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**RISE, DECIDE AND CAST YOUR VOTE IN LOK SABHA POLLS**



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Minor boy dies as incessant rains wreak havoc across J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 29

The heavy downpour at multiple places and intermittent rains as well as the fresh spell of snowfall on Monday brought the normal life to standstill in Jammu & Kashmir while as a young boy lost his life and seven others were rescued in separate incidents.

According to the news agency, some of the areas were cut off with the rest of the Valley as the major roads and the highways remained closed due to the fresh wet spell in

Jammu & Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-ul-Haq, said that a minor boy aged between 9-10 years has lost his life after a rock fell on a residential house in Kalapani, Satsuru area of Ramban late afternoon. "A house where two-three families were living got damaged after a rock fell on it, leaving a minor boy dead, whose hand has been retrieved so far," he said, adding that the rescue operation has been launched to trace the rest parts of the body of the minor boy, aged between 9-10 years.

In a similar incident,

the landslide damaged a residential house in Bujthala area of Uri in north Kashmir where seven persons were simultaneously buried under the debris.

"Seven persons have been rescued so far from the debris after a landslide hit a residential house in the locality," officials said.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa wrote on X: "Team of Dist Admin B'la @BaramullaPolice & Lachhipura Battalion of @ChinarcopsIA along with locals rescued 7 persons trapped under debris after their house



collapsed due to heavy rains in Bujthala, Tehsil Boniyar, Uri. Two persons injured in the incident are

being shifted to the nearest medical facility for treatment."

Moreover, a government building, housing the Handloom department's office has suffered damage in north Kash-

mir's Kupwara district

also. Amidst the persistent wet spell, several areas of J&K including Machil (2 ft), Sadhna Top (2.5 ft), Sonamarg (3-4 inches), Tulail Gurez (1.5ft), Zojila Pass (1 ft), Gulmarg (2-3 inches), Pir Ki Gali (over 1 ft), Sinthan Top (over 1ft), Razdan Pass (over 1ft) and other areas experienced fresh snowfall, while the rains continued to lash the plains including Srinagar, the summer capital of the Union Territory, leading to rapid increase in the water level in all the water bodies here.

hours, Srinagar has recorded a rainfall of 38.6mm while Qazigund and Pahalgam in South Kashmir have recorded a precipitation of 64.4 mm and 51.7 mm respectively.

According to the details, Kupwara in north Kashmir and Kokernag in south have recorded a rainfall of 4.2 mm and 43.6 mm rainfall respectively, the details available with KNO, reads.

In the last 24 hours, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has received a precipitation of 30.2mm.

Director Meteorological department

During the last 24

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## Major roads, highways closed in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 29

While the wet spell continued for the third straight day, all the major roads and highways have been thrown closed for vehicular movement in Jammu & Kashmir, bringing the normal life to standstill in the Union Territory yet again.

According to the news agency, the intermittent heavy rainfall led to the closure of all the major roads and highways across Jammu & Kashmir, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded along the routes in different areas.

Officials told KNO that the Srinagar-Jammu highway has remained blocked due to landslides, mudslides, shooting stones at many places after the heavy rainfall along the route.

People are advised to avoid journey on the National Highway till the weather improves and road is clear, the officials said, adding that the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road is still blocked



due to snow accumulation.

About Mughal Road, the officials said that route is also blocked due to snow accumulation while Bhaderwah-Chamba road has also been closed for the traffic movement due to snow accumulation.

In its advisory, the officials in the Traffic department said, the people are advised to undertake journey only after confirming the status of the road from

Traffic control units.

As per the details collected by KNO Correspondent, the hundreds of commuters remained stranded on different major roads and highways after the routes were closed for vehicular movement as a precautionary measure. "The stranded commuters have been stopped at the safer places and will be allowed to ply only after the weather

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Not just land, many hopes sink in Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

A natural tragedy has struck Pernote village of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district where 74 families were forced to leave their belongings and homes on the mercy of God without knowing what will happen to them in the near future.

Their houses have been completely damaged after a six to seven kilometer long portion of a mountain is continuously sinking leading to excessive damage to the property and ecology.

According to the news agency, 74 families with over 500 souls have been directly affected by the sinking and most of the families have been relocated to community hall in Maitra area of Ramban and some have been placed in a safer place in the Pernote area in tents. But as the rain continues, these tents were damaged and those people are also being relocated to Maitra.

On April 25 (Thursday) people noticed that their houses are developing cracks and when they started enquir-



ing they found that the entire village was sinking, which forced them to leave in search of safer places.

The only road link from district headquarters Ramban to Sangaldan and Gool areas of the district got snapped and with felling of two towers, the power supply to the subdivision Gool also got damaged.

The district administration was immediately informed by the locals and they rushed to the spot to assess the situation arising out of the unprecedented event.

Talking to the KNO, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ramban, Varunjeet Charak, looking after the situation and camping in the

area, said that the entire area has been declared a no-go zone and nobody is being allowed to move towards the area. "The situation is unprecedented and is not in anybody's control. The teams of National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and Union Territory Disaster Relief Force (UTDRF) are on the spot to tackle the situation but as the area continues to sink, no immediate action can be taken at the damaged site," he informed.

The Pernote village is situated around seven kilometers from DC Office Ramban on Gool-Sangaldan road and the damaged portion is

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Supreme Court to hear review petition on the removal of Article 370

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 29

A reconsideration petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of India concerning the revocation of Article 370, which previously granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The Supreme Court, which had earlier upheld the validity of the central government's decision to annul this constitutional provision, is set to hear the case again on May 1.

## Slain VDG member laid to rest amid rains; leaves behind five minor daughters

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APR 29

Village Defence Guard (VDG) Mohd Sharief, who lost his life in a gunfight with terrorists, was laid to rest amid pouring rain at his ancestral village in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Monday, with mourners demanding a relief package for proper rehabilitation of his five minor daughters, wife and mother.

Sharief (47) was killed when a group of terrorists, who have recently infiltrated from across the border, attacked a joint patrolling party of police and VDG in Panara village of Basantgarh, some 155 kms from winter capital Jammu, early Sunday.

The body of the deceased was handed over to his family Sunday evening after a wreath laying ceremony at Basantgarh police station.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain paid rich tributes to the brave-heart for valiantly fighting the terrorists who fled after the initial gunfight.

A massive search operation by police, army and paramilitary forces is underway in the dense forest to track down and neutralise the fleeing terrorists. Hundreds of locals from the villages and adjoining areas, including VDG members, joined his

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## DG NIA visits PHQ Jammu; interacts with DGP, senior police officers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

The Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sadanand Vasant Date today visited Police Headquarters J&K at Jammu where he held a detailed interaction with Director General of Police J&K R.R Swain and other

senior officers.

During the interaction, the officers underlined to further strengthen the collaborative efforts in investigations to combat terrorism and counter the support structures that aids and abets such nefarious activities and to devise more effective measures by giving thrust on effective investigations.



The officers focused on exploring opportunities and launching initiatives that will ensure sustainable support, resources, and coordination between J&K Police and NIA. This collaborative approach will further bolster investigation efficiency and enhance the overall efficacy of the anti-terrorism campaign. The initiative of capacity

building programme between NIA and J&K Police was also discussed.

ADGP (Headquarters/Coordination) PHQ M.K Sinha, ADGP Law & Order Vijay Kumar, ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP NIA, Vijay Sakhare, DIG NIA Amit Kumar, SP NIA Jammu Sandeep Chaudhary were present during the interaction.

## 'Tainted' cong is dreaming of snatching power but INDIA bloc is vanquished in 2 phases of polls: PM

**AGENCIES**  
SOLAPUR, APR 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Congress, despite its "tainted background", is dreaming of snatching power in the country unaware that the INDI alliance is already vanquished in the first two phases of Lok Sabha elections. Addressing a rally in Solapur, Modi said a 'mahayudh' is going on in the INDI bloc

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## UGC-NET postponed to june 18 to avoid clash with UPSC prelims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 29

The National Eligibility Test (NET) has been rescheduled to avoid a clash with the UPSC preliminary exam and will now be conducted on June 18, UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar announced on Monday. Earlier, the exam was scheduled to be held on June 16. "The National Testing Agency and UGC

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Div Com Jammu, ADGP Jammu discuss arrangements for Amarnathji Yatra



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain, today discussed the

arrangements in connection with Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2024 at a high level meeting here today. The meeting, attended by IGP Traffic, DIG CRPF, Director Tourism,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

# Inclement weather: DC Ganderbal reviews Flood Preparedness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 29

In light of the inclement weather conditions prevailing in the valley, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir, today convened a comprehensive meeting to review the flood preparedness measures across the district.

The meeting, held in the V.C Room of the DC Office was attended by the key officials from various line departments.

During the meeting, the DC took a thorough assessment of the arrangements in place to tackle potential flood situations, which included deployment of dewatering pumps, provision of sandbags, logistical arrangements, identification of waterlogged areas, establishment of control rooms, and ensuring the availability of essential supplies such as medicines and rations.



Additionally, plans for rescue operations were deliberated upon, including the identification of suitable holding places for evacuees.

Instructing the concerned departments, the DC emphasized the importance of proactive measures to mitigate the impact of floods.

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department

was tasked with compiling a list of households in low-lying areas, along with the preparation of DPR for both long and short-term measures in such areas.

Similarly, teams comprising officials from relevant departments were formed to identify evacuation locations and vulnerable flood-prone areas.

Furthermore, directives were issued to stockpile essential flood-fighting equipment and materials, including dewatering pumps, sandbags, boats and vehicles.

The Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department was instructed to ensure the pre-positioning of adequate food supplies, while the Health Department was directed

to stock emergency medicines in all healthcare facilities across the district.

The DC stressed the importance of timely action and coordination among various departments and agencies to ensure effective response and rehabilitation in the event of any eventualities arising from adverse weather conditions.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that the Ganderbal District Administration reassures the public of its unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and property, and remains fully prepared to address any challenges posed by adverse weather conditions. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; ACD, Executive Engineer I&FC, PMGSY, along with other district and sectoral officers.

# DC Srinagar assesses flood control preparations, mitigation measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

In the wake of incessant rains and inclement weather conditions, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), chaired a meeting to review the flood control and mitigation preparations in the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ashish Mishra was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the DC stressed on utmost coordination among line departments and formulating an efficient plan to ensure prompt response to any flood like situation in the district.

He directed the officers to remain in the state of readiness by mobilising men and machinery on ground particularly at vulnerable spots to avoid any loss to human lives or property damages.

The DC laid emphasis on round the clock monitoring of vulnerable flood prone areas and ensuring timely dissemination of information among the people viz. flood alerts, evacuation points/centres, transportation plans, etc., so that people are updated about the evacuation/rescue plans well in time. He directed the concerned Officers to focus on the identified vulnerable spots so that rapid action is ensured in case of need or to arrest embankment breach, if any.

The DC further directed



the concerned departments to formulate rescue plans, identify safe control room locations and also prepare a backup plan. He asked for strengthening communication with the ground level staff and people during any emergency so that people do not panic and get actual information about rescue measures and places available for the public.

The CMO was directed to ensure that important machinery/ medicines at health institutions are kept at safer places in all the Health Institutions.

