide seamless connectivity in India's picturesque regions of Leh and Ladakh that is enjoyed by thousands of travelers.

Commenting on the expansion, Adarsh Verma, COO- Jammu & Kashmir, Bharti Airtel, said "We are thrilled to enhance our

Key tourist destinations in Leh, including Durbook, Tangstae, Pengong Lake, Hall of Fame, Magnetic Hill, Sangam (Indus and Zaskar River), Diskit, and Turtok are now equipped with Airtel's state-of-the-art infrastructure, providing visitors an Unparalleled access to high-speed



network experience for the customers in the Leh and Ladakh region. We are certain that this travel season, our customers will enjoy the power of ubiquitous access to high-speed data that will open up a wide range of new opportunities and experiences in these iconic locations."

After ramping up the telecom infrastructure in the Zaskar Valley, Airtel introduced its ultra-fast Airtel 5G service in select areas of Leh, setting a new benchmark for connectivity standards in the region.

internet amid breathtaking landscapes. Also, a strong network presence of Airtel at Chang-La-Pass, Gurdwara Pathar Sahib, Lamayuru Monastery, Moon Land, Alchi & Likir Monastery, Khardung-La-Pass, Hunder etc., where travelers can enjoy with social buzz.

With the rollout of 5G, travelers can now experience unlimited 5G data whether while embarking on the renowned Chadar Trek or simply immersing themselves in the region's natural beauty.

KTM Cup Season 2 Ignites with North Zone Qualifiers in Delhi

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Following an exhilarating debut in Coimbatore with 240+ participants in KTM CUP S2, KTM India celebrated another success in Delhi on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Renowned as the world's leading sports motorcycle brand, KTM concluded the KTM CUP S2 selection round, India's largest racing championship, in the heart of India's motorsport scene.

The North Zone qualifiers were held at Kartomania, Gurgaon over a period of two days. A high-adrenaline event, the North Zone qualifier of KTM CUP Season 2 witnessed outstanding riders engaging in intense competitive high-speed battles across the Pro, Amateur, and Women's divisions embodying the 'Ready to Race' philosophy of the KTM.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sumeet Narang, President (Probiking) at Bajaj Auto Ltd., said, "Following the roaring success in Coimbatore, we add another feather to our caps. Season 2 of the KTM CUP witnesses participants demonstrating competitive spirit and adrenaline-fueled sportsmanship.

The races The enthusiastic engagement witnessed today reaffirms KTM's standing in motorsport in India, setting a benchmark for premier racing. marks an exhilarating beginning to another thrilling season of motorsports in India. We eagerly look forward to the next round of races in Mumbai and Kolkata, where participating racers will edge closer to glory and participate in the opportunity to embrace the essence of KTM in Austria."

Around 120 racers, including more than 50 women racers from 50+ different cities across the North Zone, participated in the action at Gurgaon. The KTM CUP Season 2 will host its next selection round in Mumbai from 26th to 28th April and Kolkata from 11th to 12th May for the West and East Zone Qualifiers, respectively.

CSU Jammu explores Academic Excellence at IIM Jammu: A Journey of Collaboration and Insight

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

The Central Sanskrit University Jammu recently embarked on a transformative journey of collaboration and knowledge exchange as they paid a visit to the new campus Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, an Institute of National Importance in Jagti, Jammu. The visit was marked by a series of enriching activities aimed at fostering academic camaraderie and exploring avenues for mutual growth. Present on the occasion were Prof. Sreedhar Mishra, Director, Central Sanskrit University Jammu along with the faculty and staff members of the Institute.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized IIM Jammu's belief in collaborations as the cornerstone for advancing knowledge and fostering innovation in academia. He highlighted the impor-

importance of synergy among diverse perspectives and collective expertise in charting new frontiers in education and making meaningful contributions to society. He viewed the visit not just as a meeting of minds but as a significant step towards forging lasting partnerships that will shape the future of higher education in the region and beyond.

Post the warm welcome, the delegation commenced their tour of the campus starting from the Reception Area. They explored the various landmarks of the IIM Jammu campus, including the iconic Clock Tower and smart classrooms and state-of-the-art vibrant Nalanda Library.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics at IIM Jammu, provided a comprehensive overview of the institute's journey, from Canal Road Campus to the thriving Jagti campus. Highlighting Jammu's unique



position hosting IIT, IIM, and AIIMS, he emphasized recent collaborations resulting in courses like MBA in Healthcare Administration and B.Tech + MBA. Aligning with NEP 2020, IIM Jammu focuses on case-based studies, ranked 15th among all IIMs by NIRF. Global collaborations enrich student experiences, while multi-lingual communication aids in international negotiations. He, asserted that Teaching, asserted noble and impactful. Encourag-

ing resource maximization and cross-collaboration, he emphasized Sanskrit graduates' unique value in MBA programs. Adaptability, he concluded, is crucial for educators' effectiveness. He mentioned that IIM Jammu is delighted to have engaged in insightful discussions and exchanges with their esteemed counterparts from Central Sanskrit University Jammu, and they look forward to further collaborations in the future. A collaborative spirit is essential for the

growth and development of academia.

A series of insightful sessions further enriched the visit, beginning with Shri Arup Bhattacharya, AO-Academics, IIM Jammu shedding light on the unique educational system at IIM Jammu. In his presentation, he delved into the intricacies of the pedagogical framework adopted by the institute, emphasizing its adaptability to contemporary challenges while staying true to foundational principles

of academic excellence. He highlighted the innovative approaches to curriculum design, faculty development, and student engagement that set IIM Jammu apart in the educational landscape.

Following Shri Bhattacharya's enlightening discourse, Dr. Barnali Chaudhary, a distinguished faculty member, IIM Jammu took the stage to lead a profound discussion on ethics and professionalism in higher education. Her presentation underscored the institution's unwavering commitment to upholding integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct in all aspects of academic life.

Through engaging anecdotes and thought-provoking examples, she elucidated the core values that serve as the bedrock of IIM Jammu's academic community. Dr. Chaudhary's emphasis on the cultivation of ethical leadership and responsible

decision-making resonated deeply with the visiting delegation, reaffirming their shared dedication to fostering a culture of integrity and excellence in higher education.

The sessions led by Shri Arup Bhattacharya and Dr. Barnali Chaudhary not only provided valuable insights into the unique educational philosophy of IIM Jammu but also instilled a profound sense of purpose and commitment to ethical excellence among all participants.

As the visit drew to a close, the delegation bid a fond farewell, carrying with them cherished memories and newfound inspiration from their enriching experience at IIM Jammu. This collaborative endeavor between Central Sanskrit University Jammu and IIM Jammu signifies a commitment to academic excellence and a shared vision of advancing education for the benefit of society at large.

Khatana, Purnima visit Talab Khatikan, seek support of Muslim brethren in LS polls

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

Member of Parliament Gulam Ali Khatana along with Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and Co-convenor for engaging with Social and Commercial organizations and former Deputy Mayor, today visited Talab Khatikan area and interacted with members of Muslim brethren in view of last leg of the election campaign for the Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha seat.

Interacting with members of Muslim brethren, the Member Parliament said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Govt at the Centre has worked relentlessly for the welfare of all sections of the society irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion or region consideration. Highlighting that BJP is working on the core principle of 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vishwas', he said that this principle is undoubtedly the hallmark of the incumbent Govt which no other Govt possessed for about seven decades post independence.

Gulam Ali Khatana vociferously asserted that the incumbent BJP rule under PM Modi has proved that this Govt has unlike Congress party



worked for the benefit of all communities including the Muslims of this nation in true letter and spirit.

Purnima Sharma, in her address, said that after the Modi Government has exposed the political outfits including Congress, NC and PDP, which exploited the people in J&K for decades by spreading wrong narratives based on divisive agendas, the people have now realized that it is only BJP which

can bail out masses from the morass created by aforesaid parties which ruled the region in the past. She said that under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a transformative shift towards inclusive governance, ensuring that every community, including Muslims, receives the attention and benefits they rightfully deserve.

She said that Modi's vision quite rightly

emphasizes "Development is only possible when Muslim youth hold Quran in one hand and computer/ Laptop in the other."

The senior BJP leaders appealed to the members of Muslim community to come forward and extend their unwavering support by casting their votes in favor of the BJP candidate to ensure the continued advancement and prosperity of the Union Territory.

Health Secretary reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today chaired a meeting to review healthcare arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2024.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary directed the officials to collaborate closely with Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, Health Department and security forces to ensure coordinated healthcare services for the Yatris.

The Secretary instructed the officials to finalize all necessary arrangements before the Yatra begins. He highlighted the importance of having both portable and fixed oxygen supplies at all health centers established along the Yatra route. Further, he instructed Director Health Services, Kashmir, to expedite establishment of a 100-bedded hospital by ONGC and arrange the required human resources for the hospital. He also stressed the need to make sure that all essential medicines and medical equipment are readily available for the pilgrims.

The Secretary empha-



size the importance of facilitating a seamless and hassle-free Yatra experience for the pilgrims. He directed for ensuring that requisite healthcare staff should be readily available at all healthcare institutions, especially on highways and critical points along the Yatra route. He called for implementation of a quick and reliable emergency response system at all levels and instructed the officials to ensure deployment of ambulances along the Yatra route. He asked for keeping the 102 and 108 Ambulance systems on alert during the Yatra.

The Director Health Services Kashmir provided an overview of the planned healthcare arrangements for the Yatra. He informed that a total of 55 medical centers will be set up, including 06 base hospitals with 100 bedded hospital each at Baltal & Chandanwari, 11

medical aid centers, 12 emergency aid centers, 26 oxygen booths, and 15 on-route facilities. He further stated that 17 on-route facilities will be kept on standby to address any emergencies. The Director also shared that they have planned to deploy a total of 1415 healthcare staff for the Yatra, including 173 specialists, 244 medical officers, and 998 paramedics. Out of these, 754 will be sourced from J&K, and 661 will be requested from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu (Nodal Officer for Amarnath Yatra Jammu Division) provided the details of medical arrangement on Yatra routes from Lakhanpur to Banihal. He informed that 15 emergency rooms will be made operational to tackle any emergency during the Yatra, 53 health centres

will be ready for providing medical care facilities to Yatris from Lakhanpur to Lamber ground Banihal. More than 60 ambulances including 20 ALS ambulances shall be utilized during Yatra. Apart from this, the services of 15 Doctors and 60 Paramedics of Jammu Division will be placed at the disposal of Director Health Services, Kashmir for Amarnath Yatra-2024. The medical teams will also be deployed at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu and Yayri Niwas Chanderkote, Ramban to provide 24x7 medical care facilities to Amarnath Yatris. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Health & Medical Education Department, Director Health Services Kashmir and Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu, Chief Engineer, R&B, South Kashmir, and Chief Medical Officers of J&K.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: General, Police Observers for Anantnag-Rajouri PC visit Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 24

General Election Observer, Jenu Devan and Police Observer, Dr. B Naveen Kumar for the 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency today made joint visit to Kulgam district and chaired a comprehensive review meeting with Nodal officers on Election preparedness at the Conference Hall Mini-Secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan provided a detailed overview of the arrangements made for the elections scheduled on 7th May, 2024 in the district through a PowerPoint presentation.

Various aspects such as expenditure monitoring, functioning of the District Election Control Room, Transport Plan, SVEEP



activities, Security Plan, and other parameters of the District Election Management plan were discussed.

It was highlighted that all logistical, material, manpower, and other necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of elections in a free and fair manner in the district.

Concerned Nodal Officers apprised the Observers about their assign-

ments and the arrangements being made, especially regarding dispatch and distribution centers, security, training, and SVEEP activities.

A thorough review of security arrangements was taken and the SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal provided insights into the measures taken for the smooth conduct of elections.

The Observers emphasized the importance of high voter turnout and incident-free elections,

inquiring about previous voter turnouts, voter participation, SVEEP activities, and security-related issues.

The Observers also visited polling stations located at D.H.Pora, overseeing arrangements and the availability of AMF.

In addition to the review meeting, observers visited Media Monitoring and Social Media Cell, Joint Election Control Room, and Collection/Distribution centers.

Detailed assessments were made regarding the arrangements for the safety, surveillance, and security of Election-related material and machinery. The meeting was attended by DEO Athar Aamir Khan; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal; ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; DPO, Abdul Rasheed; AROs, Nodal Officers and other concerned officials.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

DC Kupwara kick-starts plantation drive at PS Wadder Payeen

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 24

Mega Plantation Drive under SVEEP was held today across all polling stations of district Kupwara, aimed at to promote eco-friendly practices among voters and polling officials, and ensure vibrant and active participation of the electorate in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan who is also District Election Officer, today kick-started the plantation drive in the district by planting a Cedar tree in the premises of Polling Station Wader Payeen.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, DFO Langate, XEN R&B, ZEO, Tehsildar and other concerned were present on the occasion.

The DC also visited various polling stations



of Handwara sub division during which she carried out plantation activities and took stock of availability of the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in polling stations for smooth participation of the electorate especially PWD and old age voters.

During her visit to the Rajwar block, the DC paid a surprise visit to NTPHC Wadder and inspected the ongoing immunization programme.

Earlier, the DC presided over a training programme of concerned officers at Environment Hall

Handwara and sensitized them about their role and responsibility in the fair and smooth conduct of the election in the district.

Meanwhile, plantation drives were carried out in all polling stations of the district which were led by the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and witnessed participation of officers from Forest Department, Social Forestry, Education and other concerned departments.

SDM Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad Lone led a plantation drive at Government High School Gundishart

in which Officers, officials from different departments and a huge number of students participated.

ARO Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary School Kupwara in which the Principal, school staff and students took part.

Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Dar participated in a plantation drive at Boys Higher Secondary School Maidanpora Lolab. Plantation drives were also carried out in various schools of the Lolab sub division in which the staff and the students participated actively.

DFO Kamraj, Anurag Ariya led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary School Kandi Khass in which school Principal, staff members and a large number of students participated.

SBI Card Launches SBI Card MILES for Travel Enthusiasts

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has launched three variants of its first travel-focused core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES', in Mumbai today. The card is aimed at bringing holistic travel benefits to travellers of all kinds - travel aspirers to frequent fliers to travel aficionados. SBI Card MILES offers compelling features that include conversion of Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, accelerated rewards on EVERY travel booking, and airport lounge access among others. Empowering cardholders with absolute choice of redemption, the card partners over 20 airline and hotel brands including Air Vistara, Air India, Spicejet, Air France-KLM, Etihad Airways, Air Canada, Thai Airways, Qantas Airways, ITC Hotels, IHG Hotels & Resorts, and Accor among others.

According to Mr. Dinesh



Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India, "The strong economic growth and robust consumption landscape has accentuated India's position in the world. Even in travel sector, today, India is considered amongst the key source markets for outbound travel in many countries including those in Asia and Europe. I congratulate SBI Card on the launch of SBI Card MILES, a strong product that will redefine the travel experiences for Indian consumers."

It is evident that Indians are increasingly becoming open to more and varied travel experiences. The three variants, SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card

MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES, have been designed to elevate these experiences through curated travel benefits. Cardholders can earn up to 6 Travel Credits on every INR 200 travel spend and up to 2 Travel Credits on spending INR 200 on other categories. The offerings under 'SBI Card MILES' bouquet enable cardholders to carry out an easy and seamless Travel Credits redemption across multiple renowned flights and hotel partners. One can convert these Travel Credits into Air Miles/Hotel Points of respective partners or directly use them to book air tickets and hotel accommodations by visiting SBI Card mobile app or web-

site <https://www.sbicard.com/>. Alternatively, one can redeem them on SBI Card's Rewards Catalogue as well.

Speaking at the launch Mr. Abhijit Chakravorty, MD & CEO, SBI Card said, "Our customer-centric approach has always driven us to design innovative products, solutions, and services that address the evolving and diverse lifestyle needs and offer customers an extremely rewarding experience. Indian travellers are large global spenders and naturally, with increased and more robust travel plans, consumers are looking for curated benefits to enhance their travel experiences. SBI Card MILES is our endeavour to offer our customers the best of all the travel benefits. The card has been designed to become one true travel partner for the cardholders. We are sure that our cardholders will enjoy the exclusive benefits offered by our travel-centric core card."

SBI Card MILES ELITE

comes with multiple and varied spends milestone benefits. These include up to 5000 Travel Credits on reaching spends of INR 1 lakh in 60 days of enrollment; up to 20,000 Travel Credits on spends milestone of INR 12 lakh; and spends-based fee reversal on reaching spends milestone of INR 15 lakh.

With airport lounge access being an important part of the overall travel experience, SBI Card MILES ELITE offers Priority Pass membership. Using the card, cardholders will be able to enjoy up to 8 complimentary domestic lounge visits and up to 6 international airport lounge visits in a year. What's more, the card also enables users to earn additional domestic lounge access. Every time a cardholder achieves the cumulative spends of INR 1 lakh, cardholders will receive 1 gift voucher for lounge access that can be used by either the cardholder or the guest.