He was also asked for evolving proper SoPs to deal with the floods as like the 'Code Blue' being followed in Hospitals, where every concerned individual is fully acquainted with their responsibilities in the times of emergency.

Similarly, the Deputy Director FCS&CA Department was asked to make necessary arrangements to protect the food grains

from any damage due to rising water levels.

The Department was asked to distribute Ration for the month of May, 2024 among the consumers of the District in advance in wake of the inclement weather predictions.

Likewise, SMC, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Irrigation, SRTC, State Motor Garages and other line departments were directed to ensure all flood mitigation measures.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad; Superintending Engineers of Hydraulic, Mechanical Irrigation, R&B, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Directors of Tourism, FCS&CA, SRTC, State Motor Garages, Officers from Irrigation & Flood Control and other concerned departments were present in meeting.

# Coromandel Commences Activity to Set up its 1000 Crore plus Phosphoric Acid & Sulphuric Acid Plants at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

Coromandel International Limited, India's leading agri solutions provider, has commenced the project activity to set up its Phosphoric Acid-Sulphuric Acid complex facility at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. In an event organised on 26 April 2024, Company's Executive Chairman, Arun Alagappan, was present for the ground-breaking ceremony and S. Sankarasubramanian, Executive Director, Nutrient Business signed the key contracts with global technology partners. With an estimated outlay of Rs 1000 crores, the project is expected to be commissioned in two years' time.

The proposed 650 ton per day (tpd) Phosphoric Acid facility is designed with advanced DA-HF (Dihydrate Attack-Hemihydrate Filtration) process technology and automated DCS system. This will enhance Company's backward integration capacities and provide stable supplies



of phosphoric acid for its fertiliser manufacturing by replacing more than 50% of Kakinada plant's imported acid requirement. The Company also plans to set up an 1800 tpd Sulphuric Acid Plant to meet the captive needs in phosphoric acid manufacturing besides augmenting power from the waste heat generation. Phosphoric acid and Sulphuric acid are used as key intermediates for manufacturing Phosphatic fertilizers like DAP and NPKs. Currently, company's fertilizer plants at Visakhapatnam and Ennore are fully integrated with captive Sulphuric and Phosphoric acid facilities

and the proposed expansion plan at Kakinada will make this unit also an integrated complex. With a capacity of around 2 million tons, Coromandel's Kakinada plant is the India's second largest phosphatic fertiliser facility and contributes close to 15% of nation's NPK fertilizer output. The plant facility also acts as a habitat for countless diverse species of birds, while greatly contributing to biodiversity and conservation of the ecosystem.

Commenting on the occasion, Arun Alagappan, Executive Chairman, Coromandel International Limited stated,

"This investment signifies a pivotal moment in Coromandel's journey towards strengthening its self-sufficiency goals in fertiliser manufacturing. Over the past few years, we have been building our upstream supply chain with investments in mining project and creating intermediate products' capacity at Visakhapatnam for Phosphoric and Sulphuric acid. The proposed Plant in Kakinada will be built on par with the best technology standards globally and enable stable supplies of phosphatic fertilisers to the farming community. This is in line with Government's vision of "Atma Nirbhar" Bharat in fertiliser sector besides creating employment opportunities in the state of Andhra Pradesh."

The company is also exploring investment support from the State and Central Governments, which can improve the project viability and ensure supply security for key raw materials used in fertiliser manufacturing.

During the event, Coromandel signed contracts

with technology partners M/s Prayon, Belgium for DA-HF process technology for Phosphoric Acid manufacturing and with M/s MECS, USA for DCDA process technology for Sulphuric Acid manufacturing. The Company also signed a contract with M/s thyssenkrupp UHDE for Detailed Engineering of both Phosphoric Acid and Sulphuric Acid projects.

Speaking at the event, Thierry Marin, Vice President - Sales, MECS EMEA & India said, "We will work in close partnership with Coromandel to provide the world-class Sulfuric Acid Technology and meet guaranteed performance and emissions control for meeting stringent environmental standards and production objectives."

Rajesh Kamath, CEO & MD, thyssenkrupp UHDE said, "We are grateful to Coromandel International for the trust they have reposed in our capabilities once again. The integrated project is a new benchmark for both organisations and presents an exciting challenge for us at thyssenkrupp Uhde India."

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# DC Pulwama reviews water flow situation; assesses flood response measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today conducted an extensive visit to different areas in the district to assess the flow of water and monitor the flood control situation, besides reviewing the preparedness and timely response to any potential water-related emergency.

Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Awantipora, as well as other senior officers, the DC visited flood control room in Kakapora and key areas including Kakapora, Kandizal, Bajbagh, Samboora, and other areas.



During the visit, specific locations were identified for safeguarding and ensuring timely evacuation of the masses in case of any emergency situation.

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# DC Kupwara conducts tour of flood-prone areas in Handwara, Kupwara, Lolab

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today conducted an extensive tour of flood prone areas of Handwara, Kupwara and Lolab areas of the district to take stock of the flood like situation caused by the incessant rains in the district.

The DC visited Kawari, Nutnoosa and Drugmulla located along Nallah Pohra to examine the flood situation and get the first hand appraisal of the evacuation measures.

She also visited Khumryal, Shumryal and Gund Jahangeer located along Nallah Lolab and took stock of the situation.

The DC later visited Sogam and Khan Chak Takipora and interacted with people.

During the visit, the DC stressed upon the concerned departments to remain vigilant in case of any exigency.

She asked the concerned officers to be vigilant, pro active and mobilize men and machinery as and when required to handle any situation. She also called for close coordination to ensure timely rescue and rehabilitation.

Moreover, the DC appealed to the people not to venture close to the water bodies and Nallahs, and contact the District level or Tehsil level control rooms in case of any emergency or in the need of any evacuation.

Meanwhile, ADC Kupwara, Muhammad Rouf



Rehaman also visited several areas of Kupwara to have appraisal of flood like situation

ADC Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather along with other officers made several rounds of Kulangam, GMC Chowgal, Zachaldara, Chotipora, Mawar and other areas of Handwara sub division. He monitored the evacuation measures.

SDM Karnah also paid visit to several areas of Karnah to assess the situation.

# DC Kulgam visits several areas, takes stock of situation due to heavy rains

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, APRIL 29

In order to take first hand appraisal of the situation which has arisen due to rains in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan today visited Brazloo, Adpora, Chambagund and other areas of the district and took detailed stock of situation arisen due to rains.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that they are closely monitoring the situation and urged the people to

contact the helpline numbers 9103424365, 01931-295900 in case of any assistance.

In light of the current weather conditions citizens

were strongly advised against venturing near water bodies as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incidents.

## Notice

**Change Name and Address in Bank Passbook. I Neema Devi, Want to Add My Husbands Name (Sunil Saini) By Replacing My Father's Name With My Husbands Name And Address R/O Marhal. P/O Allah Teshil Arnia Pincode 181131**

## Secretary Civil Aviation reviews works on Jammu Airport expansion

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Secretary, Civil Aviation Department (CAD), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review progress of works being executed under Jammu Airport expansion project.

The meeting had detailed discussion on various issues pertaining to expansion of Jammu Airport including shifting of cattle sheds and hatcheries, shifting of Animal Husbandry Office, demolition of private structures, disbursement of structural compensation, physical progress/ infrastructural development of Jammu Airport terminal and land acquisition for the Apron.

The Secretary was informed about the work done, so far, besides appraising of the issues related to removal of structures, handing over



possession of the land and other miscellaneous project related matters.

To ensure seamless execution of the prestigious project, the Secretary asked the concerned officers to work in a coordinated manner and expedite the pace of progress on the project for timely completion.

He asked Director Animal Husbandry Department to start shifting cattle from Belicharana to the new farm at Chattha as soon as it is made functional by PWD in the first week of May, 2024. He also said that an alternate mechanism has to be evolved to shift the poultry within a fixed period

of time to prevent undue delays. He further directed the concerned authorities to remove all illegal structures within 100 meters of the Airport boundary as requested by the Airport Authority (AAI).

It was informed in the meeting that the new farm at Chattha has been completed in all respects and the project is being executed in two separate segments, in parallel, to ensure that it is completed before deadlines. It was also revealed that the majority of the required land had already been provided to the Airport Authority while a few left issues will be sorted out shortly.

## DC Baramulla visits landslide hit Baramulla-Baba Reshi road site

JNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today conducted an onsite visit to assess the situation at the Baba Reshi-Baramulla Road, which has been severely impacted by landslides at Cherdari after the relentless and continuous rainfall that has been battering the Valley for the past few days.

The aim of the visit was to take firsthand appraisal of the extent of damage caused by the landslides, as well as to gauge the challenge faced by the local community due to landslides.

The DC during the visit interacted with the residents of the area and assured them that the issue has been escalated with the concerned department and the road connectivity will be



restored as soon as the weather improves.

Furthermore, Minga Sherpa said that all the Executive Engineers across the district have been instructed to clear all the roads that have been obstructed due to landslides and ensure their seamless connectivity.

Additionally, the DC said that advisory has been issued in view of the bad weather conditions and all the ADCs and SDMs across the sub-divi-

sions of the district have been directed to take precautionary measures to safeguard the lives of the residents during this challenging weather.

Meanwhile, on the directions of the DC, the men and machinery across all the Municipalities of Baramulla were working tirelessly amid challenging weather conditions, clearing water logging to make the roads and other places accessible for the public and traffic movement.

## DLSA Kathua reviews delivery of Legal Aid Services

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 29

Under the aegis of NALSA and as per the Action Plan issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority for the month of April, 2024, Mentoring & Monitoring Committee Kathua today met in the Conference Hall of ADR Centre Kathua to review the delivery of Legal Aid Services and the progress of the cases in Legal Aided Matters and to guide and advise the Panel Lawyers.

The meeting was held under the overall Supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt & Sessions Judge Kathua), Ashok Kumar Shavan and chaired by Presiding Officer of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (Addl. District & Sessions Judge) Kusoom Pandita, while the Sec-

retary DLSA joined the meeting as the member of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee.

The meeting was also attended by officers of LADCs Kathua and the Panel Lawyers. The progress report of the Legal Aid Cases allotted to the Panel Lawyers was discussed in the meeting along with other issues connected thereto.

The Panel Lawyers were advised by the Committee to serve selflessly to the poor, needy and marginalized sections of the society and ensure punctuality in attending the Legal Aid Cases pending in the Courts of District Kathua. They were further asked to report the proceedings of the Legal Aid Cases at the Front office and to seek necessary guidance, if required, from the Committee.

## GCW Parade hosts awareness lecture on "Protection of Women and Child Rights"

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 29

The Department of Home Science, in collaboration with Centre for Women's Studies, Government College for Women Parade hosted an awareness Lecture on "Protection of Women and Child's Rights" today for the students of the college. The event aimed to educate students about the protection of Women and Child Rights.

Under the guidance and supervision of the College Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, the lecture was designed to educate young minds about their rights and to encourage them to uphold the same whenever they need. He appreciated the organizing team for its efforts towards promoting such initiatives for the awareness and holistic development of the students.

Earlier, Head of Depart-



ment of Home Science, Dr. Nitu Sharma and Convener of Centre for Women's Studies, Dr. Seema Malpotra welcomed the Chief Guest and the other dignitaries.

Dr. Seema Malpotra threw a brief light on the various rights of women and children and motivated students to understand the same in order to deal with their life problems.

Dr. Nitu Sharma, HOD, Home Science formally welcomed and introduced the resource person.

She also highlighted the importance of understanding one's Rights and the legal framework as it is very important in today's time. She also urged the participants to disseminate awareness regarding these rights among their family members, friends and peers.

The resource person of the event Dr. Gurmeet Kour, women Law Expert, K.C. Law College Jammu talked about the various rights of women and children. She also went

to give a comprehensive legal overview of women and Child's Rights. She explained to the students about the need for these rights and how women and children can benefit from these rights. She aware the female students about their legal rights and apprised the students about various opportunities irrespective of their gender.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Deepti Salotra, Assistant Professor in Home Science. The Programme was attended by a large number of students from different semesters of the college and faculty members Prof. Anita Sharma, Dr. Shally Chadha, Prof. Asha Rani, Dr. Isha Sharma, Dr. Isha Sharma, Dr. Parvani Rekhi, Dr. Amardeep Kour, Dr. Isha Gupta. The whole event was anchored by Lalita Devi, P.G. IVth semester student of Home Science Department.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: DEO Bandipora reviews arrangements for Home Voting, Postal Voting

JNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 29

The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday reviewed arrangements for establishing Postal Voting Counter and Home Voting in a meeting held at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

On the occasion, Nodal Officer Postal Ballot, Mehraj Wani informed the meeting that in district Bandipora 319 voters have opted for Home Voting, including 203 senior citizens and 116 PWD voters.

It was revealed that in Gurez 04 voters in AC Gurez, 168 voters in AC Bandipora and 147 in AC Sumbal have opted for home voting.

It was given out that teams for home voting have been constituted to facilitate the senior citizens and PWD voters who have opted for home voting and material required has also been kept ready.



Reviewing the arrangements for Postal Voting Counter, the DEO was apprised that 1086 voters have opted for Postal Voting, and all necessary measures have been put in place to establish Postal Voting Counter at District Headquarter.

The DEO asked the concerned to adopt proper

procedures as per guidelines of ECI for establishing Postal Voting Counters and facilitating Home Voting.

He urged the concerned to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place well in advance, including logistical arrangements, staff, security measures, and communication strat-

egies. The DEO emphasized the importance of ensuring that all eligible voters who have opted for home voting are extended all facilities to cast their votes securely and conveniently.

ADC (Nodal Officer MCC) Umar Shafi Pandit, DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq, ACR (ARO 15- Bandipora) Shabir Ahmad Wani, SDM (ARO 14-Sonawari) Aamir Choudhary, ACD (Nodal Officer EVM) Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, Election Nodal Officers, DySP Ahmad Shaafi and other concerned attended the meeting.

## Students Gymkhana begins 8 days SVEEP voting awareness campaign at NIT Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

The eight-day long SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program began at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. The program is being organised by Students Gymkhana of NIT Srinagar with a variety of programs being organised from 26th April till 3rd May 2024.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath said that every vote counts and being the part of world's largest democratic nation, it is our moral responsibility to educate students about the value of vote and its importance.

He said this time NIT Srinagar will mark a remarkable impact through the SVEEP movement in collaboration with Election commission and ministry of Education.

The Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, explained that it is up to all of us to build a brighter future for our country. He compared each vote to a brick, saying that together they construct a stronger



democracy. Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Abdul Liman, said that NIT Srinagar consistently works with a motto of nation building. He emphasized the institute's commitment to collaborating with the Election Commission for the SVEEP program, expressing confidence that our students will make a positive impact on society through this initiative.

Prof. Liman expressed confidence that the students' active participation would make a significant impact on society. Nodal officer for the SVEEP program at NIT Srinagar, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, elaborated on the eight-day event. On the first day, activities were coordinated by Rhetorica and Eco Cult Club. He said students

were engaged in raising awareness through monologue performances and slogan-making competitions. Dr. Nasir Bhat and Dr. Dinesh served as jury members for the event.

Approximately 50 students participated in the event, setting an initial enthusiastic atmosphere. On the second day, the Sports Club, in collaboration with the NCC Female Wing of NIT Srinagar, organized an awareness run.

On the third day, the Sargam Club, led by Dr. Janani, organized a captivating event featuring a variety of performances, including classical dance, music, flash mobs, and dance sequences resembling a movie play. Approximately 300 stu-

dents actively participated in this engaging event.

On Monday, Culture Club and Soapbox, coordinated by Dr. Dinesh, hosted a vibrant array of activities. These include Rangoli making, painting sessions, and Nukkar Natak performances by students, promising an enriching cultural experience for all attendees.

On the fifth day, the Movie Club, under the coordination of Dr. Parameshwar, will host an event featuring reels created by students highlighting the importance of voting. These short films aim to educate and inspire viewers about the significance of their electoral participation. Moving on to day six, the Technology Club, led by Dr. Iqra

Gillani, will organize technical events such as an ideathon and mock polling using electronic voting machines designed by NIT Srinagar students. The interactive session will allow all students to participate in a simulated voting process, fostering a deeper understanding of the electoral system.

On the seventh day, the Stargazing Club will host an awareness rally aimed at motivating people to vote and illustrating the power of their vote. This event seeks to inspire civic participation and underscore the importance of electoral engagement.

Wrapping up the program on the eighth day, the Photography Club will organize a poster designing and sketching competition. The objective is to generate interest in voting among the community.

Additionally, a selfie point will be set up with the slogan #Srinagar-WillVote, providing an opportunity for participants to capture their commitment to electoral participation.

AZADI KA MAHOTSAV			
TEMPORARY CANCELLATION/PARTIALLY CANCELLATION/ RESCHEDULING/DIVERSION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC BLOCK			
In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Railways will undertake the work of extension of loop lines at Nilokheri station on Delhi-Ambala Cantt. section over Delhi Division. To execute this work, Railways will take power and traffic blocks from 30.04.24 to 07.05.24. During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-			
CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)		
14053 Delhi Jn.-Daulatpur Chowk (Himachal Exp.)	30.04.2024, 01.05.2024, 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024		
14054 Daulatpur Chowk-Delhi Jn. (Himachal Exp.)	01.05.2024, 02.05.2024, 03.05.2024 & 04.05.2024		
04176 Panipat Jn.-Ambala Cantt. Exp.	01.05.2024 & 02.05.2024		
04140 Ambala Cantt.-Kurukshetra Jn. Exp.	02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024		
DIVERSION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)	
15707 Katihar Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Spl.	Jakhal-Dhuri Jn.-Ludhiana Jn.	30.04.2024	
11905 Agra Cantt.-Hoshiarpur Exp.	H.Nizamuddin-Ghaziabad-Meerut city-Saharanpur-Ambala Cantt.	02.05.2024	
11077 Pune Jn.-Jammu Tawi (Jhelam Exp.)	Jakhal-Dhuri Jn.-Ludhiana Jn.	01.05.2024	
12266 Jammu Tawi - Delhi Sarai Rohilla (Duranto Exp.)	Ludhiana Jn.-Dhuri Jn.-Jakhal-Delhi Sarai Rohilla	02.05.2024	
12312 Kalka-Howrah (Kalka Mail)	Ambala Cantt.-Saharanpur-Meerut city-Khurja Jn.	02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024	
SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Train to Short Terminate/ Originate at/from station	Train to Partially cancelled between Stations	Date of Cancellation (From Originating Station)
04178 Kurukshetra Jn. - Delhi Jn. Express	From Panipat	Kurukshetra-Panipat	02.05.24, 03.05.24
04405 H.Nizamuddin-Kurukshetra Jn. Spl.	at Panipat	Panipat-Kurukshetra-Panipat	01.05.24 to 02.05.24
04406 Kurukshetra Jn.-H.Nizamuddin Spl.	From Panipat	Panipat-Kurukshetra-Panipat	02.05.24 to 03.05.24
11841 Khajuraho - Kurukshetra Jn. Exp.	at Panipat	Panipat-Kurukshetra-Panipat	06.05.24
11842 Kurukshetra Jn.-Khajuraho Exp.	From Panipat	Panipat-Kurukshetra-Panipat	07.05.24
RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS			
Train no. 12983 Ajmer Jn.-Chandigarh Jn. Garib Rath will be rescheduled at Ajmer Jn. 20.00 hrs instead of 18.00 hrs. on 30.04.2024			
Train no. 14034 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra -Delhi Jn. Jammu Mail will be rescheduled at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station 17.50 hrs instead of 15.20 hrs. on 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024			
Train no. 12414 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Jn. Express will be rescheduled at Jammu Tawi 20.15 hrs. instead of 18.15 hrs. on 02.05.2024 & 03.05.2024			
For any kind of information, passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <a href="https://enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in">https://enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in</a> or NTES App.			
RailMadad Helpline No. 139	Visit RailMadad website: <a href="https://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in">www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in</a>	Follow us on :-	NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at :- <a href="http://www.indianrailways.gov.in">www.indianrailways.gov.in</a>
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

## Ch. Manmohan inaugurates eye check-up camp at Village Douchak, Jourian

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APR 29

Ch. Manmohan Singh, President of All India Jat Maha Sabha and former Mayor, inaugurated a free eye check-up camp organized by Kuldeep Eye Care Akhnoor, on the request of Yogesh Choudhary, at Village Douchak Jourian.

Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary Manmohan Singh praised the efforts of Yogesh Choudhary and Madam Kuldeep Kaur, Proprietor of Kuldeep Eye Care in organizing medical camps regularly for the well-being of the rural population.

Ch Manmohan Singh said such camps aimed to provide essential eye care services to the residents of Village Douchak Jourian and surrounding areas, ensuring better access to healthcare facilities. This initiative exemplifies the commitment of Yogesh Choudhary and his team towards the welfare of the community and the promotion of healthcare in rural regions.



Ch. Manmohan also acknowledged the efforts of Madam Kuldeep Kaur for her dedication to serving the poor and needy people at the forefront. He applauded her for her unwavering commitment towards improving the healthcare sector in rural areas.

Recognizing the importance of accessible healthcare, Singh emphasized the urgent need to intensify these beneficial initiatives and extend their

reach to the remotest areas where healthcare services are scarce. He also assured his full support for this noble cause in the future.

The participants also commended the tireless efforts of Ch. Manmohan Singh for his relentless struggle in advocating for the inclusion of Jat community under the OBC quota. The inclusion of Jat community under the OBC quota is a

major milestone in ensuring their socio-economic upliftment and empowerment. This longstanding demand of the community has finally been fulfilled, thanks to the persistent endeavors of Ch. Manmohan Singh.

The event was attended by notable personalities such as Brig Pawan Sauntra, Sd Jagjit Singh, Kuldeep Kaur, Samrat Choudhary, Amandeep Kour, Narain Choudhary, and Pardeep Choudhary.

## Yudhvir, Priya pay obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple, Ganderbal

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 29

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Priya Sethi, National Executive Member BJP and former minister today paid obeisance at the revered Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal and prayed for the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory.

Yudhvir Sethi and Priya Sethi expressed their admiration for the historical significance and cultural heritage of the temple while reaffirming their commitment towards fostering a harmonious society.

During their visit, the senior BJP leaders extended their heartfelt prayers for the ongoing Lok Sabha Polls, expressing their wishes for a landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). They fervently prayed for the re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hoping that he continues to guide and serve the nation for a consecutive



third term.