Sunil, Ved Sharma visit Reasi to review election preparations

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, APR 24

Sunil Sharma, General Secretary of BJP Jammu & Kashmir Unit, and former minister, along with Ved Sharma, Co-incharge of BJP All Cells, J&K, visited Reasi today to assess the election arrangements at the district, mandal, and booth levels.

Rumal Singh, General Secretary of District Reasi, extended a warm welcome to the senior leaders and provided them with a comprehensive overview of the current polling situation in the district.

During the visit, Sunil Sharma and Ved Sharma engaged with local party officials and representatives to gain insights into the ground-level preparations for the upcoming elections. They emphasized the importance of robust organizational planning and effective coordination to ensure a smooth and transparent electoral process.

Sunil Sharma urged party cadre to strengthen BJP at booth level for ensuring party's resounding victory in ensuing Lok Sabha polls as strong booths are the guarantee



in engaging with voters and rallying support for the BJP's vision for a prosperous Jammu and a vibrant India.

"We have a unique opportunity to consolidate our efforts, energize our supporters, and reach out to every voter across the Reasi District. This phase of the campaign is crucial in amplifying our

message of development, prosperity, and inclusive governance," he said.

As the campaign enters its final stretch, Ved Sharma urged party workers and supporters to intensify their efforts, reaching out to every household, and ensuring maximum voter turnout on polling day.

"We must leave no room for complacency. Let us redouble our efforts, work tirelessly, and ensure that every voter understands the importance of their ballot in shaping the future of Jammu and our nation," he added.

Vasant Thakur, Convenor BJP Village Defence Guard Cell also spoke during the meeting.

Human Society is making mistake of forgetting importance of forests: President Murmu

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 24

Human society is making the mistake of forgetting the importance of forests. Forests are life givers. The reality is that forests have preserved life on earth, said the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu while addressing the officer trainees of Indian Forest Service (2022 batch) at their convocation ceremony at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun today (April 24, 2024).

The President said that today we talk about the Anthropocene Age, which is the period of human-centric development. During this period, disastrous results have emerged along with development. Unsustainable exploitation of resources has brought humanity to a point where the standards of development have to be re-evaluated. She stressed on the importance of understanding that we are not the owners of the earth's resources, but we are trustees. Our priorities should be ecocentric along with anthropocentric. In fact, only by being ecocentric we will be able to be truly anthropocentric, she

stated.

The President said that in many parts of the world the loss of forest resources has occurred very rapidly. Destruction of forests is in a way - destruction of humanity. It is a well known fact that conservation of earth's biodiversity and natural beauty is a very important task which we have to do very quickly.

The President said that human life can be saved from the crisis through conservation and promotion of forests and wildlife. We can repair the damage at a faster pace with the help of Science and Technology. For example, the Miyawaki Method is being adopted in many places. Artificial Intelligence can help in identifying suitable areas for afforestation and area specific tree species. She stated that there is a need to assess various such options and develop solutions suitable to the geographical conditions of India.

The President said that the chariot of development has two wheels - tradition and modernity. Today human society is bearing the brunt of many environmental problems. One of the main reasons for this is a special type

of modernity, the root of which is the exploitation of nature. Traditional knowledge is neglected in this process.

The President said that tribal society has made the eternal laws of nature the basis of their life. People of this society conserve nature. But, under the impulse of unbalanced modernity, some people consider the tribal community and their collective wisdom primitive. Tribal society has no role in climate change but the burden of its ill effects is disproportionately more on them.

The President said that it is very important to understand the importance of the knowledge accumulated by tribal society over centuries and use it to improve the environment. She stated that their collective wisdom can help us move forward on an ecologically sustainable, ethically desirable and socially justifiable path. She stressed that we will have to unlearn many misconceptions and relearn from the ideals of a balanced lifestyle of the tribal society. We have to move forward with the spirit of climate justice.

The President said that

the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries increased the demand for timber and other forest products. New rules, regulations and methods of forest use were adopted to cope with the demand. To implement such rules and regulations, the Imperial Forest Service, the predecessor service of the Indian Forest Service, was formed. The mandate of that service was not to protect the tribal society and forest wealth. Their mandate was to promote the objectives of the British Raj by exploiting India's forest resources to the maximum.

Referring to the mass hunting of wild animals during the British period, the President said that when she visits museums where animal skins or severed heads adorn the walls, she feels that those exhibits are telling the story of the decline of human civilization.

The President said that she was confident that the officers of the Indian Forest Service had become completely free from the colonial mentality and outlook of the former Imperial Forest Service. She stated that IFS officers not only have to conserve

and augment India's natural resources but also use the traditional knowledge in the interest of humanity. They have to protect the forest wealth by synchronizing modernity and tradition and advancing the interests of the people whose life is based on forests. By doing this, they will be able to make a contribution that is truly inclusive and congenial to the environment.

The President said that the Indian Forest Service has given many officers to the country who have done unparalleled work for the environment. IFS officers such as Shri P. Srinivas, Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Shri S. Manikandan have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. She urged the officer trainees to make such officers their role models and mentors and move forward on the ideals shown by them.

The President urged IFS officers to spend time among the tribal people in the field and earn their affection and trust. She said that they should learn from the good practices of the tribal society. She also urged them to take ownership of their responsibilities and become a role model.

Army organizes medical health check-up camp at Nowshera

JI NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, APR 24

In an effort to provide essential health facilities to the villagers living near the border area of Nowshera Army Kalal Battalion on Wednesday, 24 April organized a medical camp at Primary Health Center Seri village. In which people's health was checked and free medicines were distributed. On this occasion, Indian Army also distributed essential Medical equipment at Primary Health Center Seri. People living in border areas are facing difficulties in availing medical facilities due to lack of basic infrastructure. In view of this, a one-day medical camp was organized by the Indian Army Kalal Battalion on Wednesday. People have to travel long distances to reach health facilities here. This camp was organized by the Indian Army to benefit as many people as possible. Local



people told that the camp was mainly focused on women, elderly persons and children. People living in the border area have to travel long distances for basic health Checkup. The Indian Army is going to people's homes and checking their health. And providing them medicines. Local people benefited from this camp. On this occasion, local people told that a free medical camp has been organized by the Indian Army in their area. In which the health of all the people is being checked and medicines are also being distributed to them for free. Along with this, some medical equipment has also been donated to the Primary Health Center Seri. People

say that we have to travel a long distance to get our health checked, either to Nowshera or Rajouri or Sundarbani which becomes very difficult and many time the vehicles are not available. In our area, the Indian Army helps us in every possible way and from time to time organizes such programs and provides free medicines after checking our health. We thank the Indian Army from the bottom of our hearts and hope that the Indian Army will continue to organize such programs in the future and help the people. On this occasion, the doctor of Primary Health Center Seri, village Panch, Sarpanch and other people were present.

Cong plans to cut SC-ST-OBC quotas, gift it to one community: Yogi

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, APRIL 24

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday accused the INDI alliance in general and Congress in particular of harbouring intentions to undermine the reservation system for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Addressing a press conference at Bharatiya Janata Party state headquarters here after inaugurating the media centre, the CM said, "The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government sought to enact the recommendations of the former Chief Justice and Congress MP Ranganath Mishra Commission, which proposed to allocate six per cent of the 27 per cent quota for the



OBC, to the minority community during its tenure."

He said, "The Congress Party even intends to encroach upon the rights of SC and ST. The Sachar Committee Report commissioned by the UPA government, which had to be withdrawn in the face of staunch opposition from the BJP, bears testimony to this."

Yogi said that Congress has mentioned conducting property surveys as one of its agendas in its manifesto. "Eventually, they will distribute the properties

arbitrarily among themselves," he alleged.

He also referenced former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement during the UPA regime, emphasising the priority accorded to Muslims in allocating national resources. Contrasting this stance, he reiterated the BJP's commitment to addressing the concerns of four pivotal segments of society, including poor, farmers, youth, and women, emphasising a non-discriminatory approach transcending

caste, creed or religion.

The chief minister said, "The Congress party's desperate pursuit of power poses a grave threat to the nation's interests. Intending to enforce Sharia law in the country, the party has clearly demonstrated its predilection for the Taliban approach, which allows atrocities on women and carries out destruction."

He cited the Taliban's support for medieval practices such as 'triple talaq' as an example. He alleged that Congress espouses the Taliban's agenda by advocating for the implementation of 'Sharia law'.

Yogi contended that the Congress manifesto intends to denigrate half the population. "These issues are pivotal to the security and sovereignty of the nation, exposing

Congress's true motives," he said.

He drew parallels to the events of 1947, highlighting the divisive consequences and the rise of terrorism and extremism that ensued. He cautioned against a return to an era characterised by institutional corruption and societal distrust, warning that Congress seeks to take the country down that same dangerous path once more.

The CM highlighted a historical perspective, recalling how, in 1970, late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi pledged to 'eradicate poverty'. However, he criticised the lack of concrete programs to fulfill this promise, noting that the ambitious 19-20 point initiatives remained confined to paperwork, marred by corruption.

Caste census is my life's mission: Rahul dares PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that caste census was no politics for him but his life's mission and his party will conduct it without fail once it forms a government at the Centre.

Addressing the Samajik Nyay Sammelan at Jawahar Bhawan here, the Congress leader mounted a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), declaring that all "so-called deshbhakts" were running scared from the moment he floated the idea of an 'X-ray' of the caste system.

Asserting that no force will be able to stop the census, the Wayanad MP said, "Caste census is not politics for me but it is the mission of my life. As soon as the Congress Government comes to power at the Centre, we will immediately conduct caste census and it is my guarantee."

Stating that all sections of the society were not getting their dues, Gandhi said that there was hardly any presence of Dalits, Adivasis or OBCs in the management strata of the media or at private hos-



pitals and big companies and for that even in the judiciary, especially if one considers the apex level.

"I am not interested in caste but in 'Nyay'. In India injustice is being done to 90 per cent of the people. We said that we need to find out how much injustice is happening and this is possible only through a caste census."

"On hearing this, both PM Narendra Modi and his handpicked media panicked. Don't you need an X-ray when injured?" he asked, adding that the census will be that very X-ray.

"As soon as I used the word X-ray, the Prime Minister and a particular section of the media started accusing me of trying to divide the country," he said.

Gandhi also slammed

the BJP for telling the media that he was "non-serious and not interested in politics".

He questioned, "Was raising the issue of MNRREGA non-serious? Or the land acquisition bill, or Bhatta Parsaul was non-serious and Samajik Nyay was non-serious?"

He also accused the Prime Minister of waiving Rs 16 lakh crore debt of 25 of his 'billionaire friends' comparing that the same amount could have been used to waive off the loans of poor farmers of the country and save them from ending their lives.

Terming his party's manifesto as 'revolutionary', he declared that the Prime Minister has panicked after seeing the Nyay Patra and as such he has been reacting and passing remarks on it.

Guests from India, abroad, pioneers of strike honored today in Centenary Conference of AIRF

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 24

Today, the second day of All India Railway Men's Federation (AIRF) 'Centenary Convention', the meeting of AIRF

Working Committee was held from 10.30 am in the 'Multi Sports Indoor Hall' of Karnail Singh Railway Stadium, New Delhi, in which all the working committees of AIRF Members of participated. The meeting of the working committee was presided over by Dr. N. Kanhaiya, National President of AIRF. In the Working Committee Meeting, many proposals related to the social and economic condition of the country, pending demands of railway employees and abolition of the new pension scheme and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, Secret Ballot Election for recognition of unions in railways and other demands were also passed unanimously.

In the working committee meeting, General Secretary Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra informed all the members about the program and briefly discussed the problems and demands of the employees, restoration of the old pension scheme, government policies and other issues. Apart from this, Executive President Shri JR Bhosale, Treasurer



er Shri CH Shankar Rao and General Ministers of other affiliated unions addressed.

After the meeting of the working committee, from 2.00 pm onwards, on the occasion of the Centenary Convention, a Centenary Convention rally was taken out with great pomp from Ajmeri Gate in New Delhi to Karnail Singh Railway Stadium in which band, buggies and a large number of National and International level from railway transports were present. Apart from leaders associated with the sector, top leaders of Indian Railways participated. Railway employees

from all over the Indian Railways participated with flags and banners in their hands. On this occasion, the slogan of AIRF Zindabad raised by the railway employees filled the atmosphere with joy. The rally passed through Ajmeri Gate and transformed into the open session of AIRF at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium at 4.30 pm. On this occasion, the route from the rally route in New Delhi to Karnail Singh

Railway Stadium, New Delhi was decorated with flags, banners, hoardings etc. There was immense enthusiasm among the railway officials on this occasion. A large number

of youth and women railway employees also participated in the rally with their respective banners.

AIRF open session was organized at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium, New Delhi from 4.30 pm in which about fifteen thousand railway employees from affiliated unions of AIRF participated. The chief guest of the function was the first woman chairperson of the Railway Board, Mrs. Jaya Verma Sinha. On this occasion, officials of Railway Board, Northern Railway and Delhi

Division were present. In this ceremony, ITF President Mr. Paddy Kremlin, International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Railway Section Chairman Mr. David Gove, Mr. Sergei Chernov, General Secretary of Russian Railways, Mr. Toshiko Sumino Sen, President Traffic Council of Japan and President of Nepal Traffic Association Mr. Ajay Apart from Kamar Rai, officials of other labor unions as well as leaders of JFROPS were also present. The ceremony was inaugurated by Mr. Stephen, General Secretary of the

International Transport Workers Federation.

In his inaugural address, ITF General Secretary Mr. Stephen Cotton said that the problems facing Indian Railways employees today are also facing the entire world. We all have to face them together Railway Board Chairperson Smt. Jaya Verma Sinha said that the 100 years history of All India Railway Men's Federation is the history of the development of railways.

General Secretary of AIRF Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, while welcoming all the guests and workers present, remembered his inspirational leaders due to whom 100 years have been completed.

On this occasion, while also honoring the railway pioneers who were leaders in the railway strikes of 1960, 1968 and 1974, General Secretary Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, while presenting the General Secretary report of the period under review, paid tribute to the deceased people and paid tribute to the workers of the country and the government. Expressing his opinion on the biggest problem of the youth, he called for everyone's unity to abolish the new pension scheme and restore the old pension scheme. Federation President Dr. N Kanhaiya expressed his gratitude to everyone in the end.

NCBC concerned over quota extension to entire Muslim community in Karnataka

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, APRIL 24

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has expressed concerns over the Karnataka government's decision to extend reservation benefits to the entire Muslim community. The move, aimed at providing reservations in educational institutions and government jobs, has drawn criticism from the commission for deviating from the principles of social justice.

The commission highlighted that while acknowledging the social and educational backwardness of certain castes and communities within the Muslim population, the blanket inclusion of all Muslims in the reservation category undermines the core tenets of social justice.

By categorizing Muslims as a whole under backward classes, the commission argues, the diverse



needs and levels of backwardness among different castes and communities within the Muslim community are overlooked.

Currently, the reservation system in Karnataka includes 17 socially and educationally backward castes under category 1, while 19 castes fall under category A-2. Additionally, Muslims have been separately included in category 2B within the list of Hindu-dominated classes in the state. The commission's statement emphasised the potential injustice that could be inflicted upon various marginalized castes and communities within the Muslim population, particularly those

identified as educationally and socially backward. It stressed the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific needs of these communities to ensure equitable access to opportunities.

Furthermore, the commission expressed apprehension regarding the broader implications of the reservation decision, particularly in the context of local body elections. With 32 per cent of reservations allocated for backward classes, including Muslims, in local body elections, concerns have been raised about the impact on the representation of diverse communities.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

All eyes on Jammu...

torch bearer of the BJP in Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir when he, being alone, kept the government on tenterhooks. His loyalty towards the party has earned him the third consecutive mandate from the party for Jammu Lok Sabha seat.

Raman Bhalla on the other hand has the honour of keeping the Congress party alive in Jammu region, especially in Jammu city, when many top level leaders left the party and few joined BJP and some joined Congress rebel Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP). He has been awarded with the mandate to represent the party and defeat the BJP's Sharma who has won twice, first in 2014 and second in 2019.

Now, all eyes will be on the April 26 polling day when people will be coming out to vote and will decide the fate of 22 candidates including two big guns. KNO

Over 17.80 lakh voters...

male, 46,062 female) and one transgender voter. Among these 1845 (1820 male, 25 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 138 polling stations in the Assembly Constituency, including 88 vulnerable and 14 critical.

The R S Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,24,744 voters (64,687 male, 60,054 female), three transgender voters including 1592 service. The EC has set up 147 polling stations across this AC.

Similarly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly segment of Reasi district has the lowest number of 55,737 voters

(29,340 male, 26,397 female including 271 service voters) and the election authorities have set up 91 polling stations across the segment.

Police appeals public...

participation in social and cultural events and occasions in which such persons are incidentally present, are posting such photos on their social media accounts without DGP's permission or permission of the senior officers.

The statement reads that this is not part of good to post a photo in public domain that was taken in a social or cultural event perhaps as a goodwill gesture without the permission of the person.

"It is outright criminal and punishable, if the photo is being used and leveraged to intimidate or influence others to extort or part with money or promise governmental benefits by brandishing the photo as a connection to authority," it reads.