Yudhvir Sethi said, "Our visit to the Kheer Bhawani Temple is a testament to our commitment to the peace and progress of the Jammu and Kashmir region. We believe in the power of prayer, and we

are confident that our collective prayers will bring positive changes to the lives of the people."

Priya Sethi said, "As representatives of the BJP, we carry the aspirations of the people in our hearts. We pray for a

resounding victory in the Lok Sabha Polls, as we believe that only through a strong and stable government can we bring about transformative development and secure the future of our beloved country."

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### Minor boy dies...

(MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that the intensity of rains have decreased in a number of areas this evening and there is a forecast of dry spell from May 01-May 05.

He added that the weather is expected to remain wet till late evening and a light spell of rain is expected tomorrow as well.

However, as per the advisory issued by MeT, the farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations till tomorrow.

Temporary disruption of traffic over higher reaches of Zojila, Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Razdan pass etc, the advisory reads, adding that water logging is expected in low lying areas and there is a possibility of landslides & shooting stones.

Temporary increase in water level in Jhelum & tributaries and other local streams & Nallas are expected, the advisory reads.

However, the fresh wet spell has not affected the power supply anywhere across Kashmir, the government has said.

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Chief Engineer, Sandeep Seth told KNO that the power supply remains uninterrupted across Kashmir valley till Monday late evening.

"As per our assessment, we have distributed over 1300 Megawatts of power on Monday that depicts there are no issues or any major fault in electricity in almost all parts of the valley," he said.

On asking about the precautionary measures in view of incessant rains in Kashmir valley, the Chief Engineer said that we are monitoring the situation round the clock. "We deal issues in accordance to the weather situations." KNO

#### Major roads, highways...

conditions improve and the road is closed," the officials said.

Meanwhile, the commuters in Srinagar and other areas had to face tremendous hardships today as the roads remained submerged with the muddy water amidst the intermittent moderate rainfall across Kashmir.

The lanes and bi-lanes in Srinagar and elsewhere remained submerged, giving tough times to the commuters to commute.

However, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has stated that the staff, particularly drainage wing of SMC remained alert and is tackling the issue of inundation in different areas.

The areas like Gogji Bagh, Hazratbal, Pamposh Colony, Palpora, Sir Sayed Market Gogji Bagh, Humhama, Bemina, Jawahar Nagar, Khanayar, Eidgah, HMT, TRC, Makia Point Boulevard and etc were affected by water logging, the SMC swiftly mobilized its workforce and machinery to address the situation with remarkable efficiency.

Through the strategic use of dewatering machines and the deployment of personnel, the SMC is effectively managing the storm water, ensuring minimal disruption to the residents of Srinagar, the spokesman said.

Moreover, the citizens have been asked to contact the 24x7 Control Room of Srinagar Municipal Corporation in case of any issue related to water logging or others.

However, the Air traffic as well as the train services remained unaffected throughout the day. KNO

#### Not just land...

around six to seven kilometers in height and two to three kilometers in width. The sinking started from the bottom, which is around 50 meters from the river Chenab.

According to the officials the area is continuously sinking and one evening if the sinking is recorded 10 meters, the next morning it becomes 20 meters. The area has loose soil with minimal rocks and water is also present inside which was witnessed by the officials as well.

A team of geological experts from New Delhi has

taken the samples of the soil and has assessed the situation. "The team is expected to submit their report soon and this will give us an idea as to why the area is sinking and what measures we need to take to stop it," the ADC said.

Due to the sinking of the land, road connectivity and electricity supply to Gool sub-division was damaged and it was after three days that electricity supply was restored and a road from Digdol area was opened for light motor vehicles.

"For heavy vehicles, we are considering allowing trucks and other heavy vehicles from the Mahore area of Reasi district to bring essential items. At present there is no dearth of essential commodities in the area but still supply will be restored soon," the ADC added.

But as the area has witnessed heavy rains since last night, administration has asked people to stay away from the area and nobody is being allowed to move beyond Maitra. KNO

#### Slain VDG member...

funeral prayers despite heavy rains. He was later buried at his ancestral graveyard.

Mourners made a beeline outside Sharief's house to express their sympathies with the family and expressed their hope that the government will announce a rehabilitation package for the poor family which lost its only bread-earner.

Fatima Begum, the wife of Sharief, said she is proud of the sacrifice of her husband for the country but is also pained at his loss.

"Who will take care of my five minor daughters now?" she said as his shell-shocked daughters – aged between five and 15 years – sat in front of their mother in a room of their house at Lower Panara.

Begum said she was preparing breakfast for the family when Sharief came and told him that he is leaving for an operation, 'never to return back alive'.

Naseema Bano, sister-in-law of Sharief, said it is now the responsibility of the government to take care of the poor family who lost its bread-earner.

"He laid down his life for the nation and we are proud of his sacrifice but his loss is painful as well and cause of concern for his wife, five minor daughters and elderly mother. The government should come forward and assure the family," Bano, who resides in Ram Nagar, said.

She said they came to know about the firing and tried to contact Sharief on Phone but "some policeman picked up the phone and said he had suffered a bullet injury. The reality was that he was dead with at least six bullet wounds on his body".

Mohd Abaaz, brother of Sharief and also a VDG member, said they were together when terrorists opened fire on them during area domination patrolling.

"There were two groups of terrorists with nine members. I told him to be careful but he was caught in an open area and became a direct target. I along with another member took a shield in a nearby house. They rained about 50 bullets non-stop (before fleeing)," he said.

Abaaz said the encounter had taken place after a gap of more than 15 years. "We had encounters in the past and we are ready to take on them (terrorists)".

He said the government will take care of his family, especially the minor daughters and also equip the VDGs with automatic weapons besides ensuring timely release of their monthly allowances.

Begum expressed hope that the government will announce the ex-gratia relief for the family including a government job for one of the daughters. (AGENCIES)

#### 'Tainted' cong is...

over leadership and they have come up with a formula of "five PMs in five years", who will eventually loot the country.

He said the people have tested him for 10 years whereas there is a leadership crisis in the INDIA bloc.

"In this election, you will choose the guarantee of development for the next 5 years. On the other side,

there are people, who before 2014, gave the country corruption, terrorism, and non-governance. Despite its tainted history, Congress is once again dreaming of snatching power in the country but they do not know that in the first two phases of polls, the INDI alliance is vanquished," said Modi.

You have tested Modi for 10 years, you have seen his every step and measured his every word. On the other hand, a 'mahayudh' is going on in the INDI alliance over leadership, he said.

"Will you give the reins of the country in someone's hand who has not decided the name or face (of PM candidate)? Will anyone make that mistake?" he asked.

Targeting the opposition bloc, Modi said some people have been creating rifts in the country to snatch power and have come up with a formula of "five PMs in five years".

"One year, one PM. The first one will loot as much as he wants, the second will continue to loot, and then the third, fourth and fifth will also do the same," he said.

Taking a jibe at Uddhav Thackeray, Modi said the "nakli" Shiv Sena says they have multiple options for leadership.

"Can the country run on this formula of 'five PMs in five years'? In reality, they don't want to run the country and are not concerned about your future. They just want to eat 'malai' (alluding to corruption)," he said.

In the last 10 years, the emphasis of the Central government was on "true" social justice, whereas Congress worked to stall the rights of SCs, STs, and OBCs in its 60-year rule, Modi said.

He said Maharashtra is the land of social justice. "You have seen Congress' rule of 60 years and also seen 10 years of Modi's seva kaal. The kind of work done in the last decade for social justice had not taken place after Independence," said Modi.

He said it is their (Congress') policy to do nothing for backward sections so that they remain 'aashrit' on them, and votes can be sought.

"We granted constitutional status to OBC commission, implemented OBC quota in medical exams, increased political quota for OBCs which is supposed to be raised by 10 years," the PM said.

Without taking away the rights of Dalits, adivasis, or OBCs, the government granted a 10 per cent quota to poor people in the general category, which was welcomed by everyone including Dalit leaders, he said.

"As every child cannot get education in English medium, we allowed students to become doctors in Marathi medium. If they want to become engineers, they can study in Marathi. You can run the country, even if you do not know English," he said.

Modi said Congress never wanted Dalit, adivasi and OBC leadership to lead the country and insulted Dalit leaders.

"Babasaheb Ambedkar got the Bharat Ratna when a BJP-backed government was in power at the Centre. BJP endeavours to give a maximum representation to Dalits and adivasis," he said, adding that NDA made a son of a Dalit (Ram Nath Kovind) and an Adivasi daughter (Droupadi Murmu) Presidents in 2014 and 2019.

Modi claimed Congress and the INDI alliance are "spreading lies" on OBC representation as they have become irritated after being exposed.

"In entire elections, the INDI alliance has only agenda to abuse Modi. They invent new abuses every day. I want to ask them to speak for the Nation. They lacked vision. We have the vision and can transform it into reality," he said.

He alleged the Congress-led opposition is also "spreading lies that the Constitution will be changed (if BJP comes to power again)". "Even if Dr Ambedkar comes and wants to change the Constitution, he won't be able to do so," the PM said.

"I won't allow this ploy. They have already played a game in Karnataka by giving a major share of the quota to minorities. I will not allow this. People from SC, ST

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: General Observer for O2-Srinagar PC visits Dispatch & Collection centre

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

General Observer for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mukul Kumar today visited various Distributions and Collection Centres established for smooth conduct of the General Election to Lok Sabha-2024.

The General Observer inspected Distribution and Collection Centres of 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal and 24- Zadibal for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat established at Burn Hall School, SP Higher Secondary School and SP College respectively.

During his visit, the General Observer took detailed assessment of facilities and arrangements put in place for surveillance and security of Election related material and machinery kept at



these centres for the Lok Sabha Elections.

He instructed the concerned to ensure all safety measures and adherence to the guidelines of Election Commission of India in letter and spirit for protection of election related material and machinery at these centres

Kumar stressed the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to make sure all necessary measures have been put in

place to facilitate smooth and efficient election process. He asked them to make proper arrangements for polling staff, adequate parking and separate entry/exit of the vehicles carrying election material at Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centres.

He also laid emphasis on placing adequate spaces for counters to be placed at Collection/Distribution Centres in order

to avoid any cluttering during distribution/collection of election materials.

While interacting with the AROs and other concerned staff, the General Observer underscored the importance of ensuring that all Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centres adhere to prescribed standards of Election Commission of India to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: 24 Candidates in fray in O2-Srinagar PC, 5 Candidates withdraw Nominations

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

On the last date of the withdrawal of nomination papers for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in O2-Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, five (05) Candidates withdrew their Candidature in the Office of Returning Officer O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency here on Monday.

The Returning Officer (RO) for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat informed that five (05) candidates withdrew their Nominations on the last date of withdrawal (Monday- 29 April, 2024) out of the total 29 valid Nominations. He added that only 24 validly Nominated Candidates now remain in fray for the Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

Those who remain in



fray include Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi from Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Waheed ur Rehman Para from Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, Mohammad Ashraf Mir from J&K Apni Party, Amir Ahmad Bhat from Democratic Progressive Azad Party, Younis Ahmad Mir from Bharat

Jodo Party, Rubina Akhtar from National LokTantrik Party, Hakikat Singh from National Panthers Party (Bhim) and Mohammad Yousuf Bhat from Gana Suraksha Party.