It added that public, community members, fellow citizens, brothers and sisters, gullible villagers and city dwellers, students and workers who are all dear to DGP and are valuable community members and citizens to the Jammu and Kashmir police may note that such shenanigans by unscrupulous elements should be exposed and no one should fear of any harm from such elements. KNO

Amidst persistent...

to April 29," he said, adding that the major activity is expected on April 29.

About the fall in the maximum temperature, he said that the maximum temperature will continue to witness a fall in the next few days and is expected to improve from May 01, 2024.

Moreover, as per the data, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded normal precipitation from March 01, 2024 to April 24, 2024.

Samba is the only station where the deficient rainfall of 22 per cent has been recorded during the period.

As per the data, against the normal precipitation of 187.5 mm, Srinagar has recorded 275.5 mm rainfall during the period.

So far since March 01 till April 24, Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama and Shopian stations have recorded normal precipitation.

However, Shopian district in South Kashmir despite witnessing hailstorm and moderate rainfall from the last couple of days, has recorded large deficient rainfall, where against the normal precipitation of 194.4 mm, only 70.8 mm rainfall was recorded during the period. KNO

Amit Shah scathing...

Congress legacy. Now, Sam Pitroda, drawing parallels with America, has advocated for discussions on wealth distribution and the implementation of inheritance tax.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister highlighted that when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi brought to light the Congress's intentions of eyeing people's property, figures like Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and the entire Congress party came on the back foot. Con-

gress leaders began denying their intentions, claiming it wasn't their agenda. However, today, Sam Pitroda's statement has made the Congress's intentions crystal clear to the nation: they aim to survey individuals' private property and place it in the government treasury.

Shah asserted that during the UPA government's tenure, the Congress prioritized the notion that minorities and Muslim communities held the primary claim to the country's resources. By adhering to this stance, Congress aims to redistribute the assets of ordinary citizens. Congress should either withdraw this proposal from its manifesto or acknowledge that this is indeed their intention.

Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister emphasized the importance of taking Sam Pitroda's statement seriously. He urged the public to recognize the true intentions of the Congress party, now brought to light. Shri Shah stressed that if Congress does not endorse this agenda, they should remove it from their manifesto and declare that their priority is the upliftment of the poor. As Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has emphasized that the poor, Dalits, backward people and tribals have the first right on the resources of the country. Shri Shah urged the people of the country to raise their voices against Congress' agenda.

BJP getting overwhelming...

president Surinder Singh Gilli, Ajay Sharma, Surinder Bhagat, Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, Amit Singh Rajput, party councillors and others.

APS Rakhmuthi lifts finals of Northern Command Inter School Football Tournament

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APRIL 24

Army Public School (APS) Akhnoor proudly hosted the Northern Command Inter School Football Tournament on 23 & 24 April 2024 which showcased a thrilling competition among the boys teams. The event featured an incredible display of skill and determination on the field with passionate cheering from the spectators that reflected the spirit of unity, sportsmanship and love of the game.

Boys teams from APS Dhar Road, APS Rakhmuthi, APS Udhampur, APS Nagrota and APS Akhnoor showcased their talent and prowess making the event a memorable one.

The tournament began with a group song performed by the student choir, adding a musical touch to the event. Geeta Devi, Principal, APS Akhnoor, emphasised the importance of sports



in a student's life. She prolonged her heartfelt congratulations to all the teams for their commendable spirit, and advised all to keep to inspire students to excel both on and off the sphere.

The preliminary rounds were characterised by fierce competition and spectacular plays, with each team showcasing their unique style and strategy.

APS Rakhmuthi emerged victorious in the final, showcasing exceptional teamwork and skill. The runner-up trophy was claimed by APS Nagrota. Tarun Singh of APS Rakhmuthi was honoured as the tournament's best

player, exemplifying extraordinary field play throughout the competition.

Expressing his thoughts, the chief guest, said it was gratifying to witness the dedication and talent of the youth. The Inter-School football competition not only brought schools together but also instilled in our students the values of discipline, teamwork and healthy competition.

Dr. Rakesh Chander, Vice Principal, APS Akhnoor, expressed his sincere gratitude to all the participating schools, students, parents and the entire community for their extremely good assist.

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre organizes free Gastroenterology & Oncology Health Camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udheywala, Jammu organised a free health camp focusing on Gastroenterology and Oncology on April 24.

The camp headed by Dr. Vishav Dev Singh, MBBS, MD Medicine, DNB Gastroenterology and Hepatologist from Narayana Hospital and Dr. Arjun Singh Chib, MBBS, MD Medicine, DNB Oncology from BEE Enn Hospital.

A total of 415 patients benefited from the expertise of 14 doctors at this camp.

Apart from the gastroenterology and oncology camps, the participants also provided free consultations in Physician (Allopathy), Physician (Ayurvedic), ENT, Dental Surgeon, Orthopaedics, Eye Specialists, Gynaecologist and Physiotherapists. In addition to these specialized services, the health camp offered free consultations in various other medical disciplines, including Allopathic and Ayurvedic Physicians, ENT specialist, Dental Surgeons, Orthopedic



Surgeon, Ophthalmologist, Gynecologist, and Physiotherapists.

The camp also facilitated 75 Fibrosan tests (for Liver), 70 Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C tests, 120 free blood sugar tests and distributed medicines free of charge.

Dr. Arjun Chib commended the Centre's efforts in alignment with Swami Vivekananda's vision and urged public support for such humanitarian initiatives.

Dr. Vishav Dev praised the Mission's commendable work and encouraged local citizens to make the most of these medical services. Swami Yajnad-

harananda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly.

For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

Absconding thief arrested by PS Miran Sahib, Jammu



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Continuing its drive against underground criminals & absconders.

Miran Sahib Police station apprehended one more thief, who was evading his arrest since October 2023 Police team of PS Miran Sahib headed

by SHO Police station Miran Sahib assisted by PSI Yasar Arafat of Police Station Miran Sahib raided the suspected locations and arrested a thief namely Amandeep Singh @ Madu S/O Dhanwant Singh R/O SingPura, Marallian Jammu who had been absconding from October 2023.

The absconder was involved in case FIR No. 139/2023U/S 382/34 IPC. It is pertinent to mention here that a Mobile phone make Samsung has already been recovered from his accomplice.

HDFC Bank Educated over 2 Lakhs Citizens on Safe Digital Banking Practices PAN India in FY24

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

HDFC Bank as a part of digital banking awareness drive, conducted a series of secure banking workshops pan India. The Bank organized over 16,600 workshops sensitizing over 2,00,224 citizens on safe digital banking practices. These workshops were aimed at educating school and college students, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, self-help groups, customers and employees. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital banking practices so that they don't fall prey to cyber frauds.

Commenting on this Mr. Manish Agrawal, Executive Vice President - Credit Intelligence and Control - HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat to individuals and organisations alike. Lack of awareness causes people to fall for such cyber frauds. Therefore, it is essential to create awareness among the citizens so that they do not share confidential banking data or click on unverified links. The objective of these workshops is to educate participants on



various modus operandi used by fraudsters and the secure banking practices that they need to follow so that they do not become victims of such online frauds. These awareness workshops are in line with HDFC Bank's philosophy and core value i.e. Customer Focus."

The workshops included real life examples, stories and videos which helped participants understand various Modus Operandi used by fraudsters and tips on how to stay safe from such frauds. HDFC Bank has been conducting Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops under the Secure Banking initiative at various locations across the country over the past four years.

Commenting on this Mr. Manish Agrawal, Executive Vice President - Credit Intelligence and Control - HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat to individuals and organisations alike. Lack of awareness causes people to fall

for such cyber frauds. Therefore, it is essential to create awareness among the citizens so that they do not share confidential banking data or click on unverified links. The objective of these workshops is to educate participants on various modus operandi used by fraudsters and the secure banking practices that they need to follow so that they do not become victims of such online frauds. These awareness workshops are in line with HDFC Bank's philosophy and core value i.e. Customer Focus."

The Bank encourages customers to be cautious and adopt safe banking habits while transacting digitally and avoid sharing their confidential banking information with anyone. In case customers fall prey to online fraud, they should immediately report unauthorized transactions to the bank and get the payment mode blocked for safeguarding against future losses. Customers should also file a complaint by calling 1930 helpline number started by ministry of home affairs (MHA) and submit the complaint on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal <https://cybercrime.gov.in>.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 DEO Baramulla visits Gulmarg AC to ensure AMFs at all polling stations



JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 24

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) of Baramulla, Minga Sherpa accompanied by Syed Altaf Mosavi, the ARO, II-Gulmarg Assembly Segment, today undertook a comprehensive inspection of various polling stations of Sub-division Gulmarg to ensure the availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs).

The DEO conducted an inspection of multiple polling stations, conducting a comprehensive assessment of crucial aspects such as ramp availability, sanitation facilities, provision of drinking water, and electricity supply which come under the purview of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) mandated by the ECI guidelines.

Speaking during the visit, the DEO underscored that the district administration has meticulously arranged all nec-

essary facilities to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for both poll parties and voters during the Lok Sabha Elections.

He elaborated that special arrangements at polling stations have been implemented for voters with disabilities, including the installation of ramps at all 905 polling stations across the district.

Minga Sherpa emphasized that wheelchair facilities will be provided at all polling stations mapped for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), adding that the PWDs can proactively access this service in advance through the Saksham App, a user-friendly initiative by the ECI aimed at enhancing voter convenience.

During the visit, the DEO also conducted a thorough assessment of the arrangements at the Dispatch Center, Kunzer, which serves as the hub for dispatching poll parties and election materials to polling stations of the Assembly Segment II-Gulmarg during the Lok Sabha Elections.

Police arrests 02 absconders

JINNEWS SERVICE
HANDWARA, APR 24

Police in Handwara have arrested 02 absconders who were evading their arrest from last 25 years.

Warrant under section 512 CRPC issued by Hon'ble court of CJM Handwara pending with Police Station Handwara against 02 accused persons namely Jahangir Ahmad Shah son of Sonaulah Shah resident of Hamlapati Rajpora involved in case FIR no 197/1999 u/s 354,452,456, RPC of PS Handwara and Mohd Kamal Mir son of Habibullah Mir resident of Nichama Zachaldara involved in case FIR no 67/1996 u/s 04 explosive substance act of PS Handwara.

Induction programme organized at IGNOU Learner Support Centre 1201

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Induction programme for freshly enrolled learners of all programmes was organized at the Learner Support Centre of IGNOU 1201, DDE, University of Jammu today in which around hundred learners participated. One thousand fifty three learners of different programmes have been allotted to this Centre for the recently concluded January 2024 admission session. The Coordinator of the Centre, Prof. Rajeev Rattan, Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, Director DDE, Assistant Coordinators and other LSC functionaries were present on the occasion. Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director and Assistant Regional Directors, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Dr. Asha Upadhyay and Dr. Vikram Singh were present on the occasion from the RC Jammu as resource persons.

Dr. Jai Prakash Verma briefed the learners about various academic activities of IGNOU to be carried out during the course of their respective programmes. Several queries and issues of learners were discussed and resolved in an interactive session with the Coordinator and the resource persons. The learners were in high spirits and expressed their pleasure for having participated in the Induction meeting which forms an important part of the learner support services.



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Ankur Sharma, MP Candidate of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal from Jammu today addressed back to back public gatherings in Samba and Jammu Districts himself and engaged with public through his teams in Reasi and Sunderbani - Kalakote.

Starting from Jatwal, Mr Sharma covered the entire border area and addressed sizeable gatherings at Madera, Bagga Chhana, Tootrey, Gho

Manhasan and Chadkali. More than 50 teams of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal today did a Mohalla to Mohalla campaign across the length and breadth of the Jammu Parliamentary constituency.

Mr Sharma appealed people to vote for change and Jammu Provinces's political empowerment by casting vote in his favour. He stressed that his election symbol "Bansuri" represents change and also the values which his party name reflects.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 G'bal hosts marathon, cycle race for voter awareness under SVEEP



JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 22

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Administration and the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal today successfully conducted a marathon and cycle race to promote voter awareness among the youth.

These events were part of the broader Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative aimed at encouraging an informed and active electorate.

The marathon, initiated by Deputy Chief Education Officer Ganderbal/

Nodal Officer SVEEP, Rumaisa Sangeen, began at the Benhama Bypass and concluded at the Environmental Park Manigam.

Concurrently, the cycle race kicked off at the Clock Tower Duderhama, led by the Zonal Physical Education Officer of Ganderbal and finished at the Government College of Physical Education Ganderbal via Fatepora.

These activities saw the participation of approximately 700 spirited students from various schools across the district, highlighting the importance of each vote and urging especially first-time voters to partake in the democratic process.

Route march by J&K Police, Armed Police and CAPF in subdivision east of Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Various route marches are conducted in subdivision east of Jammu District under the close supervision of SSP Jammu and SP South Jammu in the JDs of PS Bagh e bahu PS Bahu fort, PS Channi, PP Sainik colony, PP Narwal and PP Chatta.

All the territorial officers including SDPOs, SHOs and ICPPs were participated in the march along with Armed and CAPF officers/officials.

Route marches are part of standard security measures to ensure safety and order during elections.

These marches help in familiarizing security personnel with the area and enhancing their readiness to handle any potential security threats



during the electoral process. Besides helps them in intelligence gathering.

Visible presence of security forces through route marches can deter criminal elements and instill confidence among the public, encouraging greater participation in the Route marches facilitate coordination and

teamwork among the forces.

Marches serve as a visible reminder of the importance of security and safety during elections and ensuring a secure and peaceful environment for elections, which is essential for upholding the democratic principles of free and fair

EDITORIAL

A step towards inclusive healthcare

The recent decision by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to eliminate the age limit for purchasing health insurance policies marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards a more inclusive and accessible healthcare ecosystem. This move, coupled with directives prohibiting the rejection of claims based on pre-existing conditions, underscores a commitment to safeguarding the health and financial well-being of all citizens, irrespective of age or medical history. Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right, yet millions around the country are denied this basic privilege due to financial constraints. In a country where a vast majority still grapples with the burden of out-of-pocket medical expenses, the concept of 'health insurance' emerges as both a moral imperative and an economic necessity. By extending coverage to individuals beyond the age of 65 and mandating insurers to offer products catering to diverse age groups, IRDAI has addressed a crucial gap in the healthcare insurance landscape. With the demographic shift towards an aging population, ensuring adequate protection against unforeseen medical expenses becomes imperative. The UN Population Fund's projection that senior citizens will comprise over 20 per cent of India's population by 2050 underscores the urgency of such measures. Improved life expectancy, particularly among women, further accentuates the need for comprehensive health insurance coverage. By removing barriers to access and enhancing affordability, IRDAI's guidelines empower individuals to proactively manage their health and mitigate financial risks associated with medical emergencies. However, while applauding IRDAI's proactive stance, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges that persist in making health insurance products truly consumer-friendly. Complexities in policy documentation, coupled with opaque terms and conditions, often deter potential customers and breed mistrust. Addressing this trust deficit requires enhanced transparency in product offerings and streamlined claim settlement processes. Moreover, the proliferation of fraudulent activities in the insurance sector demands heightened vigilance and stringent regulatory oversight. Instances of false claims, inflated charges, and unnecessary billing not only erode trust but also undermine the integrity of the insurance industry. IRDAI must collaborate with stakeholders to implement robust monitoring mechanisms and effectively combat malpractices. In parallel, efforts to enhance consumer awareness and education are paramount. Clear communication about policy benefits, risks, and rights empowers individuals to make informed decisions and safeguards them against exploitation. Initiatives to simplify insurance jargon and provide accessible channels for grievance redressal can further bolster consumer confidence. As India strides towards universal healthcare coverage, IRDAI's progressive reforms set a positive precedent for industry stakeholders and policymakers alike. By prioritizing inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, we can build a resilient healthcare infrastructure that caters to the diverse needs of all citizens, ensuring health and financial security for generations to come. The vision of health insurance for all is not merely a slogan but a transformative agenda that holds the potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery and improve the lives of millions.

Jallianwala Bagh: A turning point in India's freedom struggle

SUKHDEV SINGH

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Amritsar massacre, a peaceful socio-political gathering of the native population dealt with a violent administrative response on 13th April 1919 by the then British Government killing above 1000 children, women and men firing 1650 gunshots, received strong criticism and gave the Indian freedom movement a clear direction for complete freedom from the foreign rule. The incident underlined the secular and all-inclusive character of the freedom movement. While in other parts of India, there were religious conflicts, in Amritsar the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs had decided to celebrate their religious days (eid ul-fitter on April 01, Ram Nowmi on April 08 and Baisakhi on April 13) together to communicate the message of united freedom struggle against the foreign rule. The dead bodies of those, including Hindus, killed by the police while they were protesting against the arrest and deportation of the two local leaders Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal to

some unknown place, according to the local narratives, were kept in the Khairuddin mosque before their final funeral rites. Earlier on the occasion of Ram Nowmi on April 9, 1919, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims drank water using the same tumbler. These events caused fear among the British rulers.