Similarly, the independent candidates who remain in the fray for the Lok Sabha Constituency include Sheeban Ashahi, Nissar Ahmad Ahan-

gar, Mirza Sajad Hussain Beigh, Jibran Dar, Shahnaz Hussain Shah, Amin Dar, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Sayim Mustafa, Waseem Hassan Sheikh, Ghulam Mohammad Wani, Wahida Tabasum, Dr. Qazi Ashraf, Javaid Ahmad Wani, Jehangir Ahmad Sheikh and Sajad Ahmad Dar.

It is worth mentioning here that a total of 39 candidates had filed their nomination papers before the Returning Officer O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency till last date of filing the Nominations (Thursday-25 April 2024), out of them, the Nomination papers of 10 (Ten) Candidates were rejected during Scrutiny held on Friday (April 26, 2024). And now with the withdrawal of five candidates, 24 candidates are now in fray.

## Indian Army organizes interaction with Ex-Serviceman



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 29 APR 2024

Indian Army organised an interaction with Ex-Serviceman of Battalion AOR at Lam Base on 28 Apr 2024. The aim of the interaction was to establish close coordination with the locals for execution of swift and effective response against any activity/movement by anti-national elements. Interaction with Ex-serviceman provides valuable insights into security aspects as they have firsthand experience in military operations, which requires high levels of security awareness and preparedness. One of the most significant

benefits of interacting with veterans is their ability to identify and mitigate potential security threats. They have a keen eye for suspicious behavior and can quickly detect signs of danger. Veterans can guide security forces on how to communicate promptly and effectively with the public during crisis situations, maintaining calm and minimizing panic. The interaction was conducted by Indian Army personnel of the Battalion. A total strength of 40 Ex-Serviceman attended the interaction and pledged to educate more and more people around them about security aspects.

## Div Com Kashmir assesses flood situation; directs round the clock functioning of Control Rooms in all districts

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

In view of the incessant heavy rainfall, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a high level meeting to assess the overall situation and rescue operations.

The meeting was attended by DIG Police, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control; Chief Engineer PWD; Chief Engineer PDD; CE, J&K ERA; Director IMD; officers of NDRF, SDRF, NHDCL, PHE, Health, Civil Defense, NHDCL, NHAI, SMC and other concerned departments.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed round the clock functioning of Control Rooms in every district to monitor the flood situation during night, and deputation of senior officers and field staff for restoration of essential services besides responding to any exigency.

He also directed HoDs to depute one senior officer each at Integrated Command & Control Centre, HMT for close synergy and coordination to monitor the situation besides dissemination of



correct, factual and timely information.

The Div Com directed DCs to work on a need based evacuation plan of people from low lying areas in case of inundation by flood in their respective districts. He also directed for identification and activation of safe shelter centres to house the affected families.

He also directed them to review updation of

IRDN with inventory and resources to make information available to stakeholders and agencies. He said resources shall be mobilized promptly, smoothly and with certainty to ensure execution of plans.

He instructed DCs to issue advisory regarding the condition of roads in their district to keep the public informed so that the public doesn't get

stranded. Meanwhile, as precautionary measure, Div Com directed closure of Schools on Tuesday in all districts of Kashmir Division. The meeting was informed by Director IMD that the weather situation will improve from midnight today while CE I&FC informed that water level in Jhelum is below danger level.

## SMC responds swiftly to clear inundation in view of inclement weather conditions



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

In the face of heavy rainfall, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has demonstrated exemplary work, with its staff particularly the drainage wing seen working tirelessly on ground to tackle the issue of water inundation due to continuous and heavy rainfall.

With areas like Gogji Bagh, Hazratbal, Pamposh Colony, Palpora, Sir Sayed Market Gogji Bagh, Humama, Bemina, Jawahar Nagar, Khanyar, Eidgah, HMT, TRC, Makia Point Boulevard, etc., affected by water logging, SMC swiftly mobilized its men and machinery to address the situation with remarkable efficiency.

Through the strategic use of dewatering machines and the deployment of personnel, the SMC is effectively managing the storm water,

ensuring minimal disruption to the residents of Srinagar.

The corporation's strong commitment to citizen welfare is evident in its prompt response to grievances reported through its 24x7 Control Room/ Social Media Platform. By maintaining a vigilant stance and engaging in proactive communication, the SMC aims to deliver seamless services to the residents of Srinagar. Driven by a dedication to the well-being of residents, the SMC vows to continue taking proactive measures to address any challenges arising from adverse weather conditions.

For further information or assistance, citizens are encouraged to contact the 24x7 Control Room of Srinagar Municipal Corporation through the following helpline numbers: - 0194-2470465, - 0194-2474499, - 1800-180-7038.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024 2 candidates file Nomination Papers for Baramulla PC



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

Two candidates filed their nomination papers to contest the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency at the Office of the Returning Officer here today.

Mudasir Ahmad Tantray, an independent

candidate from Handwara filed his nomination before the Returning Officer for 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Minga Sherpa.

Similarly, nomination papers on behalf of Independent Candidate, Abdul Rashid Sheikh from Langate were submitted at the office of Returning Officer, 1-Baramulla PC.

## Power shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, J K Colony, Chander Vihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura, Bani, Duggan, Chalog, Dhaggar and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to App Shambu, Muthi, Nida Builder, MP Chowk, Migrant Quarters, Bread Factory, Shant Nagar, Vinayak Vihar, Amba Theater, Pando Colony, Paloura, Shastri School, Pamposh Colony, Patoli, Mast Baba Ashram and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Raghunath Bazar, Residency Road, Wazarat Road, Kanak Mandi, Rajinder Bazar and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 9 am.

## KU's 4 more journals make it to new list

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

The Kashmir University (KU) Monday announced that its four more journals have been included in the prestigious UGC (University Grants Commission)-CARE (Consortium for Academic Research and Ethics) list. These journals represent diverse fields of study and signify the varsity's commitment to academic excellence and scholarly pursuits.

The newly included journals are 'Bazyaft', published by the Department of Urdu; 'Iqbalyaaf', published by the Iqbal Institute of Culture and Philosophy; 'Alamdar', published by the Sheikh Ul Aalam Centre for Multi-disciplinary Studies; 'The Business Review', published by the Dean, School of Management Studies, an official statement issued here read.

These four journals join the ranks of two previously included journals 'Tarseel', published by

the Centre for Distance and Online Education and 'Journal of Himalayan Ecology and Sustainable Development', published by the Department of Environmental Studies, a spokesperson said in the statement.

"The KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, has been monitoring the process, while the Director, DIQA (Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance), Prof Manzoor Ahmad Shah played a pivotal role in facilitating the inclusion process," the spokesperson said.

In her congratulatory message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, expressed her satisfaction on achieving the feat and said that the inclusion of these journals is a significant achievement for the university that has garnered positive attention within the academic circles and other forums, read the statement.

"The university has submitted nine additional journals for consideration

to be included in the UGC-CARE list, with expectations of favourable outcomes in the near future," the spokesperson quoted Prof Khan as saying.

She further said that the concerned teams overlooking the inclusion of KU journals have been diligently pursuing this matter with the concerned offices at UGC, New Delhi and Savitri Bhai Phule University Pune, it read further.

Director, DIQA, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Shah also extended his heartfelt congratulations to all those involved in the endeavour and said: "We look forward to further enhancing the varsity's academic standing through continued excellence in research and publication."

"This achievement reinforces our commitment to advancing scholarly research and academic excellence and we look forward to continuing our journey of academic endeavour with the support of our stakeholders," the spokesperson added.

## GDA spearheads initiatives for Sustainable Tourism & Local Engagement

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) presided over a meeting at the GDA office in Tangmarg, focusing on a plantation drive, beautification of Gulmarg, and the promotion of homestays to foster eco-friendly tourism.

The meeting delved into a multitude of issues concerning the preservation and enhancement of Gulmarg's natural beauty and its transformation into an eco-friendly tourist destination.

Furthermore, extensive discussions were held regarding the development of Drung tourist destination and its surrounding areas, emphasizing the holistic growth of Gulmarg's tourism ecosystem.

The CEO emphasized the importance of collaboration among officials to discover novel attractions that would not only draw tourists to Gulmarg but also to its neighboring regions. Model policies concerning homestays were deliberated upon, with a strong emphasis on coordination with local stakeholders eager to provide homestay accommodations for tourists.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Tangmarg, Wildlife Warden of North Division, DFO Social Forestry Baramulla, District Floriculture Officer, Assistant Director Tourism in Gulmarg, Assistant Executive Engineer of R&B Sub-Division Gulmarg, and noted Environmental Lawyer Nadeem Qadri.

## EDITORIAL

## Hilly regions facing resurgence of terror threat?

The recent encounter between Village Defence Guard (VDG) members and terrorists in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district has indeed raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in hilly areas. After a period of relative calm, this incident serves as a stark reminder that no region can be considered immune to the threat of militancy. The tragic loss of a VDG member in the encounter underscores the sacrifices made by those who stand on the front lines to protect their communities. For years, the Basantgarh area had enjoyed relative tranquility, with the scourge of militancy seemingly relegated to history. However, the recent incident highlights how quickly the situation can change, with fresh infiltrations bringing the specter of terrorism back to the forefront. The response from local authorities, including the decision to deploy Army troops in the area, reflects the gravity of the situation and the commitment to eliminating the terrorist threat. It is a necessary step to restore confidence among the local population and ensure their safety. The exact origins and intentions of the terrorists remain unclear, underscoring the need for thorough investigation and intelligence gathering. The involvement of foreign terrorists, as suggested by preliminary reports, adds another layer of complexity to the situation and underscores the transnational nature of the threat. The bravery and dedication of security forces, including the VDG members who engaged the terrorists, deserve commendation. Their swift response and willingness to put themselves in harm's way are a testament to their commitment to safeguarding their communities. As the search for the remaining terrorists continues, it is crucial to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the underlying factors that contribute to militancy. This includes bolstering intelligence-gathering capabilities, enhancing border security measures, and addressing the root causes of radicalization. The solidarity and resilience of the local population in the face of adversity are also commendable. Their cooperation with authorities and determination to resist terrorism are essential components of any successful counter-terrorism strategy. In the aftermath of this tragic incident, it is imperative that authorities prioritize the safety and security of the affected communities. This includes providing support to the families of the fallen VDG members and ensuring that adequate measures are in place to prevent future infiltrations and attacks. A total of 4,153 VDGs and 32,355 Special Police Officers have been engaged in Jammu and Kashmir in different responsibilities for the protection of civilians and anti-terrorist operations. According to a report of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir was affected by terrorist and secessionist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border for about three decades. Given the prevailing security scenario, the Village Defence Group scheme was notified by the Jammu and Kashmir government in 1995 and the scheme was revised and notified on August 14, 2022. Ultimately, the encounter in Basantgarh serves as a stark reminder that the threat of militancy remains a persistent challenge that requires a coordinated and unwavering response from all stakeholders. Only through collective action and steadfast determination can we hope to overcome this threat and ensure lasting peace and security for all.

## Market-oriented gig skill sets under focus

DINESH SOOD

In today's fast-paced and ever-evolving job market, employers are not just interested in hiring candidates with degrees from prestigious institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) or the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), they now prioritise hiring candidates with specific skill sets.