In the background of what happened on April 13, 1919, was the rising unrest among the people caused by the post-world-war inflation, heavy taxes and other repressive policies of the British Indian Government.

During the world war between 1914 and 1917, though the British forces were supported by the British-India Government and principalities, the Gadhries in Punjab had planned a mutiny by the Indian soldiers serving in the British Indian Army for February 1915 on the lines of 1857 mutiny, opposing the colonial Government anti-people policies which due to weak planning could not succeed. Yet, given a strong and colonial-Government atmosphere in Punjab and Bengal, in particular and in India, in general, on ardent advocacy by the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, Michael

O'Dwyer, the British India Government passed a 'Defence of India Act 1915' curtailing the civil and political liberties.

In 1918, suspecting revolt with support from Russian Bolsheviks, the Government appointed a committee headed by Sidney Rowlett to assess the German and Bolshevik links to the militant movement in India, especially in Punjab and Bengal. On the committee's recommendation, the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly called the Rowlett Act, was passed on 21st March 1919 further limiting civil liberties and granting special powers to the Government enabling up to 2 years' detention of purported political agitators without trial. Breaching their promise for post-war political reforms in exchange for India's resources the Government hurriedly passed the Act, ignoring opposition by the Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Council, who all resigned in protest. Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote to the Viceroy: "I, therefore, as a protest against the passing of the Bill and the manner in which it was passed tender my resignation ... a Government that passes

or sanctions such a law in times of peace forfeits its claim to be called a civilised Government".

The Act, seen as a betrayal, enraged the Indian leaders and citizens. Mahatma Gandhi gave a call for Satyagraha against the Rowlett Act urging for a peaceful participation in Hartals (strikes), economic boycott and non-cooperation. The anti-Rewlett Act sentiment was so strong in the whole country, especially in Punjab, that in response to the Satyagraha call on April 6 "practically the whole of Lahore was on the streets".

Following the events on April 9 and the detention of the local leaders Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal on April 10, 1919, a large crowd gathered to demand the release of Dr Satyapal and Dr Kitchlew. In the protest, 20-25 Indian and four British were killed while others were injured. The atmosphere in Amritsar was so tense that on April 11, Marcella Sherwood, an elderly English missionary was attacked by an angry mob in the Kucha Kurrichhan. Although she was rescued by some residents in the same street, enraged at the assault, Brigadier General R.E.H. Dyer, ordered every

Indian passing through the street to crawl its length on his hands and knees as a punishment. He also authorised the indiscriminate public whipping of locals. The local leaders of the freedom movement, in a meeting held on April 12 at the Hindu College, planned a peaceful public protest gathering on April 13, the day of Baisakhi, in Jallian Wala Bagh spread over 6-7 acres of vacant land surrounded by residential buildings.

By April 13, most parts of Punjab under put under martial law. Civil liberties were curtailed and the assembly of more than four people was banned. The orders of banning public meetings and gatherings were not being widely and properly communicated. After celebrating Baisakhi many people relaxed in the Bagh, waiting to join the peaceful protest against the arrest and deportation of Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew. Rest as they say is history.

(The writer is retired professor of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar and member, governing council, INTACH, New Delhi; views are personal)

Has poverty been nearly eradicated?

K N NINAN

After a gap of a decade, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Government of India released a fact-sheet with the results of the NSS Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES) for the year 2022-23. The last published survey data pertained to the period 2011-12. The 2017-18 data was not released citing data quality issues, although the survey used the same methodology as the 2011-12 survey.

Leaked reports of the 2017-18 survey suggested that the average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) had declined from Rs 1,501 in 2011-12 to Rs 1,446 in 2017-18, implying that poverty had increased in India. This decline was sharper in rural India (8.8%) than in urban India (2.2%). This finding was embarrassing for the Narendra Modi government to release on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. It proposed a new survey, instead.

Based on the latest data, some experts have claimed that poverty has been nearly eradicated in India, without even checking whether the 2022-23 data are comparable with 2011-12 data. The CEO of Niti Aayog, B V R Subrahmanyam, claimed that poverty in rural India, which was estimated at 25.7% in 2011-12, had fallen to below 5% of the population. Economist Surjit Bhalla claimed that it had declined to below 2%!

If poverty in India has been



nearly eradicated, one wonders why the Modi government has promised free foodgrains to more than 81 crore people, or over 60% of India's population, for the next five years, and that too when NSS data shows that consumption of cereals has steadily declined over time. East Asian economies such as China recorded a sharp decline in poverty levels only at high economic growth rates of above 10% per annum. India's GDP growth rates have ranged between 3.8% to 7% in the last five years, with the rate turning negative (-5.83%) in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. How then did poverty in India get eradicated so quickly?

Note also that as per a World Bank report (2022), 70 million people fell below the international poverty line of \$2.15 per day in 2020 following the pandemic, of which India alone accounted for 80% (56 million).

Unlike the 2011-12 survey, the 2022-23 NSS survey selected households in rural and urban areas using new criteria, such

as land possessed in rural areas, and possession of one or more cars for non-commercial use in urban areas. While previous surveys used a single questionnaire with a single visit to canvass data from sample households, the 2022-23 survey used four sets of questionnaires, with multiple visits. The 2022-23 survey covered 405 items, compared to 347 items in the 2011-12 survey. The survey also furnishes data on average MPCE after imputing the value of freebies provided to households, such as free foodgrains, fuel, laptops, bicycles.

It is not clear as to how representative the sample is of India's rural and urban population? What is the proportion of rural households possessing lands and the proportion of urban households owning cars in the sample? Have these been weighted and accounted for while estimating the average MPCE for all expenditure classes?

Ignoring all this, let us evalu-

ate the estimates of the average MPCE. As per the survey, the average MPCE for rural India was Rs 3,773, and for urban India, Rs 6,459. For the bottom 5% of the rural population, this figure was Rs 1,373, compared to Rs 2,001 for the corresponding urban population. The MPCE figures for the top 5% of the population were Rs 10,501 for rural India and Rs 20,824 for urban India.

It is pitiful that even after a decade, the average MPCE in real terms (in 2022-23 prices) has not even doubled, whether in rural or urban India (Rs 2,760 and Rs 4,865 respectively in 2011-12 as against Rs 3,773 and Rs 6,459 in 2022-23 respectively).

As per the poverty line for rural areas suggested by the Tendulkar Committee (Rs 1,575 in 2022-23 prices), the bottom 5% of the rural population fall below the poverty line. But as per the Rangarajan Committee's poverty line (Rs 1,876 in 2022-23 prices), the bottom 20% of India's rural population with average MPCE of Rs 1,755 are below the poverty line. These ratios hold even when we include the imputed value of freebies provided to households.

Despite tall claims about the benefits of a "double-engine Sarkar" and unprecedented development that is claimed to have taken place in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in the last few years, it is lamentable that the standard of living measured by the average MPCE in the rural areas of these

two states (Rs 3,191 and Rs 3,113 respectively) are not only well below the national average but also lag far behind that of north-western and southern states. Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, too, report their average rural MPCE (Rs 2,466 to Rs 3,384) to be well below the national average. The average MPCE for rural areas was the highest for Kerala (Rs 5,924), followed by Himachal Pradesh (Rs 5,561), Punjab (Rs 5,315), Tamil Nadu (Rs 5,310), Andhra Pradesh (Rs 4,870), Haryana (Rs 4,859), Telangana (Rs 4,802) and Karnataka (Rs 4,397).

The average MPCE (Rs 3,798) for rural Gujarat, the so-called model state, was only marginally higher than the national average (Rs 3,773). But if the imputed value of freebies is added, this average (Rs 3,820) falls below the corresponding national average. Interestingly, Rajasthan fared well with the average MPCE (Rs 4,263) in rural areas being well above the national average and the other traditional BIMARU states.

The plight of the self-employed in agriculture, casual labourers, Scheduled Castes and Tribes is pathetic, with their average MPCE (between Rs 3,016 and Rs 3,702) well below the national average. India becoming a \$5 trillion economy or third-largest economy in the world will be meaningless if these vulnerable sections cannot share in the gains of this development.

(The writer is an economist)

The Mysteries of Afterlife

SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

The Upanishads, ancient philosophical texts that form the foundation of Hinduism, offer profound insights into the nature of existence, consciousness and the ultimate reality. Among the myriad themes they explore, the concept of the afterlife occupies a significant place. Delving into the Upanishadic thoughts on the afterlife unveils a tapestry of ideas, reflecting deep contemplation on the nature of existence beyond the mortal realm.

The Transient and the Eternal: Central to the Upanishadic understanding of the afterlife is the distinction between the transient, ephemeral aspects of existence and the eternal, unchanging essence of the self (Atman). These texts assert that the physical body is subject to birth and death, bound by

the cycles of samsara (the cycle of birth, death and rebirth), while the Atman transcends these cycles, being eternal and indestructible.

The Doctrine of Karma: Integral to the Upanishadic worldview is the doctrine of karma, which holds that every action, thought and intention produces consequences that shape one's future experiences. According to this doctrine, the quality of one's actions determines the nature of their existence in this life and beyond. The Upanishads emphasise that the consequences of karma extend beyond the confines of a single lifetime, influencing the soul's journey through successive rebirths.

The Journey of the Soul: The Upanishads envision the soul's journey through samsara as a process of spiritual evolution aimed at realising its true nature and attaining liberation



(moksha) from the cycle of birth and death. This journey is characterised by the accumulation of karma, which propels the soul through various life experiences and incarnations. Each lifetime presents opportunities for growth, learning and self-realisation, ultimately leading the soul closer to

its divine source.

The Concept of Rebirth: Rebirth, or reincarnation, is a fundamental tenet of the Upanishadic philosophy. It is believed that the soul undergoes multiple births, inhabiting different bodies and experiencing diverse life circumstances based on its past actions. The Upanishads describe

the process of rebirth as governed by the law of karma, wherein individuals are born into specific situations that reflect the consequences of their previous deeds. Liberation from the cycle of rebirth is attained when the soul transcends its attachment to worldly desires and realises its essential unity with the divine.

The Ultimate Goal: Moksha: At the heart of the Upanishadic teachings on the afterlife lies the concept of moksha, or spiritual liberation. Moksha represents the culmination of the soul's journey, wherein it breaks free from the cycle of samsara and merges with the ultimate reality, known as Brahman. Achieving moksha involves transcending the ego, relinquishing attachments and realising the eternal truth of one's identity as Atman, identical to Brahman. In

this state of liberation, the soul experiences eternal bliss, beyond the confines of time, space and individual identity.

Conclusion: The Upanishads offer profound insights into the nature of the afterlife, presenting a holistic worldview that encompasses the transient nature of earthly existence and the eternal essence of the self. Through the exploration of concepts such as karma, rebirth and moksha, these ancient texts provide a framework for understanding the soul's journey beyond mortality and its quest for spiritual realisation. Ultimately, the Upanishads invite us to contemplate the deeper mysteries of life and death, guiding us towards the realisation of our divine nature and the attainment of ultimate liberation.

(Writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

HOW DOES FAT LEAVE YOUR BODY DURING WEIGHT LOSS?

ADITI SHENAI

EVER wonder where the fat goes when you are on a weight loss diet? Most people think that fat converts to energy; some think fat turns into muscle, and others assume it escapes via excretion. Knowing more about fat metabolism becomes necessary due to many misconceptions about how weight loss works. Not just that, where you lose fat also plays a crucial role.

Understanding Body Fat

There are two types of body fat. One is visceral fat or white adipose tissue. It is often present around the belly and accumulates around the organs. It is a little stubborn and leads to health complications like diabetes and fatty liver disease. So it's necessary to try and avoid visceral fat. If you have visceral fat, start focusing on healthy eating and leading an active lifestyle.

The second type of fat is brown adipose tissue. It is the essential or good fat with various vital functions. For example, brown adipose tissue regulates body temperature by burning calories and keeping the body warm. Brown fat also has a more significant number of capillaries, which helps transport nutrients and oxygen throughout the body.

When you consume more calories than your body needs, the body stores it in fat cells in the form of triglycerides. Whether it's liquid or solid, all fat is present as triglycerides. When you overeat and lead a sedentary lifestyle, these fat cells can build up and cause weight gain.

How Does Fat Leave the Body When You Lose Weight?

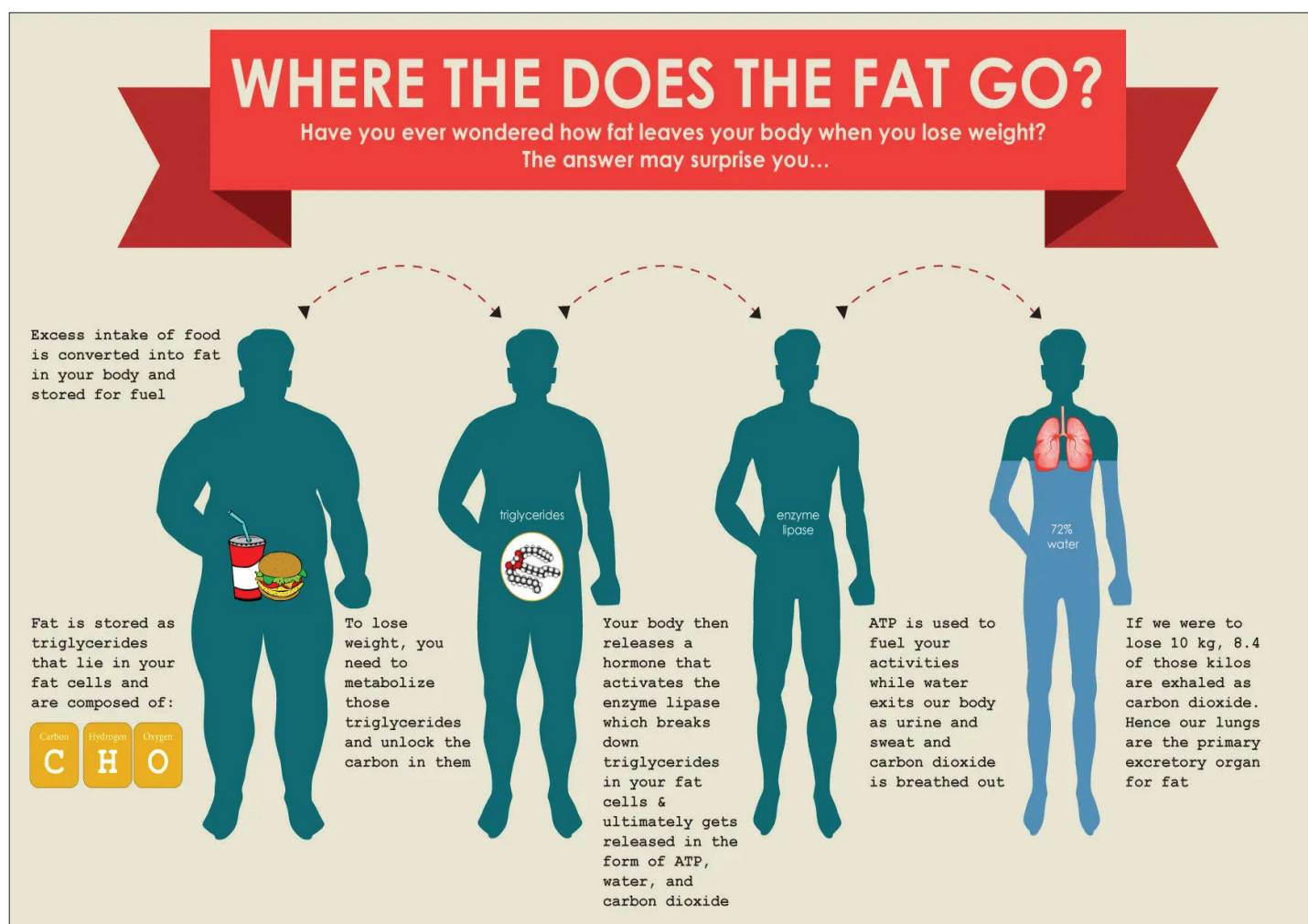
Fat loss is a complex process. When you're on a weight-loss regimen, the fat cells start to shrink. A recently published study shows that you breathe out the fat, or your lungs expel around 84% of the fat as carbon dioxide. Therefore, you're breathing away those pounds. For example, if you lose 10 kg of fat, about 8.4 kg of fat comes out through your lungs, and only 1.6 kilograms turn into water. Therefore, the lungs are the primary organ through which you lose fat.

The fat cells in your body store triglycerides, a type of fat in the blood made of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. So to lose weight, you need to break down those triglycerides. The triglycerides release fat as carbon dioxide and water atoms during fat metabolism or oxidation. In other words, fat leaves the body as carbon dioxide when you exhale. The fat which becomes water mixes into your circulation until it's lost as urine, tears, sweat and other bodily fluids. Therefore, exercise is an integral part of weight loss since your body disposes of fat through sweat, urine, and exhaled air.

The point to remember here is that you need oxygen to complete this metabolic process. The fat metabolic process requires ample oxygen, nearly three times the fat you lose. So, to completely lose 10 kg of human fat, around 30 kg of oxygen must be inhaled to oxidise fat to carbon dioxide.