Despite the widespread recognition of IITs for academic excellence and coveted placement opportunities, recent worrisome reports have revealed that they are not delivering as per their ranking and perception.

Every year among thousands of students who dream to get admission in IITs, only 20-25 per cent of them remain lucky charm to clear the JEE (Joint Entrance Exam) advanced process to get admission while pursuing their academic excellence and coveted placement opportunities every year they look forward to the placement season with an eye on big-ticket jobs.

However, The 2024 placement season is

described as "lacklustre" by IIT students. This is a worrying situation in IIT-Bombay, which is ranked third among engineering institutes in India by NIRF. According to the Global IIT Alumni Support Group, nearly 36% of students were unable to secure jobs for the 2024 placements. Although IIT-Bombay contested this report, stating that only 6.1% of students remained unplaced, the situation is still concerning.

The Global IIT Alumni Support Group data shows that nearly 30-40% of IIT students are still unplaced in the top-ranked 8 older IITs like Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur and others, while around 50-60% of students are still unplaced in the 15 newer IITs like BHU (Varanasi), Ropar and others.

The unemployment crisis in India is particularly acute among educated youth. The cost of an engineering degree remains at Rs 8-10 lakh, yet the placement rate remains around 30%. Furthermore, there is an influx of MBA degree holders entering the market, even though the demand has dropped by

55% this year. This raises the question of the value of a college/university degree.

Being highly educated is no guarantee of employment in India, as the International Labor Organisation (ILO) report reveals. Nearly 83% of those unemployed in India are young and among these unemployed young Indians, nearly 66% are educated. According to the ILO report, the "youth unemployment rate has increased with the level of education, with the highest rates among those with a graduate degree or higher." On the other hand, those without university degrees or even school dropouts have a higher employment rate.

Several highly educated youths set an example by adopting odd entrepreneurship and proudly titled it MBA's Chaiwalas and Chatwalas.

Despite the promise of creating 100 million jobs through the flagship "Make in India" initiative, the expected job creation did not materialise in the last 10 years. Raghuram Rajan, the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has

emphasised the need to make the workforce more employable and create jobs. Every year, around 7-8 million young Indians enter the workforce, but many remain unemployed.

It is a proven fact that our youth with higher education degrees are not well-skilled. One of the main reasons why skills are more important than higher degrees is because they are directly applicable to the job at hand.

A candidate with a degree may have a broad understanding of a subject, but without the specific skills needed to perform the job, they may struggle to succeed. On the other hand, a candidate with the right set of skills, even if they don't have a higher degree, may be able to hit the ground running.

It is essential to note that having relevant skills is more crucial than having higher degrees since skills are directly applicable to the job at hand.

A candidate with a degree may have a broad understanding of a subject, but without the specific skills required to perform the job, they may struggle to succeed. Conversely, a

candidate with the right set of skills, even if they don't have a higher degree, can hit the ground running and perform exceptionally well. For example, gig skill courses like digital marketing and beauty-wellness are available for around Rs 30 to 50 thousand and have a placement scope of over 90 per cent.

A gig economy offers a shot: The gig economy in India is vibrant, skill-driven and bucking the unemployed youths. According to a report by gig work platform Taskmo (which has over 7,50,000 gig workers registered) youth participation in the gig economy has increased an astounding eightfold between 2019 and 2022, with most of the young people coming from Tier-I and Tier-II cities. In 2022, a projection report by Niti Aayog on the gig economy predicted a higher demand for skilled gig workers in the future. Areas such as digital marketing, social media management, logistics, healthcare and beauty-wellness will be in high demand, reflecting the diverse needs of employers and the evolution of the job market. The gig

workforce is expected to expand to 23.5 million by 2029-30, from 7.7 million in 2021-22.

It's fascinating to see that a professionally trained gig worker, such as a hairdresser, can earn more than an MBA or IITan's. Jawed Habib, a hair stylist expert entrepreneur, is an excellent example of this. With his global exposure, he's inspiring young people to envision beauty wellness as a profession of the future.

It's important to note that having a higher degree is no longer the only way to get hired or advance in a career. Employers are increasingly looking for candidates with specific skills that are directly applicable to the job and can help the company succeed. Therefore, it's crucial to focus on market-driven gig skill sets.

**The writer is a co-founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), network member of India International Skill Centres; views expressed are personal.**

## Towards a workable 'wealth tax'

AJIT RANADE

India's problem is that it is under-taxed. This has been said several times, including in the Economic Survey published by the government, and by a former Finance Minister on the floor of Parliament. What is referred to here is the low tax-to-GDP ratio and not the tax rates. The rates are quite high, with top individual marginal income tax rates touching 42%, and the median Goods and Services Tax at 18%. GST is an indirect tax paid by all, whether rich or poor, on their consumption. Since it does not depend on the income of the taxpayer, it is inherently regressive. Not surprisingly a much higher proportion of total GST collected comes from the lower half of the income distribution, highlighting its unfairness. We need both income and consumption taxes, but the rate on GST has to be much lower. And dependence on income tax has to increase, and it should be progressive, and rates should increase with the income slab.

Unfortunately, we give such a large exemption, that up to Rs 7 lakh of

annual income, the tax burden is zero. This is almost four times the per capita income of the country. It is equivalent to saying that in America nobody will pay income tax below an annual income of a quarter of a million dollars. In fact, Americans start paying income tax for income as low as \$5,000, only one tenth of its per capita income. India certainly needs to widen the income tax net. We have only seven income taxpayers for every 100 voters, as per the Economic Survey.

Along with a low tax-to-GDP ratio we have rising inequality. The latest report from the World Inequality Lab, based on a hundred years of data from 1922 till 2023, show income and wealth inequality to be the highest ever now. Fighting inequality is not the same as fighting poverty. The poverty ratio has been falling in India, but there are people still living dangerously close to the poverty line or just above it. One illness in the family can drive the entire family below the poverty line. Hence, we have food security schemes such as free food grain for 80 crore Indians, i.e., nearly 65% of the popula-

tion, even though poverty rate is below 15% of the population.

One of the UN Sustainable Development Goals calls for reduction in inequality. On that count, India must exert more. By making the income tax net wider and ensuring a lower indirect tax burden of GST and other sundry taxes. Most importantly, inequality of opportunity (not outcomes) can be reduced by providing much higher quality and quantity of primary education and healthcare. But spending on these social priorities has been going down as a fraction of government budgets. This means we need more tax collection. What other heads are there?

This is where the discussion on 'wealth tax' comes in. Thomas Piketty claims that just by taxing the wealth of the richest 200 people in the world, at a small rate, the world can generate hundreds of billions of dollars for social spending. That same logic can be applied in India.

Wealth is difficult to assess, especially if kept in real estate. It is also notoriously difficult to discover since people have an incentive to hide it. There

is tax evasion and dodging. The correlation between wealthy individuals and highest income taxpayers in India is not strong. How many of the Forbes billionaires are also the highest income taxpayers?

So, is there a workable and reasonable way to tax wealth? Countries like Spain, Norway, Switzerland and France have some form of wealth tax. Even Netherlands has a tax called 'Box-3' which is a tax on wealth, i.e., tax on savings and investment. Of course, all these are rich countries. And their financial systems are highly evolved, with evasion rather difficult. You can't say that India is a poor or medium income country, so it is premature to talk about wealth tax. It has among the highest number of dollar billionaires in the world. A small annual tax of say 0.1% per annum would surely not deter these wealthy from wealth or employment creation or investing in India. If there is capital flight out of the country, it is not because of wealth taxes.

Unlimited wealth concentration cannot be healthy for any democracy. As it is, we are trying constantly to reduce the influ-

ence of money power on elections and governance. The principle of political and social equality of our republic is in sharp contradiction to rising economic inequality. That is why we need to find ways to arrest worsening income and wealth inequality. No modern capitalist economy can be rid of inequality. But it is like industrial pollution. Modern life is impossible without some emissions. But there comes a time when as a society we say, this is enough. Otherwise, worsening inequality leads to social instability, rise of gated communities, the threat of rising crime and ultimately investor flight.

India's macro savings are only half in instruments like stocks, bonds, insurance, and bank deposits. The rest is in real estate or gold. Real estate valuations are revealed only when there is a transaction on which a stamp duty is imposed. Such transactions are rare and hence stamp duty collection is low at the state level from real estate. Thanks to digitisation and better triangulation, we have good data on financial savings. Hence, it is possible to levy a wealth

tax on just that part, above a threshold of say, Rs 100 crore. It could be as small as 0.1%. Many prominent rich people such as N R Narayana Murthy, Bill Gates, Warrant Buffet, Nikhil Kamath, Richard Branson have all said that they welcome higher taxes on the wealthy. Are they saying "tax us more" just to sound politically right, or out of genuine compassion? Maybe a bit of both, and also to save society from a worsening scenario, where fury is unleashed on the obscenely wealthy.

In the UK, it was estimated during Covid that a one-off small tax on the wealthy would generate 250 billion Pounds for the government. Such is the scale of this potential fiscal gain. A workable wealth tax can use best practices from some of the dozen countries which implement it and start with a small rate applicable on disclosed financial assets alone. Taxing real estate can be kept as a domain of stamp duty for now, and taxing the ownership of gold is something for the future.

**(The writer is a noted Pune-based Economist (Syndicate: The Billion Press))**

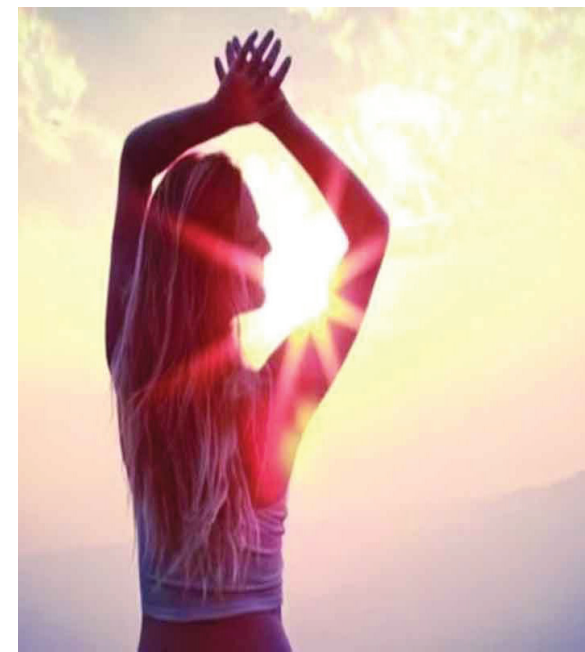
## The Crisis of Self-Identity

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Today, almost every country in the world has been putting in hard efforts to make a Better World that is free from all kinds of fear and insecurities and is safe for all. However, in this whole exercise, we must not forget the fact that the breakthrough in man's efforts to bring change comes only when he knows his real identity. The present world crisis, which is generally known as the crisis of values, is in fact, a deep crisis of self-identity. This crisis of values also has resulted from the loss of the knowledge of the real identity of the self. While man has discovered many 'lost continents' or land masses on the globe, this continent of the self 'has yet to be discovered or rediscovered by all of us. Thus man has first to be made aware of

the truth that he has, in him, a certain potential of divine qualities or a core of human values and that these qualities or values, within him, have gone deep down in the sea of the Subconscious and the Unconscious Mind and have now to be brought again to the surface, into the light and have to be used as the keyboard for actions. Man has also to be given a realisation of the truth that, with the cremation or burial of the dead body, man's all deeds good or bad done by him during his lifetime, or the abilities and qualities acquired by him over some time, are not all lost.