Are You Losing Fat? Simple Ways to Know

There are a couple of signs that show you're burning fat, or you can consult a professional to know for sure. The most significant changes



are feeling healthier overall and waking up feeling less sluggish.

Some other signs of fat loss are:

You'll see changes in your body composition. Losing pounds or losing inches is the primary sign you're burning fat. It leads to a slimmer appearance and more muscle definition.

Your exercise stamina increases, and you are getting fitter. As a result, your physical activity level shows improvement.

You don't feel any energy slump in the afternoon and experience a better mid-day energy level. In addition, your energy stays stable throughout the day.

Tips for Losing Excess Fat

When starting weight loss, it's important to allow the body time and not to try shortcut methods such as using diet pills and fat burners that can cause the body harm in the long run. There are no shortcuts to weight loss and remembering that your body needs time to recover and adapt is step one. Not all bodies have a similar metabolic rate, which explains why we all can eat and exercise the same, but our bodies will still look very different.

Losing the excess fat cells is about the difference between your calorie intake and the calories burnt. To initiate the weight loss process, you must be on a calorie deficit, i.e. you must eat fewer calories than you burn. However, too much calorie deficit can disrupt your day to day activities as you will not have enough energy.

You can maintain a calorie deficit in two ways. One is by burning more calories, and the other is by putting fewer calories in the body. When you follow both of these simultaneously, you will be able to see the results quickly. You can burn more calories by engaging in physical activity. You can put fewer calories in your body

by closely monitoring your diet. Research on this subject has shown that a calorie deficit of 500 to 1000 kilocalories (kcal) per day is a practical way to lose weight.

Engage in Physical activity

A big reason for the global crisis of being overweight is insufficient physical activity. The leading cause of this is the passive nature of most occupations and people's inappropriate time to undertake any physical activity. Doing sufficient physical activity ensures that you are burning calories, which isn't taking place in reality.

Doing moderate-intensity exercise for 150-250 minutes per week can be helpful for fat loss. You can do various physical activities to accelerate fat loss through sweat and exhalation. These include:

- Yoga
- Zumba
- Dancing
- Weight training
- Bodyweight movements
- Walking
- Jogging
- Running
- Cycling
- Swimming
- Meal Planning

The second tool in the weight loss journey is your diet. What you eat and how much you eat determine how much fat you can lose. A calorie deficit meal plan will help you but you need one that still provides you with the necessary amount of protein, complex carbs, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals. Pre planning your meals or following a proper plan allows you to have healthy, delicious, low-cal meals. You can keep the following things in mind when it comes to diet for weight loss:

Increase Your fruit and vegetable intake

Recent research has shown that fruits and vegetables have a lot of fibre and water with fewer calories.

As a result, it satisfies your hunger and, at the same time, significantly reduces your calorie intake. So try to eat lots of fibre and protein to balance the meals.

Use smaller plates to eat from

An interesting study shows that people fill up about 70% of their plates with food, regardless of the plate size. So, reducing the size of utensils will likely help you reduce your overall calorie intake.

Mindful Eating

Try to eat slowly. It tricks the brain that you have eaten enough. Be mindful of the nutritional value per serving. The Japanese believe in stopping when they are 80% full. Limit distractions when you are taking meals. It helps focus your attention on your food. A study shows that attentive and mindful eating is likely to reduce food intake. It serves as a novel approach to aid weight loss without the need for conscious calorie counting. Additionally, mindful eating can also help avoid overeating.

Precautions

Getting rid of excess weight is highly beneficial, especially in the long run. It is necessary to maintain healthy body weight to lead a long and healthy life. However, beginners should be cautious of some misconceptions and take adequate precautions, so there is no harm to their bodies.

Do Not Eat Skip Meals

A lot of people commit this error. They start skipping meals or eating too little, thinking that it will help them lose weight fast. Unfortunately, this approach does not work. Instead, it is harmful. Eating too little deprives your body of its energy to continue essential functions. Eating less also weakens your immune system and makes you more susceptible to diseases. If

you want to cut down on calories, do it slowly.

Spot Reduction Does Not Exist

The concept of spot reducing or selective reduction of fat is not possible. Spot reducing is the misconception that you can burn fat from a specific body part by selectively exercising that area. However, putting too much focus on a particular muscle or group of muscles to reduce fat might not lead to good results. Instead, that would cause you to overtrain those muscles, which might cause muscle rupture and damage.

Do Not Lose Fat Too Fast

You need to understand that only a sustainable journey is beneficial in the long run. Rapid fat loss will do more harm than good. A study shows that body composition is more favourable following a slow weight loss. Rapid fat loss can lead to many problems like headaches, fatigue, body pain, micronutrient deficiency and muscle loss. In women, rapid weight loss causes menstrual irregularities. Instead, aim for a gradual process, which will be more enjoyable and sustainable.

Conclusion

Despite society's obsession with weight loss, most people don't know what happens to fat when they lose it. Contrary to popular belief, your body doesn't convert your fat into heat or energy. Instead, you breathe it out. So the correct answer is that you breathe out most fat you lose as carbon dioxide. After that, it goes into thin air. But unfortunately, this doesn't mean that simply breathing will help you lose weight. Therefore, you still need to do regular exercise to break down the fat in the first place. Moreover, you can only breathe so many times a day. So there's a limit on how much fat you will lose in a day with no exercise.

RECIPE

Green Booster Shake

"SMOOTHIES are nutrient-dense drinks created from fruits, vegetables, and other nutrient-dense components that are thick, creamy, and pleasant. Smoothies can be a nutritious and filling dinner or snack alternative. They are high in vitamins and minerals, which are essential for maintaining good health. Smoothies made at home are a great morning option. Smoothies should be consumed on a daily basis to ensure optimum health and enjoyment throughout the summer."



This recipe of Green smoothies made at home with avocado is high in vitamins and minerals including Vitamin A, C, and K, as well as folate and zinc, all of which help to strengthen the immune system and keep the body healthy."

Prep Time 5 mins
Course Drinks
Servings 1 glass
Calories 395 kcal

Ingredients

1/2 cup Avocado
1 cup Spinach
1/2 cup Frozen Banana
1 cup Greek Yogurt

Instructions

Combine 1/2 cup avocado, 1 cup spinach, 1/2 cup frozen banana, and 1 cup Greek yoghurt in a mixer.
Blend until a smooth paste
Serve in a tall glass

Fiber Rich Dal bhaji



EATING more fibre provides numerous health benefits. Fiber is the part of plant foods that our bodies cannot digest or break down easily. Fiber can help lower cholesterol, improve blood sugar control, and may even help prevent intestinal cancer. Per 1,000 calories, aim for 14 grammes of fibre.

With its amazing and nutrient-dense ingredients, this recipe will reign supreme in the fiber-rich diet. So, if you have trouble meeting your daily fibre requirements? Here's a recipe for a tasty, easy-to-make Dal Bhaji that's high in fibre.

Prep Time 15 mins
Course Side Dish
Servings 1 bowl
Calories 56 kcal

Ingredients

1 tbsp Ghee/Oil
1 tbsp Cumin Seeds
1 tbsp Crushed Garlic
1/2 cup Capsicum Chopped
1/2 cup Carrots & Cauliflower
1/2 cup Tomato Chopped
Salt to taste
1 cup Palak
1 cup Methi
1 tbsp Pav Bhaaji Masala
1 tbsp Cumin Powder
1/2 cup Mixed Dal (Tur, Moong, Chana)
Water

Instructions

Boil 1/2 cup Ghee/Oil, 1 tbsp Cumin Seeds, 1 tbsp Crushed Garlic in a pan and stir well.
Add 1/2 Cup Capsicum Chopped, 1/2 Cup Carrots & Cauliflower, 1/2 Cup Tomato Chopped in the same pan and stir well. Close for boiling.
After boiling, stir in 1 cup Palak and 1 cup Methi. Stir in 1 tablespoon Pav Bhaaji Masala, 1 tablespoon Cumin Powder, 1/2 cup Mixed Dal (Tur, Moong, Chana), and some water.
Leave it to boil.
Serve hot and healthy.

Custard Apple – Benefits, Nutrition Value and Ways to Consume

HIRAL PATEL

Custard Apple, also known as "sitaphal" in Hindi, is a delicious fruit that is quite popular. This soft and creamy fruit has a hard rind and is full of nutrients.

The fruit offers many health benefits as it contains antioxidants and is high in nutrients like magnesium and potassium. In this post, we have outlined some of the most amazing health benefits of custard apple.

Custard apples are a rich source of nutrients and minerals required by the body. So, let's take a look at the table below to understand the nutritional values of the fruit.

A fresh, 100-gram custard apple contains:

Calories – 94
Proteins – 2.1 gms
Dietary Fiber – 4.4 gms
Total Fat – 0.0 gms
Carbohydrates – 23.6 gms
So, let's discuss the potential health benefits.

9 Health Benefits of Custard Apple

There are several advantages

to eating custard apples. Also, various research and studies have proven its potential health benefits. Listed below are some of the known health benefits of this fruit.

1. Custard Apple Improves Better Cardiovascular Health

Custard apple is one of the few fruits that contain a well-balanced ratio of potassium and sodium. It helps in regulating and controlling blood pressure fluctuations in the body.

The high magnesium content in the fruit relaxes the smooth heart muscles, thus preventing stroke and heart attack. Moreover, the fruit has fiber and niacin that helps in reducing bad cholesterol while increasing good cholesterol in the body.

It averts the free radicals from affecting lipids and helps in preventing the absorption of cholesterol in the gut.

2. Custard Apple Helps Fight Fatigue

Fatigue can result from a number of factors, including daily lifestyle as well as diseases.

It's been proven that a 100-

gram of custard apple contains 101 kilocalories, which is around 5% of the recommended dietary allowance. So, the fruit will keep you going with your day to day activities without any hassle.

3. Custard Apple Boosts Eye-sight

Custard apple is a rich source of vitamin C and riboflavin, two the most essential nutrients for healthy eyes.

In addition, they also help in fighting free radicals from damaging the cells. As we age, weak eyesight is a common problem. At present when we are glued to the screens, it is important to take good care of your eyes.

The essential nutrients in these prevent your eyes from drying out allowing them to function properly.

4. Boosts Natural Anti-Cancerous Properties

They are also rich in flavonoids which are help treat numerous types of tumors and cancers. The fruit contains elements like alkaloids and acetogenin can reduce the risk of renal failure



and cancer.

Research shows, the antioxidant properties of custard apple act against cancer-causing cells, without affecting the healthy cells.

Furthermore, bullatacin and asimicin are two antioxidant compounds that have anti-helminths and anti-cancer properties. They help in counteracting the effects of free radicals, thus avoiding cancer.

5. Custard Apple Lowers the Risk of Arthritis

Custard apples are a rich source of magnesium. When

consumed, magnesium helps in equalizing the water balance in the body, therefore eradicating acids from the joints.

This ultimately helps in reducing the symptoms of arthritis and rheumatism. According to experts, regular consumption of the fruit also helps in fighting muscle weakness. Beside these, custard apples also contain calcium which is essential for bone health.

6. Custard Apple for Better Brain Health

It contain B complex vitamins in abundance. Vitamin B complex controls your brain's GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) neuron chemical levels.

This influences different emotions, including depression, irritability, tension, and stress. Thus, vitamin B complex helps you calm down, especially when you are stressed about something or are depressed.

According to experts, it is a great food to have to protect

against Parkinson's disease. Did you know that a 100 gms of custard apple contains 0.6 gms of Vitamin B6? Which is also 15-20% of the daily recommended value.

7. Remedy for Inflammatory Diseases

Interestingly, custard apple is a highly recommended fruit for people suffering from inflammatory diseases like gout and rheumatoid arthritis.

The antioxidants present in the fruit can help curb pain related to auto-inflammatory diseases and conditions accordingly. Also, the leaves of the fruit possess anti-inflammatory properties.

8. Custard Apple Keeps Skin Youthful and Delays Aging

Eating custard apple has shown to stimulate and increase collagen production in the body. Collagen is a protein that gives the skin its elasticity, plumpness, and smoothness. As we age, collagen production becomes slow.

This results in the formation of creases lines on the skin, sagging of the skin, and wrinkly skin. Hence, it thickens and stimulates the production of col-

lagen, therefore reducing the fine lines and wrinkles. Also, the compounds present in custard apple slows down the breakdown of collagen, improving the elasticity of the skin.

The presence of antioxidants in the fruit ensures that signs like blemishes and age spots are delayed. Finally, it is essential for the regeneration of the skin cells, which keeps the skin looking youthful.

9. Custard Apple Prevents Anemia

Anemia occurs due to a disorder within the body. It leads to the body having less than regular amounts of hemoglobin or red blood cells in the body.

The red blood cells use hemoglobin for transporting oxygen and allowing the body to perform numerous functions. Thus, lower amounts of red blood cells or hemoglobin result in the blood lacking an adequate amount of oxygen.

This makes the lungs and the heart work harder to produce more oxygen. Haematinic is another name for custard apple which helps in dealing with conditions like anemia.

BJP's communal narrative weakening National unity: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APR 24

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference today launched a scathing attack against the Saffron Party for its alleged attempts to sow communal divisions in the country for its petty political gains.

The senior NC leader was speaking during the election campaign meeting in support of Party's candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in Village Kaller Block Dongi of district Rajouri.

During the campaign, Ch. Naseem Liaqat, DDC Chairman Rajouri, Th. Rameshwar Singh DDC Dhangri, Ch. Khlaid Hussain DDC Dongi, Ch. Reyaz former BDC Chairman Dongi, Ch. Maqbool Hussain former BDC Chairman Dhangri, Yashu Vardhan, Additional Spokesperson JKNC, Vijay Lochan, Chairman JKNC SC Cell, Shafayat Khan District President Rajouri, Showket Mir,

Rakesh Singh Raka, and other senior leaders of the Party were present.

At the outset of the meeting, Th. Rameshwar Singh, DDC Dhangri and Provincial Vice President JKNC Jammu, apprised the senior functionaries of the Party about the hardships being faced by the people of hilly terrain in absence of basic amenities.

Addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President lambasted the BJP for its relentless pursuit of divisive politics, which he described as detrimental to the nation's social, secular, fabric and democratic ethos.

"The BJP's continuous attempts to sow seeds of communal discord for its own electoral gains are deplorable and reprehensible. Their communal narrative is not only dividing communities but also weakening the very ethos of our nation."

Reacting over the 'Mangalsutra' remarks of PM



Modi, Rattan Lal said that the Saffron Party was seeking to indulge in politics of religion but would not succeed as people of the country with diverse religious traditions live in harmony. He said that BJP's agenda of divisive politics will never succeed.

"National Conference has always stood strongly against divisive forces and will foil the machinations of those who were hell bent to destroy the multigrain social and secular fabric of the country," he added.

Adv Naseem Liaqat,

DDC Chairman, Rajouri, expressed profound disappointment with the present government's indifferent attitude towards the populace amidst the absence of a popularly elected government. He underscored the government's failure to allocate sufficient funds for the development of hilly terrains, resulting in the deprivation of basic amenities for the people residing there.

Highlighting the plight of the weaker sections of society, Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell, Ch.

Khalid DDC Dongi, Ch. Reyaz, Ch. Maqbool, Khurshida Begum, lamented their continued neglect under the incumbent government. They said that these marginalized communities have deprived of their due rights under the Modi regime. They stressed the urgent need to support the National Conference (NC) candidate for equitable development, emphasizing that only through such support can the marginalized segments of society hope for meaningful progress and inclusivity in governance.

Thakur Yashu Vardhan Singh, Additional Spokesperson JKNC, Professor Vikar Rtd Principal and other senior leaders of congress said that the present Govt has miserably failed to do justice with the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. They said today the youth is in utter frustration due to unemployment, lack of job avenues, recruitment scams

in the government jobs. They said that the BJP led Govt has pursued only anti-people policies with people able to see only a bleak future for them.

The senior NC leaders and Congress leaders appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to get unite against divisive forces by extending full support to the INDIA Alliance Candidate Mian Altaf from Anantnag - Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, in the endeavor to remove the BJP from power and restore the principles of inclusivity and pluralism in governance.

Among those who were present include: Rishat Khan, Nissar Ahmed, Tufail Hussain Block President, Qamran Tahir, Bansil Lal, Mohd Sadiq, Rattan Lal Mehta, Suraj Parkash, Vipin Pal Sharma Sarpanch, Ch. Ismail, Haji Aslam, Vivek Sharma, Rashid, Narjan Singh, Mohd Akhter and others.

Delhi Public School Kathua Students Excel at Zonal Mastogi-Do Championship



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Eleven students from Delhi Public School Kathua exhibited their exceptional martial arts skills at the Zonal Mastogi-Do Championship held in Kurukshetra, Haryana, securing a total of four medals, including two silver and two bronze.

Among the standout performers, Akarshan and Lovepreet Kour, both from the 10th class, clinched silver medals, showcasing their prowess and dedication to the sport. Nitin from the 12th class and Brijesh from the

10th class demonstrated remarkable skill to secure bronze medals in their respective categories.

These achievements underscore the students' commitment, hard work, and the quality training provided by DPS Kathua. The success not only brings honor to the school but also shines a light on the immense potential and talent present in the region.

DPS Kathua extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the participants for their exemplary performance and wishes them continued success in their future endeavors.

Literary Club, JU organizes one-day Workshop on "Storytelling through Puppets"

Aims to promote culture, heritage

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

In a delightful fusion of artistry and imagination, enthusiasts from across the different faculties of the Main Campus congregated for a one-day workshop on "Storytelling through Puppets," organised by the Literary Club under the aegis of Utsaah, the Clubs, University of Jammu on April 24, 2024. This event captivated participants, offering a journey into the enchanting world of puppetry, seamlessly blending artistry and imagination to illuminate the timeless craft of storytelling.

In her welcome address, Prof. Satnam Kour Raina, chairperson, Utsaah applauded the efforts of the Literary Club and its Coordinator, Prof Sadaf Shah, for organising such



an event. She described such an exercise as a celebration of creativity, imagination, and the timeless art of storytelling. She further expressed that with puppetry as their medium, participants could embark on a hands-on journey to bring their stories to life.

Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator of the Literary Club introduced Mr. Jaswinder Singh, the resource person for the workshop who is an art expert from Sangrur, Punjab. She emphasized that the workshop aimed not only to teach

but also to reconnect participants with their cultural roots and foster pride in their heritage. Through puppetry, participants were encouraged to explore and appreciate an integral aspect of their culture, enriching their understanding of artistic traditions.

Mr. Jaswinder Singh, in his address, highlighted puppetry as a powerful medium for communication, enabling individuals to share their stories and perspectives with confidence and creativity. The

workshop commenced with an engaging delve into the art of narrative. Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of storytelling and were guided in crafting their own puppets from various materials, infusing each

creation with personality and flair.

Later, Prof. Sadaf Shah offered the official vote of thanks for the occasion and expressed her happiness in seeing the fruition of the one-day workshop as participants departed armed with the transformative power of puppetry and storytelling. Among those who graced the occasion with their presence were Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Prof. Monika Sethi, Dr. Chinmoy Maharana, Dr. Sunil Kumar, and Mr. Rahul Sharma.

NSS SMVDU, Katra organizes Blood Donation Camp for Thalassemia Patients

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

NSS SMVDU, Katra, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, successfully organized a blood donation camp at the SMVDU campus. This event united community members in support of a life-saving cause. The camp was organised by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Coordinator, Dr. Kamaldeep, NSS Co-ordinator and Dr. Varun Dutta, Asst. Prof., SMVDU, and supported by Dr. Pallav Sharma and Dr. Anju Sharma from the Medical Aid Centre, SMVDU, the initiative witnessed an impressive turnout. Additionally, Dr. K.K. Kaul, Former Professor & HoD, Pathology Dept., GMC Jammu, graced the blood camp with his presence. Dr. Mitali Sharma and Dr. Rasmi from GMC, Jammu, oversaw and provided essential support at a blood donation camp. Fifty students and



staff members from the University generously donated blood during the camp, showcasing acts of kindness and solidarity. This altruistic gesture holds the potential to significantly impact the lives of numerous individuals combating Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, Jammu, emphasized the vital role of regular blood donation camps for Thalassemia patients, highlighting the growing need for blood due to frequent transfusions required by many patients. He urged the

community to actively participate in mitigating the sufferings of Thalassemia children and preventing the birth of such children through genetic counseling and proper antenatal advice. Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, commended the organizing team's efforts, emphasizing that blood donation is not merely an act of kindness but a lifeline for those in need. He underscored the profound impact of collective action, illustrating how each donation represents a ray of hope for individuals bravely facing Thalassemia.

Sanatan Dharma teaches us that world is one family: Bali Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader, State Convenor for Social Sampark and former minister, today said that sanatan Dharma teaches us that the world is one family. The senior BJP leader was speaking while during Bhagwat Saptah programme in village Sumbh of Phalian Mandal area of Marh Assembly constituency under the ongoing BJP's Social Sampark Abhiyan. Gulshan Sharma (Laadi), Social Sampark Convenor for Marh Constituency was also present.

In his address, Bhagat said that there is only one religion in the world who doesn't hate anyone. He underscored the importance of fostering an open mindset to truly grasp the essence of the Srimadbhagavad Gita, stating, "Narrow-minded perspectives struggle to comprehend its vastness."

Bhagat reminded listeners that the narrative of the Bhagwad Gita transcends temporal constraints, asserting that its story is boundless and cannot be confined to specific days or hours. "It flows endlessly, and devotees continuously absorb its essence into their lives," he remarked.

"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niramaya meaning 'May all be happy, may all be disease-free, may all witness auspicious events and may no one have to suffer,'" he said, adding that Hindu is not a religion, it is a way of life and a view of life.

Bali Bhagat also highlighted the Modi government's pivotal initiatives aimed at uplifting the people. Drawing attention to the transformative impact of these measures, he urged the devotees to throw their unwavering support behind Prime Minister Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, emphasizing the importance of continuing the momentum towards progress and prosperity for all.

During the programme, Bali Bhagat also sought the blessings of Bal Sant Guru Sahil ji Maharaj and partook in Prasad along with devotees, while also offering prayers for the peace, prosperity, and dignity of Jammu & Kashmir. Marh Social Sampark Co-conveners Raj Kumar and Ajay Sharma were also present in the function.

Women believe only BJP can guarantee their security, safety, dignity: Rekha Mahajan



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

India is a nation that has been a cradle for many brave hearts who have been instrumental in molding the past, present, and future, thereby contributing towards nation-building. Be it Rani Laxmibai or Rani Gaidinliu, as stated by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. Ex-Councillor Neena Gupta, Mahila Morcha District President Divya Jain, Kamlesh Magotra, Suman Raina, and others accompanied her during the election canvassing.

Accelerate the election campaign of Lok Sabha while addressing the public gathering. Rekha Mahajan highlights many schemes in front of the audience. She asserted that Prime Minister Modi

has adopted a comprehensive approach in order to promote gender-neutral equality and place women at the forefront of progressive developments. Rekha Mahajan recounted that this strategy encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including the launch of numerous programs catering to married and pregnant women, instituting changes in childbirth procedures, and the implementation of various initiatives aimed at supporting and educating adolescent girls and fostering a thriving workforce for career-oriented women. She added that the Modi-led government has displayed an unwavering commitment to uplifting this historically marginalized segment of the population, thereby ushering in a transformative era for social change and

women's empowerment.

Rekha Mahajan elaborates that the way PM Modi inspires people and motivates the workforce has impacted the lives of all sections and strata of women. She said the Modi government's programs and policies have borne successful results, which are visible in several achievements such as an improvement in the sex ratio and the maternal mortality ratio, along with a significant rise in institutional delivery. A multitude of comprehensive women's welfare programs have been initiated, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), designed to address heightened nutritional requirements and compensate for income loss among expectant mothers, she said.

Koul, Yudhvir lead massive bike rally in East Constituency Says Dream of 'Congress Mukh Bharat' to be realized soon

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President today took out a massive Bike Rally on theme "Ek Bar Phir Modi Sarkar" in staunch support of the BJP's Lok Sabha candidate for the Jammu Reasi seat, Jugal Kishore. The rally, marked by fervor and enthusiasm, saw a significant turnout

of party leaders, supporters, and well-wishers. In a show of solidarity and unwavering support for the BJP's electoral campaign, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Org), BJP, J&K, Priya Sethi former minister, Parmodh Kapahi District President, BJP leader Chander Mohan Sharma, Sanjita Dogra President J&K BJP Mahila Morcha, Sunil Prajapati, President J&K BJP OBC, Adarh Kumar J&K President BJP SC Morcha, former Councillors Dr Akshay, Suneet Raina, Nidhi Magotra and Anil Masoom, Convenor East Constituency Hari Om, Rajesh ji, Mandal President Bajalta Ajay Sharma, Mandal President East Parveen Kerni, Mandal President Amphalla, Raman Sharma, Anil Khajuria, Legal Cell INcharge, Gopal Mahajan District



Kathua President, Savita Anand, Kanav Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Anil Angral and hundreds of supporters joined the bike rally, reaffirming the party's commitment to securing a decisive victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The bike rally commenced from Amphalla and traversed through key areas of the city, including Panjtirthi, Chowk Chabutra, Jain Bazaar, Link Road, Purani Mandi, Kanak Mandi, Rajinder Bazaar, Residency Bazaar, Swami Vivekanand Chowk, Jewel Chowk, J.P Chowk, Indira chowk, B.C Road, Amphalla, New Plot, Talli Morh and successfully concluded at Sarwal Chowk.

During the rally, Ashok Koul reiterated the BJP's ambitious goal of securing 400-plus seats in the Lok

Sabha polls, emphasizing the party's unwavering dedication to serving the nation and its people.

The senior BJP leader emphasized the transformative vision of PM Modi for a prosperous and inclusive India. He hailed the "Viksit Bharat" initiative as a blueprint for comprehensive development, one that prioritizes infrastructure enhancement, economic growth, and social welfare programs aimed at uplifting every stratum of society. He highlighted the BJP's steadfast commitment to empowering marginalized communities, fostering innovation, and harnessing the nation's vast potential to emerge as a global leader in the 21st century. Yudhvir Sethi, in his address, said that Congress stands exposed before the people of this

nation for its dynastic politics. He said that the only aim of Congress Party is to ensure sustainable dynastic power within the party. He emphasized that people know quite well that Rahul Gandhi is absolutely immature and Sonia Gandhi is thrusting the responsibility on him not realizing that grooming him is mere wastage of time. Moreover, her conduct clearly reflects that she is least bothered about the party but she's only trying to promote her son who has been aptly nicknamed as 'Pappu'.

Sethi asserted that developments within the Congress party are very soon going to culminate in a 'Congress Mukh Bharat' as the party has already pursued anti-people policies including the minority appeasement policy for seven decades.

Modi Govt's decade of achievements surpasses Congress's 60-year legacy: M.K Ajatshatru

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

M.K Ajatshatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former minister said what the BJP-led government did for the country in the past 10 years, the Congress could not do in 60 years of its rule.

Addressing media persons here today, the former minister said that for over 60 years, the Congress party neglected the aspirations and development needs of the people particularly the youth and women of Jammu & Kashmir. While, generations were denied the opportunities and advancements that should have been their birthright, he said.

The senior BJP leader underscored the remarkable progress and development achieved by Bharat under the visionary leadership of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi in just ten years. He highlighted Modi government's significant achievements across various sectors, citing milestones in economic growth, infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

The senior BJP leader said today, India stands third in GDP, a testament to the robust economic policies implemented under BJP rule. The initiation of military aircraft manufacturing within

India signifies a monumental leap in self-reliance and technological advancement. India's contribution to global healthcare through the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines underscores its role as a responsible global citizen, a feat recognized even within the United Nations where Indian interests are prioritized.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Modi, Jammu & Kashmir has also undergone a remarkable

transformation. From infrastructure to education, from healthcare to employment opportunities, every sector has witnessed unprecedented growth and progress," he added.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that the time has come for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to step forward and extend their unwavering support to PM Modi's visionary agenda of 'Viksit Bharat'. He called upon them, particularly the vibrant youth and empowered women, to step forward and ensure maximum participation in the upcoming second phase of Lok Sabha polls on April 26, 2024. He urged the people of Jammu region to contribute towards building a prosperous and inclusive India by casting their vote in support of BJP candidate.

BJP, Cong are in a race to project as new well-wishers of OBC for votes: Rajesh Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary and Media head Rajesh Gupta today described the concept as the key to retrieving back the glorious ethos of inclusive Jammu and Kashmir to its pristine glory again by adopting the policies of BSP and to strengthening it.

He said BSP is spreading its roots in Jammu and Kashmir.

BSP leader said in view of the Lok Sabha elections, casteist and anti-reservation parties/elements, especially the BJP and the Congress are in a race these days to project themselves as the new well-wishers of the OBC community for votes of the bahunjan. "But the struggle for welfare of Dalits and tribals as well as OBCs and religious minorities, who are a special part of the 'bahujan' com-



munity, and their constitutional rights, was more than anyone else after Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said.

Rajesh Gupta on Wednesday said that the BSP is a way forward to respect the urges and aspirations of all the regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir with none being discriminated against

or dominated politically, socially, and economically. Each one, irrespective of region, religion or caste, must have equal rights regarding resources and governance.

BSP leader said that BSP alone could fulfill the aspirations of the public at large and steer the erstwhile State out of the morass of poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, and communalism. He said that having experimented with various traditional parties, both national and regional, the people of J&K were a disappointed lot desperately seeking a change in the political structure of the erstwhile State. Gupta said that the BSP has taken its birth to the service of the common man, the workers, laborers, and exploited class of society, adding that the Jammu region has hugely suffered on all these counts over the decades.

Will hold NC accountable for every single atrocity on innocent Kashmiris since 1987: Lone

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR APR 24

J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone made a resolute pledge on Wednesday to hold NC leaders accountable for their involvement in the "innocent killings, torture, incarceration, proliferation of graveyards" in every village since 1987 and the unjust imposition of PSA on Kashmiri populace.

He highlighted the strong ideological alignment between the National Conference and the BJP, citing historical instances when Omar Abdullah as NDA minister shamelessly defended the killings of Muslims.

"Even when Vajpayee's government rejected NC's proposal for greater autonomy in the 90s, NC leaders unethically chose to succumb to a mere ministerial role. They have long been allies of BJP. Yet now, they callously invoke Islam in Kashmir as a veil to obscure their unforgivable crimes against Kashmiris," he stated.

Lone was addressing a mammoth workers' convention of Kralpora Zone in Trehgam constituency, held in the area of Dard Harie. He expressed profound gratitude for the overwhelming love and support of the people.

The esteemed party leaders, including Advocate Bashir Ahmad Dar, Abdul Ahad Kashmiri, Irfan Pandithpuri, Haji Farooq Miri, DDC Masrat, DDC Habibullah Beigh, Shiekh Aslam, Rydhham Singh, Tasaduq Yaseen, Mansoor Banday, Rahil Dar, Rafie Lone among others graced the event with their presence.

He said that persistent massive gatherings mark a crucial juncture in the history of J&K, as the resilient majority rises, steadfast in their demand for the restoration of dignity and rights.

"The resounding message is crystal clear: Peoples Conference is not only here to endure but to triumph, amplifying the voice of the common man in the halls of Parliament."

Lone proclaimed that North Kashmir has resolved not to allow "Tourists" to determine the destiny of their future or that of their children any longer.

"Those who failed to advocate for our rights for over 28 years in Parliament are undeserving of even contesting candidates from Baramulla Parliamentary constituency. NC has consistently prioritized self-interest over the pressing issues of livelihood, sustenance, and development that have left the people suffering for decades," he concluded.

Sham urges Sunderbani-Kalakote electorate to vote for Devp, Justice under PM Modi's command

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Former Minister and State Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Sham Lal Sharma, addressed a massive gathering at the Sunderbani-Kalakote Assembly constituency today, urging the people to vote in favor of BJP MP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma.

In his address, Sham Lal Sharma highlighted the significant strides made by the Modi government, particularly emphasizing the abrogation of Article 370. He underscored that under previous regimes of the National Conference, Congress, and PDP, the people of Jammu felt neglected and cheated, with the lion's share of development and opportunities favoring Kashmir.

Sham Lal Sharma further asserted that the era of dynasty politics, which had plagued both India and Jammu Kashmir, is now being replaced by governance that prioritizes the interests of the nation as a whole. He credited the strength of Sanatan Dharma and the monumental achievements such as the construction of the Ram Mandir after 500 years



and the establishment of a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sham Sharma emphasized that under the governance of the BJP, there has been a noticeable calmness along the borders, creating an environment of stability and tranquility in the border regions of Jammu. This sustained peace has not only safeguarded the lives and livelihoods of the residents but has also paved the way for enhanced economic activities and social development in these areas.

Highlighting the incumbent government's transformative initiatives in the Jammu province, Sham

enumerated a litany of landmark projects aimed at fostering prosperity and well-being. From prestigious educational institutions like IIT and AIIMS, and the Shahpur Kandi Project, the government's unwavering focus on holistic development stands testament to its commitment to the region's progress.

Encouraging the electorate to once again empower Prime Minister Modi, Sham Lal Sharma called for a resounding victory for the BJP, aiming for a historic achievement of securing over 400 seats in the upcoming elections.

Speaking on the occasion

Former Minister Priya Sethi, in a resounding show of support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lauded his transformative leadership, hailing him as a beacon of progress and a global statesman. Sethi emphasized the unparalleled strides made under PM Modi's stewardship, propelling India into a new epoch of development and elevating its stature on the world stage.

She also emphasized the 33% quota for women's representation and highlighted the passage of a bill extending the provisions of the women's reservation law to Jammu and Kashmir, labeling it a "significant step" towards empowering women in the region. Sethi asserted that women's empowerment is synonymous with national empowerment, emphasizing that both women and the nation are poised to reach greater heights during the Amrit Kaal till 2047.