Neither does man's good actions go unrewarded forever nor does he go unpunished for his bad actions. Unless and until man realises that, in truth, he is an eternal being, a soul or a being-of-light and that so are other beings, his outlook and his



attitude towards all others does not undergo a total change. When, however, he realises his real identity, he takes a new 'mental and spiritual birth' so to say and then an improvement in his self and his relationships with others

takes place automatically and naturally even as day follows night. So, we may adopt whatever strategy we think is suitable for a particular country or a group of people but let us keep in mind that, sooner or later, we have to give

to all those who come in touch with us the knowledge of the real identity of self, for without this knowledge, there is no going nearer to our goal of a better world.

Today we all identify ourselves with the body that we have acquired because we are unaware of the immortal entity called 'soul' which resides within us and functions through our body. This ignorance about the existence of the soul thus results in 'body-consciousness' or a worldly approach towards life, as a result of which throughout our life we struggle to improve our condition of life without understanding the fact as to why the physical and mental conditions and environments of two individuals differ widely right from the time of their birth. We get baffled by human sufferings & untimely deaths on a mass scale caused by natural calamities, terrorism,

violence and wars due to which we constantly fear for our death all the time.

In this whole merry-go-round, we fail to realise that unless these basic aspects of life are rightly understood, the body-conscious approach is bound to be there. Considering one's physical existence as the 'be all and end all' of everything results in man's adopting wrong values in life which in turn leads to his committing wrong acts and consequently causes suffering to him. No wonder, despite striving hard, he is unable to avoid sorrow and suffering in life. Hence to live a peaceful, contented, happy and liberated life, proper knowledge of one's real self i.e. the soul, its functioning and its role in the world drama is a 'must'.

**(The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist; views are personal)**

## Sahil Mahajan, others release Album "Chandi Mata Dhammi Aali"



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

Sahil Mahajan Jk Ut Co-Convener Sanskriti Art Culture Cell, Sohail Kazmi J&K Waqt Board Member Senior Journalist & Anu Gupta Senior Leader BJP Distt Vice President Jammu East released the Album "Chandi Mata Dhammi Aali" featured by the talented Dogri Singer Vijay Malhotra .Maghar Singh Student was the Guest of Honour on the Occasion of releasing the Album).

The Album is featured by Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir Dhammi Nagotra Jammu & Sat paul

Bassan , Music composed by Dr. V Kaith and, the direction by Kk Malhotra .Lyrics by Nidhi Singh and presented by Singer Vijay Malhotra Present . Sahil Mahajan expressed that it is great encouragement for the youths of the Region in the field of Art and culture. It is an effort for recognising the local talents as well as to promote the Art and Culture heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that various steps are being taken by the Modi Govt for promoting Sanskriti of Art and cultures, Artisans and Arti Crafts apart from the games and

sports, which is the prime need of the hours for the Development of the Country. Modi Govt has extended every helping hand to the youths in promoting sports in every region.

He also highlighted the various achievements and the welfare scheme launched by the Modi Govt for the welfare of youths and General Public as well as Development of the Country, includes Ayushman Bharat, Arogya Yojna, and Kishan Samman Nidhi Yojna, Beti Bachao, Beti Padao, Ladli Beti, Ujjwala Yojana and PM Awas Yojana. Vishvakarma Yojna.

## BJP is frightened due to their present situation in Lok Sabha election : Omar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Monday said that BJP is feeling frightened due to their present situation in the Lok Sabha polls and hence they were raising issues of "Mangal Sutra" and "Muslim league."

He said that this was really unfortunate.

"It is evident that BJP is feeling insecure due to their present situation in the Parliamentary election, that is why they are referring sometimes to "Mangal Sutra" and "Muslim league." Omar told media during his visit to the revered Sufi Shrine of Charar-e-Sharief in Central Kashmir's Budgam district where he had gone to pay obeisance.

## A Higher Power: The First-Ever All-Electric BMW i5 M60 xDrive launched in India

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

The first-ever BMW i5 was launched in India today and will be available as an exclusive BMW M Performance model, BMW i5 M60 xDrive.

This all-electric sporty executive sedan leads with elegant presence, innovative technology, and dynamic performance. As a performance model from BMW M GmbH, the all-electric BMW i5 M60 xDrive comes as standard with specific exterior features that also visually underline its outstanding sport potential.

The first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive is available at all BMW dealerships across India as a Completely Built-Up Unit (CBU) model from today onwards.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "With the first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive, you can expect nothing short of a completely electrifying experience. It brings together the legacy of eight generations of the sportiest executive sedan - the '5', adrenaline laden performance of 'M' and the sustainability of 'i'. As the sixth electric offering from BMW Group India, the BMW i5 M60 xDrive will further reinforce our leadership in the Indian luxury electric mobility segment. With uncompromised performance that defines exhilaration for the modern era, it is an experience engineered for unbridled excitement and unparalleled thrills."

The first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive is available at an ex-showroom price of INR 1,19,50,000.

Price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Ex-showroom prices inclusive of GST (incl. compensation cess) as applicable but excludes Road Tax, Tax Collected at Source (TCS), GST on Tax collected at source, RTO statutory taxes/fees, other local tax cess levies and insurance. Price and options are subject to change without prior notice. For further information, please contact the local authorised BMW Dealer.

The first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive is available in Alpine White as non-metallic paintwork and in following metallic paintworks - M Brooklyn Grey, M Carbon Black, Cape York green, Phytomic Blue, Black Sapphire, Sophisto Grey, Oxide Grey, Mineral White. Following BMW Individual paintworks are also available as an option - Frozen Portimao Blue, Frozen Deep Grey, Frozen Pure Grey and Tansanite Blue. The standard interior trim is in Carbon Fibre and upholstery options include Alcantara / Veganza | Black. Veganza and Leather Merino upholstery are available as optional upgrades.

The car comes with standard two-year warranty for unlimited kilometers. Repair Inclusive can extend warranty benefits from third year of operation to maximum fifth year without any mileage limitation. The high-voltage battery in BMW i5 M60 xDrive is covered by a warranty valid for eight years or up to 160,000 kilometers.

Thanks to BMW India Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions are designed as per individual requirements. Customers enjoy great value and complete peace of mind with BMW 360° Finance Plan. It includes attractive month-



ly instalments, assured buy-back option up to five years, flexible term-end opportunities, and options to upgrade to a new BMW among other benefits.

The exterior of the first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive is designed to be as innovative as you. The illuminated BMW kidney grille sets the scene with its unique radiance. Stylistically inspired by the so-called "Sharknose" and projecting far forward, the BMW kidney grille functions as the visual centre of the vehicle front. The range of functions of the standard Adaptive LED Headlights includes the cornering light and the Matrix High Beam including the glare-free High Beam Assist BMW Selective Beam. In addition, blue design elements below the LED units stage the light sources impressively. The LED headlights show the hallmark four-eye face in a modern and reduced form. Daytime driving lights and turn indicators are each generated by two nearly vertical LED elements arranged on the outside. Just like the headlights and the BMW kidney grille, the other areas of the front apron also feature precisely defined contours and tightly designed surfaces. The clear and reduced design language is also expressed in the side view of the BMW i5. Its dynamically elongated proportions, long bonnet and almost upright BMW kidney grille are clearly visible from this perspective. At the transition to the rear, the shoulder and roof lines flow harmoniously into the contours of the lights. The flat rear lights interpret the brand's hallmark L-shaped lights with modern appeal.

Individual design features give the BMW i5 M60 xDrive a striking look, which emphasise its dynamic performance. A front apron with black surfaces in its centre and large air intakes, a BMW kidney grille with contour line lighting, horizontal slats and M logo, side skirts and exterior mirror caps finished in high-gloss black, 20-inch M light alloy wheels and a rear apron with a pronounced diffuser insert signal the sporty character of the performance sedan.

Thanks to the standard M Sport Pro Package, the first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive features host of M specific design features, most notably the large air intakes at the front, strikingly flared side skirts in high-gloss black and a rear apron with diffuser insert and the M high-gloss Shadow Line. Further, the illuminated BMW kidney grille with black surround, the dynamic light carpet, high-gloss black exterior mirror caps and a black-painted M rear spoiler is also available. In addition, there are also the M Shadow Line lights for the front and rear and red-painted brake calipers.

BMW M Performance Accessories offer customers the ability to bring their personality to the vehicles. To enhance the sporty appearance and character of the car, customers have the option to choose from a wide range of individual accessories including wheel size upgrades or curated accessory pack-

the electric motor, power electronics and transmission are very compactly combined in a common housing, form an electric all-wheel drive system that enables the BMW i5 M60 xDrive to deliver fascinating dynamic performance. The car instantly accelerates from 0 to 100 km/hr in 3.8 seconds with a top speed of 230 km/hr. It produces an output of 601 hp and a maximum torque of 795 Nm. The high-voltage battery combines compact dimensions with high energy density and it provides a usable energy content of 81.2 kWh. The BMW i5 M60 xDrive has a range of up to 516 kilometres determined in the WLTP test cycle. The BMW i5 M60 xDrive comes with a complementary BMW Wallbox charger with installation. It can be integrated at home to enable safe and convenient charging up to 11kW. The 22 kW AC Charging Professional is also available as an option.

BMW Operating System 8.5 in the first-ever BMW i5 M60 xDrive offers a wider range of digital content for information and entertainment, faster update cycles for functions, improved information on charging points for electric vehicles and optimised access to many specific online services. The display and control system

expanded to include the BMW Head-Up Display in conjunction with the BMW Live Cockpit Professional. The advanced display and operating system offers a redesigned entry screen and "QuickSelect" access with an improved menu structure oriented towards consumer electronics devices. The new entry screen permanently shows the map view of the navigation system or other displays that can be individually configured. The cloud-based navigation system BMW Maps now not only offers an Augmented View display on the Information Display behind the steering wheel, but also improved functions for even more precise and charging station optimised navigation.

The spread of Driver Assistance Systems is more extensive. They support the driver and also increase comfort and safety. Standard equipment includes functions like Cruise Control, Attentiveness Assistant, Parking Assistant Professional with remote parking via smartphone and Reversing Assistant. The optional Driving Assistant Professional, including Distance Control with Stop & Go function and Steering and Lane Control Assistant, provides the driver with maximum support on long journeys and in city traffic.

The Adaptive Suspension Professional with electronically controlled shock absorbers is offered as standard. Infinitely adjustable valves enable wheel-specific regulation of the damper forces, which is adaptive to the driving style, the road conditions and also the load condition. The advanced Integral Active Steering makes manoeuvring more comfortable, enhances agility at medium speeds and conveys confidence when changing lanes and cornering at higher speeds. Optionally, customers can choose the Adaptive M Suspension Professional with additional Active Roll Stabilisation that uses the new control logic to optimise sportiness and comfort. The damper forces are controlled using an M specific characteristic.