As the electoral landscape takes shape, Former Minister Priya Sethi's impassioned endorsement of Prime Minister Modi's leadership and unequivocal support for Jugal Kishore Sharma resonate as a clarion call for unity and progress, setting the stage for a resounding victory in the Jammu - Reasi Constituency.

Promise of providing jobs to two crore youths is still incomplete: Sanjeev

JI NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, APR 24

Before forming the government in 2014, BJP had promised to provide government jobs to two crore youth every year, but even today the youth are facing the brunt of unemployment. Every class is troubled by inflation. This allegation on BJP has been made by Samba District Congress President Sanjeev Sharma while campaigning for candidate Raman Bhalla from Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha constituency under Samba Assembly. He also took the BJP leaders to task. Sanjeev Sharma said that an attempt is being made to implement the RSS constitution by changing the constitution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Along with the youth, women are also troubled by the policies of BJP. The BJP government is playing



with the emotions of the people. The slogan of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is not visible anywhere. Even today daughters need to be protected. Sanjeev Sharma said that Congress has named its manifesto as Nyaya Patra, in which there are many schemes for all sections, especially youth and women. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

all the inheritance is being sold to Ambani and Andani by giving them work at every place. Work is being snatched from the hands of common people. During this, a large number of villagers including District President SC Department Vinod Kumar, District President Mahila Morcha Anita Devi, Rajni Devi were present.

Bimla Luthra urges Women's support for INDIA alliance candidate in Jammu-Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Mrs Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women wing addressed women workers meeting at Village Parade in Katra yesterday. The meeting was organized by Santosh devi.

Addressing the meeting Mrs Bimla Luthra said that National Conference has always stood

for women rights and will continue to do the same. She urged women of the area to vote and support INDIA alliance candidate for Jammu Reasi Parliamentary Constituency Raman Bhalla with a huge margin saying this will be a victory of the secular forces.

Luthra said that the National Conference during its regime in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah as

well as later by Omar Abdullah left no stone unturned in fully empowering the women of this region. She said that it is known to one and all that the National Conference has during every phase of its rule worked relentlessly for providing equal rights to each and every section of the society.

Those who were present in the meeting included:- Anil Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Joginder Kour, Bharti and others.

REC Limited to extend term loan of Rs 1, 869 crores for Kiru Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar, J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise and leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has signed an agreement with Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPL), under which REC will provide CVPPPL with a financial assistance of Rs 1,869.265 crores as Term Loan. The loan will be utilized for Development, Construction and Operation of the Greenfield 4 x156 MW Kiru Hydro Electric Project on River Chenab, in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir.

The 624 MW Kiru Hydro Electric Project is a run-of-river scheme, which envisages construction of dam of height 135 metres and an underground Power House with 4 units of 156 MW each.



The Agreement was signed in the presence of Managing Director, Shri Ramesh Mukhiya; General Manager (C&P),

Shri Vasant Hurmade; and General Manager (Finance), Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta from CVPPPL, and Deputy

General Manager, Shri Pramod Kumar Soni; and Deputy General Manager, Shri Rishabh Jain from REC Limited.

Apni Party candidate from Anantnag - Rajouri Zafar Manhas holds interaction with KPs in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Apni Party's candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas today interacted with the Migrant Kashmiri Pandits here at the Press Club of Jammu and assured the community members that he would fulfill their long pending demands.

As per the press release, an interaction with the migrant Kashmiri Pandits was organized at the Press Club Jammu by the General Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya in which large numbers of migrant community members were also present.

During the meeting, the demands and concerns of the migrants were discussed in detail by the Apni Party leaders.

Meanwhile, Vice President of the Party, and candidate of the Party for Anantnag - Rajouri Parliamentary constituency, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas spoke on the occasion, and assured that he would work for the rehabilitation of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir.

Extending support to the migrant Kashmiri Pandits, he alleged that the traditional parties exploited them as vote banks. "These parties failed to fulfill the promises made with the KPs in the last three decades depriving the community of their



basic rights to get employment, and safe return to the Valley," he said.

Asserting the Kashmiri Pandits are the inseparable part and parcel of the Kashmiri society, he said that the Apni Party feels that the migrants shall be provided a sense of security and confidence so that they can return to the valley.

He stressed on the need to end misunderstandings spread by the traditional parties for their gains.

"We are committed to bridge the gap and bring the two communities together. We want to rehabilitate the KPs back to the Valley with honour," said Manhas.

Explaining the importance of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, he said that the community has played a vital role in promoting brotherhood, and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

As far as the demands of the KPs are concerned, he assured that if he gets

elected as Member Parliament from the Anantnag - Rajouri Parliamentary seat, he will work for the fulfilment of the long pending demands of the migrants.

He referred to the demands of enhancement of monthly relief amount up to Rs 25000, construction of adequate residential complexes for the migrants, and other related issues which were discussed in threadbare. Meanwhile, Gen-

eral Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya also explained the difficulties faced by the KPs in Jammu after their migrations from different parts of the valley in 90s.

He explained to them about the policy and agenda of the Party for the rehabilitation of the migrants and providing them employment opportunities under the Prime Minister package.

He said that the KPs have extended their support to Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab in the wake of the policy of equitable development of the Apni Party.

The community members expect that the Apni Party would work for the betterment of the migrant community, he added.

He said that the Party is committed to improve basic amenities and will provide other facilities to improve the living standard of the Kashmiri Pandits in migrant camps in Jammu.

Besides, Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh also spoke on the occasion, while referring to the agenda of the Party.

He said that the Party is committed to work for the unity in Jammu and Kashmir and to tell the truth to the people.

He criticized the politics of polarization that has created misunderstandings among the people and sought an end to the politics of division.

Earlier, General Secretary of the Youth Wing, and Spokesperson of the Party, Abhay Bakaya also addressed the gathering.

The program was completed by Provincial Secretary, Minority Wing of the Party, Nana Ji Watal.

Prominent among those who attended the interaction include Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber, J&K Apni Trade Union President, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial Secretary and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta, Provincial President of Women Wing, Jammu, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President of Youth Wing, Jammu, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Minority Wing, Balbir Singh Baba, Provincial President Transport Jammu, Tirath Singh, District President, Jammu Women Wing, Ritu Pandita, Vice President of Youth Wing, Joginder Singh, Provincial Secretary, Sohail Khajuria, Additional Media Coordinator and District Senior Vice President, Sandeep Vaid, Vice President of Jammu District, Abhinav Gupta, Devansh Somnath Dhar, Mohan Lal Bhat, President TRT Nagrota, Chand Ji Bhat, social activist and leader of the Party Ashok Koul, Incharge of Bohri / Purkhoo Camp and Butta Nagar Camp, G.I Pandita, Santosh Kher, Bharat Bhushan Pandita, Daizy Ji and others.

KVK Kishtwar conducts Farmers' Training under FLDs on Maize Crop



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today conducted one day training programme on maize production technology under Front Line Demonstrations on scientific cultivation of maize at village Jwalapur of zone Binoo block Bounjwan of the District in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension production and Farmers Welfare Department Kishtwar. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr Amrisha Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

25 progressive maize growing farmers of the village attended the programme. During the programme Dr Narinder Paul Incharge KVK Kishtwar sensitized the participants about scientific package of practices of maize cultivation including land

preparation, seed rate, seed treatment, nutrient doses, weed management, insect pest and disease management of maize crop. He said that FLDs are intended to demonstrate the production potential of recommended maize production technology on farmers' field for promoting its large scale adoption by the farming community. Ajay Chander Sharma Agriculture Extension officer Zone Binoo advocated for adoption of recommended production technologies for increasing the yield of maize crop. He added that use of hybrid seed, nutrient doses, pest management measures can bring about transformation in maize cultivation in the district. Lehar Singh, Amar Singh, Aqhique Mir, Mohd Husain, Kaan Chand, Daya Nath, Raman Nath, Samas Din attended the programme.

Ankush, Dr Vikas meet youth; garner support for INDIA bloc candidates



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol and Secretary & Distt Coordinator Jammu (Urban) JKNC Central Zone, Dr Vikas Sharma held a series of meetings with youth of various colleges and universities to garner support for INDIA bloc candidates in the ongoing Parliamentary elections for bringing about much needed change in the system.

Abrol sought support for the INDIA bloc candidate Sh. Raman Bhalla who is contesting from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat. He asked the youth to play an impor-

tant role in the ongoing elections by electing the candidate of INDIA bloc as the unemployment was on its peak during the rule of BJP government in the Centre and it's high time to get rid of such an incapable government.

He asked them to wholeheartedly vote and support INDIA bloc candidates on the Parliamentary seats which were going to elections within a period of next one month.

Also speaking, Dr. Vikas said, "Youth are the agents of change in the society. And, now it is your responsibility to lead the change by ensuring vote and support to INDIA bloc candidates. If you want to get rid of unemployment,

corruption, gross mismanagement and other related problems there is only one option i.e. voting to power INDIA alliance and ouster of BJP from Centre."

He asked the youth to understand the ideology of present dispensation at Centre, which was hell bent to destroy the democratic values and did not hesitate to amend the Constitution as per their whims and fancies.

The NC leader also had an interaction with several faculty members and urged them to launch campaigns in support of INDIA bloc candidates so as to ensure their victory and installation of a new government in Centre.

NDS releases Dogri Poetry Book of Subhan Mohammad

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

A Dogri Poetry Book "Mere Chetein Ch" (Lyrics) penned by Subhan Mohammad was released at KL Sehgal Hall Jammu.

Dr. Om Goswami, Former Additional Secretary JKAACL, Prominent Dogri Writer and Sahitya Academy Awardee Presided over the Function whereas Padamhri Mohan Singh Slathia Sahitya Academy Awardee and Convener Advisory Board Sahitya Academy New Delhi was Chief Guest. Dr. Shahnwaz was Guest of Honour. Abdul Qadir Kunderia known Dogri Poet was Special Guest and Vijay Verma Famous Dogri Poet and Sahitya Academy Awardee was Special Invitee on the occasion.

Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS and Capt Lalit Sharma IFS Convener NDS also shared the dias. Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS and Famous Lyricist conducted the proceed-



ings in his unique style. At the outset Pt. Kuldeep Sharma read a detailed paper on the book.

Capt. Lalit Sharma in his opening and welcome remarks said that Subhan Mohammad's book is welcome addition to the Dogri Literature and described the lyrics as heart touching.

Om Goswami critically appreciated the book and described it a successful attempt of the lyricist. He said his Dogri Songs have flavour of rich Dogra traditions, values and way of life laden with soft and sweet tones.

Mohan Singh while congratulating the poet for his creative work said that the lyrics sweeten

our lives and are soft and tender reflections of our aspirations, emotions and feelings besides these touch various dimensions of our lives.

Vijay Verma said that each lyric has inbuilt music which when explored in conjunction with the feelings and tenderness of words, touches our insight and provide solace and warmth. The flight of a lyric carries us along for a blissful journey and one lands back fully charged.

Dr. Shahnwaz said that our Dogri Folk is our invaluable treasure which provides motivation and direction to the lyricists to take forward the lyrical traditions of Duggar.

Kavinder pitches for PM Modi's third term to continue India's devp trail



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 24

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, emphasized the criticality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuity in office for a third term to uphold India's ongoing journey of development and progress.

He was speaking while leading the motor cycle rally organised by Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha here today. The rally was organised by District President BJYM Jatinder Salathia Monu and his team. It was started from Kunjwani and passing through Gandhi Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Digiana and other party of the area.

During the rally, Baldev Balaria ex Deputy Mayor, Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, Rohin Chandan-Parbhari of BJYM, Pushpinder Charak, Gagandeep Singh, Vikram Singh, Koshal Mehra, Vishal, Diler Singh Kotwal, Sultan Singh, Arjun Suri, Raghav Arora and Mahadev also participated in the bike rally.

Speaking to media persons here today, Kavinder underscored PM Modi's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the nation's advancement across various sectors. He cited transformative policies and

initiatives undertaken during PM Modi's tenure that have significantly impacted the lives of millions of Indians, fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare.

Highlighting the imperative of stability and continuity in governance, Kavinder asserted that PM Modi's leadership is indispensable for sustaining India's momentum on the path of growth and prosperity. He urged the electorate to recognize the unparalleled dedication and tireless efforts of PM Modi in steering the nation towards a brighter future.

As the union territory prepares for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, the senior BJP leader people to the people to extend their support to PM Modi by casting their votes in favour of BJP candidate for Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha constituency, emphasizing the pivotal role they play in shaping India's destiny. He reiterated the party's commitment to serving the nation with integrity, innovation, and inclusivity. Kavinder Gupta also appealed to the people to ensure maximum participation on April 26 polling while endorsing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's candidacy for a third term to sustain the nation's progress.

CUJ organizes Corporate Connect "Parshikshan Pe Samvad" 2024

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

Training & Placement Office, Central University of Jammu under the aegis of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain has organised "Parshikshan Pe Samvad" 2024, a Corporate Connect Pep talk to prepare students from various departments for getting Job ready.

Mr. Opender Koul, Senior Manager from Times of India & Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, CEO from Lady Bird-Faveo along with their



team members talked about how internships could enlighten the way forward for students and help them be a

better professional and learn hard skill and soft skills like networking which would eventually help them in getting the

desired job in this competitive job market.

Mr. Rajesh Gupta from ICA Edu Skills and his team members talked

about how interns can leave their mark in the organisation and can finally get the job in the same organisation where

they do their internship. This event concluded with special remarks by Prof. Ajai Pal Sharma Head Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Raman Associate Professor, Dr. Anju Thappa Assistant Professor, and Training & Placement officer Mr. Viraj Magotra also shared his view point on how Internships fostered truly motivated and compassionate professionals in a dynamic work environment through the support of Corporate and Academic mentors.

NOTICE

I, Sonali, D/O Raghur Singh, R/O Chajarth, Hiranagar, PO Hiranagar, Dist. Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, 184142 has changed my name from Sonali to Sonali Choudhary. I do hereby assume from this date the name as Sonali Choudhary.

DPAP contesting LS elections independently: Azad



JNEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR APRIL 24

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, unequivocally stated that the party will not form alliances with any other party in the Lok Sabha elections. Instead, the DPAP will contest independently. Azad emphasized the party's commitment to fielding young, fresh candidates who embody honesty and possess the potential to effectively represent their constituents in Parliament, echoing his own legacy of raising voices for the people. He said, "I am Azad, I stand independent. My departure from the Congress was a result of leadership failure. Any praise from the Prime Minister in Parliament reflects solely on my work and honesty, devoid of affiliations. Our slate of Lok Sabha candidates predominantly comprises young, untainted faces. My vision is to empower the youth, who possess the fervor to champion public causes. I am confident they will echo the public's concerns in Parliament, much as I have." Azad stressed the impor-

ance of steering away from personal attacks and instead concentrating on agendas, visions, and past accomplishments. He challenged the other political factions, inviting them to partake in a constructive competition centered around development achievements. "It's time to transcend the hollow promises of self-rule and autonomy," he asserted. "While others have profited from exploiting these sentiments, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering genuine advancements for our constituents." Azad reiterated his commitment to bolstering tourism, fostering development, improving infrastructure such as roads, and enhancing educational institutions, emphasizing that these are his primary objectives. He pledged to prioritize the welfare of the people, ensuring justice for victims of past injustices. He said, "During my tenure as CM, insecurity was a thing of the past, and I vow to restore that peace and security once again."

He further extended an assurance to the people of Kashmir, promising to

usher in an era where children can move freely without fear. Azad appealed to the people, urging them not to be swayed by the hollow promises of other parties, particularly the NC and PDP, highlighting their history of alliances with the BJP. He exposed the duplicitous actions of certain parties who hoisted green flags in Kashmir only to align with the BJP and betray your trust," the statement emphasized. "While in parliament, their members remained silent on crucial issues like Article 370, whereas I consistently voiced the concerns of Kashmiris." He underscored the importance of holding accountable those who have failed to deliver on their promises, urging the people to put their faith in leaders who have consistently advocated for their rights and interests. "Let us not be deceived again," he urged. Among others who were present on the occasion were Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, DPAP Lok Sabha Candidate Adv Saleem Parry, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami and others.

Modi's Gaurantee a bundle of lies: AAP Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE JAMMU, APR 24

Senior AAP leader, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here has appealed the voters of J&K-UT to vote & support the INDIA bloc candidates in the ensuing polls with an aim to safeguard the unity, stability and integrity of the Nation. He said that the need of the hour is to vote & support the INDIA Alliance candidate, Mr. Raman Bhalla in the Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha seat, on 26th April, 2024, with an aim to safeguard J&K-UT people from coming challenges. Mr. Rao said that the people from all the strata of society in India are fed up with Modi ji's repetition of the word GUARANTEE. What about the Modi ji's all the promises/Guarantees of 2014 Lok Sabha elections? He said that none of the promises made by our PM has been fulfilled, the



debt over India has risen to three times high than it was before 2014, the rupee has fallen down tremendously as compared to US Dollar, India is lagging behind in various parameters than its neighbors' like poverty, hunger, malnutrition & what about the promising/ Guarantees of 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decrimi-

nization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc. Reacting to the chest thumping guarantee of PM Modi, at Bhopal, regarding taking stringent action against corrupt politician in the country, the BJP government at the centre instead, is admitting all the scamsters & fraudsters into his Party and shamelessly claiming to give a guarantee to the countrymen to take strict action, is now fully exposed the countrymen as also the world that whatever BJP leaders assert is a JUMLAS & nothing short of it, the AAP leader said.

Rao further said that the main agenda of BJP is to stop the growth of AAP in India. It is indulging in undemocratic method of arresting the popularly

elected AAP leaders on filthy grounds. The main agenda of undemocratic BJP government is to tarnish the image of AAP leaders & to stop them from election campaigning in general elections, 2024. He said that almost all media houses of India & the International Media have reported that the arrest of a popular Chief Minister having the backing of two crore people and the CM of the Capital of Nation is the darkest event and chapter in the history of our great Democracy. In Lok Sabha election 2024, BJP cannot get even 40 seats if voted through Belt papers, as the people are against the policies of the BJP government and 99% people are against the BJP government. In order to check the growing widely of AAP at National & International level BJP is using unethical politics of Vendetta and misusing the power through impartial

investigating agencies - ED, CBI, In-Come Tax etc. BJP is using pick & choose policy to remain in power by appointing top Posts in violation of Model Code of Conduct, which is enforce even today. All most all the policies of BJP government are un-democratic & needs to be re-studied by veterans & constitutional experts. All the guaranties given by the BJP headed by PM, Modi ji, till date are fake & for from reality. The word GAURANTEE has been stolen from the vocabulary of Mr. Arvind Kejriwal a highly educated, dynamic, Honest versatile & most scientific & successful leader of the masses & CM of the Capital of the largest democracy of the World. Mr Rao further said that CM, Arvind Kejriwal is treated as a criminal and his inhuman treatment in Tihar Jail is against the fundamental rights of any elected Chief Minister.

Book - Punya Katha is real source of inspiration: Subhash Shastri

Human life can be made successful by following path shown by saints: Dr. Abhishek Upadhyay

JNEWS SERVICE BASOHLI APR 24

In recent times, in the form of Chhoti Kashi, holy land Vishwasthali which has blossomed with the continuous flow of its knowledge tradition, it is inspiring the society on the right path. On the auspicious occasion of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Katha being run on the eve of the worldly birth anniversary of Shri Hanuman Ji Maharaj in Navdurga Anand Bhawan of this divine land, in the dignified presence of famous story teller Shri Subhash Shastri Ji Maharaj, Shri Prem Sagar Aziz ji, former Minister Jammu and Kashmir, Tourism Development Authority was formed, Chief Executive Officer of Basohli Block Mr. Ajit Singh Ji, Dr. Satish Gupta Ji, Mr. Anil Bhusan



Ji, Dr. Amrit Rai Ji, Acharya Mahendra Upadhyay Ji, Dr. Kapil Pada Ji, Mr. Naresh Sharma Ji, Dr. The sacred story of the wonderful saint Mouni Baba was inspired by the lotus feet of Dr. Supriya Sharma Ji, Dr. Pawan Kumar Ji, Shri Raman Sharma Ji and the editor of the book and Dr. Abhishek Kumar

of Shri Shri 1008 Shri Mouni Baba Charitable Trust. The second edition of the book was launched. On this occasion, giving information of the book in detail, grandson of Shri Mouni Ji Maharaj, Dr. Abhishek KumarUpadhyay, author and editor of the book told that today 'the book was presented to all of you great person-

alities which is extraordinary. This is not a biography of a human being, it is a direction as How can a man move from a virtuous life to a saint by attaining the status of all kinds of society and having done welfare and compiled his virtuous story. It has been given the form of a book by which Maharaj Ji's extraordinary contribution to today's society can have knowledge of lifestyle. On this occasion, while addressing the devotees from Vyas Peeth about the holy book, Pujya Shri Subhash Shastri Ji said that I have studied the first edition of this book very deeply and in it we have understood many gems of knowledge which can be read later. Tatra has mentioned the saints in his stories in special context while describing their nature.

Today, due to the diligent work done by Acharya Abhishek ji, its second edition is also in front of us. Dr. Acharya Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay is working tirelessly to promote our ancient culture and Sanskrit through Gurukul in Jammu and Kashmir and is also trying to guide the society by publishing the biographies of such great personalities. We wish and express our gratitude to Shri Hanuman Ji Maharaj for his all-round well-being. In the program, former Minister of Jammu and Kashmir State Shri Prem Sagar Aziz ji paid attention to all the respected doctors and guests. On this occasion, as much as possible, Maharaj ji's virtuous holy book was given as a gift to the devotees with a view to ensure that they attain the right path.

Guests from India, abroad, pioneers of strike honored today in Centenary Conference of AIRF

JNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APR 24

Today, the second day of All India Railway Men's Federation (AIRF) 'Centenary Convention', the meeting of AIRF Working Committee was held from 10.30 am in the 'Multi Sports Indoor Hall' of Karnail Singh Railway Stadium, New Delhi, in which all the working committees of AIRF Members of participated. The meeting of the working committee was presided over by Dr. N. Kanhaiya, National President of AIRF. In the Working Committee Meeting, many proposals related to the social and economic condition of the country, pending demands of railway employees and abolition of the new pension scheme and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, Secret Ballot Election for recognition of unions in railways and other demands were also passed unanimously. In the working committee meeting, General Secretary Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra informed all the members about the program and briefly discussed the problems and demands of the employees, restoration of the old pension scheme, government policies and other issues. Apart from this, Executive President Shri JR Bhosale, Treasurer



er Shri CH Shankar Rao and General Ministers of other affiliated unions addressed. After the meeting of the working committee, from 2.00 pm onwards, on the occasion of the Centenary Convention, a Centenary Convention rally was taken out with great pomp from Ajmeri Gate in New Delhi to Karnail Singh Railway Stadium in which band, buggies and a large number of National and International level from railway transports were present. Apart from leaders associated with the sector, top leaders of Indian Railways participated. Railway employees

of youth and women railway employees also participated in the rally with their respective banners. AIRF open session was organized at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium, New Delhi from 4.30 pm in which about fifteen thousand railway employees from affiliated unions of AIRRF participated. The chief guest of the function was the first woman chairperson of the Railway Board, Mrs. Jaya Verma Sinha. On this occasion, officials of Railway Board, Northern Railway and Delhi Division were present. In this ceremony, ITF President Mr. Paddy Kremlin, International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Railway Section Chairman Mr. David Gove, Mr. Sergei Chernov, General Secretary of Russian Railways, Mr. Toshiko Sumino Sen, President Traffic Council of Japan and President of Nepal Traffic Association Mr. Ajay Apart from Kamar Rai, officials of other labor unions as well as leaders of JFROPS were also present. The ceremony was inaugurated by Mr. Stephen, General Secretary of the

International Transport Workers Federation. In his inaugural address, ITF General Secretary Mr. Stephen Cotton said that the problems facing Indian Railways employees today are also facing the entire world. We all have to face them together Railway Board Chairperson Smt. Jaya Verma Sinha said that the 100 years history of All India Railway Men's Federation is the history of the development of railways. General Secretary of AIRF Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, while welcoming all the guests and workers present, remembered his inspirational leaders due to whom 100 years have been completed. On this occasion, while also honoring the railway pioneers who were leaders in the railway strikes of 1960, 1968 and 1974, General Secretary Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, while presenting the General Secretary report of the period under review, paid tribute to the deceased people and paid tribute to the workers of the country and the government. Expressing his opinion on the biggest problem of the youth, he called for everyone's unity to abolish the new pension scheme and restore the old pension scheme. Federation President Dr. N Kanhaiya expressed his gratitude to everyone in the end.

GPJ organizes Voter Awareness activities under "SVEEP"



JNEWS SERVICE JAMMU, APR 24

Government Polytechnic Jammu today organized series of vibrant voter awareness activities under SVEEP programme. During the event, large number of students and staff participated in the various activities under SVEEP such as Pledge ceremony, debate, poster making and quiz competition. Speaking on the occasion, Er Arun Bangotra Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu enlightened the students on various aspects of SVEEP and said that SVEEP is a flagship programme of the Election Commission of India to promote voter education and participation in elections. The electoral awareness programme was held with an aim to enhance the voter participation in

the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections and sensitize the young voters about the value of vote. At the start of the Programme, Pledge ceremony took place to ignite awareness among all students and staff for vigorous participation in upcoming General Elections-2024 Lok Sabha. In the Debate Competition, more than 32 students from Automobile Engg, Computer, Information Technology and Mechanical Engg expressed their opinion on the theme "Importance of Voting in Democracy". 18 Students from Architecture, Mechanical and Medical Lab Technology participated in Poster Making competition and expressed their views about the Importance of Voting in the form of posters. Electrical Engg Department conducted the quiz session for stu-

dents. On the occasion a student's Parliament session was also organized by the Department of Instrumentation and Control Engg, Travel and Tourism and Architecture Assistantship. Students were encouraged to express their opinions on the theme of how the youth can effectively participated in the electoral process. The events was organized successfully under the able guidance of worthy Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra and coordinated by HOD's/ Incharge Department of different departments Er. Jasdeep Kour, Er. Rani Devi, Er. Sanjay Koul, Er. Raj Kumar, Er. Sukhdeep Singh, Er. Manjeet Singh, Er. Raj Shekhar, Sh. Dhiraj Kumar (NSS), Mr Chamel Singh PEM. All the faculty members and non-teaching staff also attended the programme.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Mega SVEEP Campaign witnesses over 8,000 Events, mobilize 560,000 Participants in Single Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

In an unprecedented mobilization effort, the District Election Office Jammu today concluded a comprehensive voter awareness campaign featuring over 8,000 events, and a participation of over 560,000 individuals, all within a single day.

Held under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program ahead of polling in PC Jammu and spearheaded by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Election Officer (DEO) and Returning Officer for Jammu Parliamentary constituency, the initiative marked one of the largest electoral awareness campaigns in the region.

The events, organised across the district at all district offices, sectoral offices, sub-offices, polling stations, and in all the educational institutions including University of Jammu, Colleges, and schools, were strategically designed to educate, encourage and empower the electorate, focusing especially on new voters, ensuring they understand



the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

Some of the notable departments/offices that organised these events included Integrated

Child Development Services (ICDS), Social Welfare Department, which conducted 2654 events, engaging 66,350 participants; Rural Development Department conducted 2450 events, engaging 52,000 participants; Revenue Department held 1600 events, engaging 32,500 participants; Health Department con-

ducted 500 events, engaging 12,500 participants; Education Department conducted 980 events, engaging 84,540 participants.

One of the highlights of the campaign was the administration of the Voters' Pledge by The DEO at District Collector's office complex. It was attended by all district and sectoral officers and officials, who collectively vowed to uphold the democratic values and actively participate in the electoral process. Voters' pledge was also admin-

istered at all the departments/offices.

Emphasizing the critical role of young electorate, a special event was organized in the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 2,000 young voters.

Rahul Ranjan Mahiwal, General Observer, Jammu Lok Sabha Constituency, Dr Gajarao Bhupal, Police Observer also participated in the event. The first-time voters were urged to not only vote but also to ask their families and peers to participate actively in the festival of democracy. EPICs were also distributed amongst the attendees. The event concluded with an enthralling cultural performance by the celebrity singer Sangram Hanjram who also appealed the voters to vote in large numbers on 26th April, 2024.

The extensive SVEEP campaign utilized a variety of innovative methods to maximize outreach and impact. These included street plays, puppet shows, debates, quizzes, and workshops reaching

every corner of the district. Each program was tailor-made to cater to the local audience, ensuring that the message of electoral participation was clear and comprehensible.

Additionally, the campaign harnessed the power of modern technology, utilizing social media platforms and other digital means to reach out to the tech-savvy population, with crucial information about voter rights, election dates and process.

The success of the SVEEP initiative in Jammu was a result of collaborative efforts between government officials and employees, NGOs, and civil society groups, which facilitated a wider reach of the campaign.

As the district gears up for the upcoming election on April 26, 2024, the DEO Jammu expressed confidence that the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm witnessed during the SVEEP campaign will translate into a significant increase in voter turnout and reaffirm the commitment of the region to vibrant democratic ethos.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

DIPR conducts a vibrant SVEEP Campaign to spread awareness among Voters

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organised a signature campaign and cultural program at Bahu Plaza to spread awareness among the voters.

The event, held under the aegis of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, aimed to enlighten and educate the electors about their voting rights and encourage them to participate in the Electoral process.

The DIPR officers, including Director Information, Jatin Kishore, Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gutpa, Joint Director Information (HQ), Ve vaik Puri and Deputy Director (AV),



Deepak Dubey, Deputy Director (PR), Ankush Hans and other officers actively engaged with the public and encouraged the participants to exercise their voting right on the polling day. Their presence underscored the government's commitment to foster civic engagement and informed electoral participation.

The event garnered significant attention and participation from the public and passersby, signaling a positive response to the initiative. Attendees had the opportunity to not only pledge their commitment to vote but also to enjoy the cultural festivities that accompanied the campaign.

Through initiatives like these, the DIPR continues to play a pivotal role in promoting electoral literacy and civic engagement.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

General Observer reviews Election preparedness in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 24

General Observer for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Sanjeev Kumar Besra and Police Observer, Akhileshwar Singh today presided over a meeting of zonal and sectoral magistrates here to assess the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the border district of Poonch.

District Election Officer, (DC) Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary was also present in the meeting, held in Dak Bungalow and attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Poonch, Qadeer Ul Rehman, Deputy Election Officer, Mohd. Saleem, Nodal officer to general observer, Mohd. Rafiq, ACD Poonch, Shafiq Mir besides nodal officers and other concerned employ-



ees were present. During the meeting, a detailed discussion took place regarding the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), complaint monitoring, communication plan, SMS monitoring, Media certification and monitoring committee (MCMC), material management, storage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs),

training and Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), printing of ballot papers, transport plan, randomization of polling parties, and the strong room, among other topics. Deputy Commissioner

Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary, provided a brief overview of the election process in the district, highlighting its significance and the responsibilities of the officers involved.

The Observer urged the officers to carry out their duties with dedication and a profound sense of responsibility. He emphasized the importance of ensuring a smooth and transparent electoral process and extended his best wishes in advance for the successful conduct of the elections.

Prior to the meeting, the Observer conducted a thorough inspection of the election cell, strong room, control room and polling

booths. During the inspection, the Observer issued necessary directions to the concerned officials to ensure free fair and transparent election.

Furthermore, the Observer paid particular attention to the strong room, where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) are securely stored. He emphasized the significance of maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of these machines, as they play a vital role in the electoral process.

Meanwhile, a cultural programme and Mushaira were held under SVEEP at DKC Degree College Auditorium Poonch.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Pledge taking ceremony under SVEEP held at DHS Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 24

A pledge taking ceremony, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, was today held in the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) here.

Director Health Services, Dr. Rakesh Mago-

tra along with DD Planning, CAO, DNO, AD Schemes, AD HEB, CoS, CMO Jammu, and all Officers/Officials from Directorate and CMO office participated in oath taking ceremony and pledged to actively promote and encourage employees to actively participate in elections. The initiative aimed

to inform employees about the importance of voting and encouraging them to exercise their democratic right.

A rally was also taken out within the premises of Directorate to promote awareness regarding the importance of voting to exercise every individual's democratic right.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

SVEEP Team Rajouri engages with civil society representatives at Sialsui, Bali Bawan Kalakote

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 24

The District SVEEP Team, under the guidance of District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, conducted an enlightening session aimed at raising awareness about the significance of voting in a democratic process. The session targeted Civil Society Representatives and Teachers from Sialsui and Bali Bawan of Kalakote area. The main event, held at GHSS Sialsui, was attended by Principal Tahir Shawl. Attendees were informed about the upcoming opportunity to exercise their franchise

on April 26. The District SVEEP Team, consisting of Prof. Mohammad Iqbal Raina (Nodal Officer SVEEP), Prof. Khalid Rayaz, and Mohammad Ayaz Raina, lecturer, elaborated on the objectives and mission of SVEEP.

Later, the SVEEP team engaged with the public gathering at Bus Stand Bali Bawan, educating the citizens about their voting rights and the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

The District SVEEP Team is continuously working for fostering civic engagement and empowering every eligible voter to make their voice heard in the democratic process.

WORLD MALARIA DAY - 2024

25th, April

01

PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

- Keep surroundings free of stagnant water
- Cover all water containers & frequently change the water
- Disposal of all useless items holding water such as tins/cans/tyres/bottles etc.

02

PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

- Use mosquito net while sleeping
- Use protective clothing (covering full body)
- Use mosquito repellents (creams/ liquid sprays/ mats/coils)

03

PREVENT ENTRY OF MOSQUITOES

- Mosquito screen for doors/ windows
- Clear weeds and tall grass around the houses
- Improve basic sanitation

04

FOR FREE TREATMENT AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Nearest Government Health Institution

ASHA in your village

PROGRAMME OFFICER, NVBDCP/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-244/24
Date: 24-4-24