## Kesri condemns killing of member of Village Defence Group in Udhampur district

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today strongly condemned the killing of member of the Village Defence Group (VDG) in a gunfight with terrorists in the Udhampur district. Addressing media persons in Jammu today, Kesri said this incident marks the second terrorist attack in the Jammu region within a week. The terrorist attack in the Jammu region, which has largely maintained peace so far, came within days of the targeted killing of a government employee by terrorists in the Kunda Top village in the Rajouri district last week, said Kesri.

Kesri urged J&K LG administration to take steps to weed out terrorism and establish peace in the Union Territory. Condemning the attack, Kesri said, "I am deeply concerned and saddened to see the resurfacing of militant activities in peaceful Jammu region, which is matter of great concern for each one of us. He demanded the J&K Government to address the overall security situation promptly with great seriousness keeping in

view the resurfacing of militant activities and trace out the militants responsible as early as possible.

Expressing his shock and grief over the innocent killings, Kesri said it was a cowardly act by the Pakistan-based militants who are basically disturbed at the recent development and growth of the Union Territory. He said Pakistan is disturbed to see guns and stones being replaced by books and computers in the hands of the J&K youth. It is time the Pakistani agents understand it comprehensively that our security forces would not spare any effort to bring a new culture of progress and prosperity to the region.

Kesri said security forces committed to restore peace and tranquility in J&K and such cowardly attempts won't derail their resolve to defeat the enemies of peace. We stand in solidarity with the civilians and pray for peace to the deceased, and strength to the bereaved," Kesri said. He said that the incident is highly condemnable and shows that the enemies of peace are desperate to damage communal harmony in the district.

## Field Office of Ministry of MSME conducts Swachata Activites



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

MSME DFO jammu, Field office of Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector. Action plan has been constituted for Swachata activities including tree plantation, distribution of swachata implementation devices (Dustbin), cleaning of area's in and around the premises of Industrial areas, MSME DFO Jammu. Accordingly Nodal Officer Sh. Vinu Jee Koul, Asst. Director is entrusted to implement the Swachata Activities under the supervision of G. Velladurai Joint Director. Tree plantation has been done after cleaning all the debris in the front

area of the Accounts section, green lawn has been created in front of the office premises of MSME DFO Jammu. The area near vehicle parking has been cleared of all the debris which were unattended for many years have been cleared and a new Generator was installed in the same area which is useful for better functioning of the Office there by providing even more quality services for MSME's of the region. The Dustbin's have been distributed to various DIC's like Samba, Kathua, Police chauki, digiana etc. Swachata activities near administrative section also implemented by removing the scrap of old functions, fixtures, old glass pieces, banners, etc.

## BSP J&K President Darshan Rana thanks all voters of Jammu- Reasi LS seat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 29

Bahujan Samaj Party's Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana has thanked all the voters of Jammu- Reasi Lok Sabha seat who have given their valuable vote to Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Jagdish Verma, Where in a statement issued, he said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have voted for change this time and have chosen Bahujan Samaj Party as an option. He said that the information he has received at the party level shows that Bahujan Samaj Party has got a lot of votes from every assembly constituency falling under the Lok Sabha constituency and it seems that Bahujan Samaj Party is moving ahead towards winning this Lok Sabha seat. He said that Bahujan Samaj Party entered the election field with full strength and power on both the seats of Jammu division and went among the people and



made them aware about the party's policies and people also talked about supporting the party by adopting the party's policies. He said that the Bahujan Samaj Party is fully prepared for all the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the party has decided that along with Jammu division, Bahujan Samaj Party will also contest the assembly elections in Kashmir division. He said that the voters have chosen their future by voting in the interest of Bahujan Samaj Party.

## Langeh raises alarm over land sinking incident in Parnote Village, Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, APRIL 29

Neelam Langeh, President of BJP SC Morcha and former MLA, has expressed grave concern over a recent land sinking incident that has affected the residents of Parnote village in Ramban district. More than 500 individuals have been adversely impacted by this calamity, prompting Langeh to call for immediate action from authorities. In a statement issued here today, Langeh commended the swift response of the administration in providing necessary relief to the victims of the land sinking incident. However, he emphasized the urgency of further steps to address the plight of those affected. "I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the administra-

tion for their prompt efforts in extending relief to the affected families," Langeh stated. "However, the gravity of the situation demands more comprehensive measures to be taken without delay." Langeh urged the government to swiftly constitute assessment teams to evaluate the extent of losses incurred by the residents and to formulate plans for their compensation and rehabilitation. "It is imperative that the government forms dedicated teams to assess the losses suffered by the residents of Parnote village and take immediate steps to compensate and rehabilitate them," Langeh emphasized. "Time is of the essence, and every effort must be made to alleviate the suffering of those affected by this unfortunate incident."

## Rattan Lal discusses strategies for 3rd Phase of LS Polls

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 29

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President (JKNC) Jammu, today chaired a crucial meeting with senior functionaries of the party in Rajouri today. The meeting aimed to devise effective strategies in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls scheduled for May 7.

The primary focus of the discussion revolved around gathering widespread support for Mian Altaf Ahmed, Party's candidate from Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency seat and amplifying awareness about the misrule of the BJP government at the Centre/J&K. The meeting was attended by Shafayat Khan District President Rajouri Urban, Shafiq Mir Provincial Secretary, Rakesh Singh (Raka), Parvez Mirza, Khurshid Lone, Aasif Choudhary, Nazeer Hussain, Mirza



Rehman Amjed Choudhary, Abdul Qadir Khan Adv and others.

During the meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the significance of galvanizing the electorate to rally behind Mian Altaf Ahmed and firmly emphasized the urgent need for change and better governance. He stressed that the people of Rajouri Poonch Anantnag districts must unite under the banner of the INDIA Alliance to bring about a positive transformation in their representation and to address various pressing issues that require immediate attention. The senior

leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference urged the people of Rajouri Poonch Anantnag districts to extend their unwavering support to Mian Altaf Ahmed and vote for the National Conference's vision of progress, inclusivity, and good governance. They highlighted the Party's commitment to addressing the concerns and aspirations of the people and reiterated that the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls present a crucial opportunity to reclaim their voice on a national level.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged members of the National

Conference to work diligently at the grassroots level, engaging with the citizens, and ensuring their voices are heard in the upcoming elections. He further emphasized the importance of maximum public participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls. He exhorted party workers to leave no stone unturned to encourage and facilitate both young and old citizens to avail of the opportunity to vote with an aim to bring change from the misrule of BJP government at the Centre/J&K.

The Provincial President urged the party workers to uphold their duties and responsibilities towards democracy's functioning and make every effort to engage with and mobilize the general public towards high voter turnout in the upcoming polls and also ensure resounding victory of NC candidate from the Rajouri Poonch Anantnag Lok Sabha seat.

## Ground-breaking Initiative: Ujaas Menstrual Health Express Travels Nationwide across India to Empower Communities on Menstrual Health reaches J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

In the region of Jammu and Kashmir, where menstrual health is often considered taboo, Ujaas encountered unique hurdles as women and adolescents hesitated to seek information. These challenges were exacerbated by the area's remoteness and the limited presence of organizations focusing on awareness outreach. However, undeterred by these obstacles, Ujaas undertook a mission to bridge these gaps and effect meaningful change. As an initiative of Aditya Birla Education Trust, Ujaas marks a significant milestone in its dedication to promoting awareness of menstrual health and hygiene having traversed across nation to reach Jammu and Kashmir. Guided by the visionary leadership of Ms. Advaitesha Birla, the founder of Ujaas, the initiative is committed to fostering positive transformation and empowerment in Jammu. Teaming up with esteemed local NGO partner SR Asia, Ujaas launched the inaugural phase of its engagement, targeting adolescent girls and women through various channels including local schools and communities. This strategic collaboration initiates a year-long campaign, sig-



nifying Ujaas' unwavering commitment to community engagement. Together, they strive to actively advocate awareness, challenge taboos, and facilitate constructive conversations surrounding menstrual health and hygiene across the region. During the campaign's first phase, the Ujaas team conducted age-appropriate awareness sessions on menstrual health and hygiene management, while also distributing sanitary napkins.

As part of this outreach, Ujaas will also collect critical data about the diverse cultures, practices, and beliefs surrounding menstruation in the state. This data will undergo thorough analysis to identify practical interventions and solutions, addressing the myths and stigmas associated with menstruation. As the year unfolds, the impact of this collaborative campaign is expected to be profound, leav-

ing a lasting impression on the menstrual health landscape in Jammu and Kashmir and its various cities.

The 'Ujaas Menstrual Health Express' is a unique initiative, the first of its kind in India, designed to cover 25 states and 107 cities, spanning over 27,000 kilometres travelled by road. At the heart of the initiative lies the specially designed Menstrual Health Express Van that will navigate diverse regions and communities, engaging with local NGOs to gain insights into the rich tapestry of cultures, practices, and beliefs surrounding menstruation.

In collaboration with local NGOs, the initiative aims to distribute over 250,000 menstrual pads nationwide as part of its comprehensive campaign - reflecting Ujaas' unwavering commitment to addressing menstrual health challenges, empowering women, and creating

a positive impact within communities. Speaking about the initiative, Ms. Advaitesha Birla, Founder of Ujaas emphasised, "The Ujaas Menstrual Health Express is not just a van; it is a symbol of change, breaking barriers, and fostering a society where menstrual health is a right, not a taboo. We are very excited to run this initiative in Jammu and Kashmir where the interventions are much needed. We have reached out to schools and local communities driving awareness for menstrual health and hygiene through informative age appropriate awareness workshops delivered by trained professionals.

Ujaas invites the media, community leaders, and the public to join hands in supporting this transformative initiative and contribute towards building a society that is more informed, aware, and supportive of menstrual health and hygiene.

## Natrang celebrates International Day of Dance, honours Sunny Mujoo

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

In connection with the celebrations of World Dance Day, Natrang Jammu held an exclusive function and honoured Sunny Mujoo. A prominent dancer and choreographer for his contribution in the enrichment of traditional and contemporary dance traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The felicitations were done by Natrang Director Padmashree Balwant Thakur in an exclusive function at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. He was joined by senior functionary of Natrang Neeraj Kant and others including Mohd. Yaseen, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanaya Shekhar, Kanapreet Kaur, Mehak Chib and Lalita Devi. Speaking on the occasion, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur said that this has always been an endeavor of Natrang to recognize versatile talents in various fields of performing arts and felicitate them



so others also take inspiration from such aspiring outstanding artists. Balwant Thakur informed that this day was founded by the dance committee of the International Theatre Institute formed by UNESCO, Paris. Since 1982, this day is celebrated every year all over the world with the motive to let people value the importance of this wonderful art form 'Dance'. This is also an occasion to act as a wakeup call for Governments, politicians and the civil society asking them to recognise the importance and significance of this important human activity.

Speaking about Sunny Mujoo, Balwant Thakur said that he is a witness to his performances in both the houses of British Parliament (UK) and historic

Trafalgar square, London where he performed as the lead dancer showcasing the diverse dance traditions of Jammu and Kashmir before global audiences. He is a multifaceted artist having worked immensely as an actor, model, dancer and a choreographer.

As a theatre artist, he achieved a lot of success. Fact remains that it was theatre which groomed him as an artist. He worked as a child artist with Song & Drama division. Further, he worked with other groups as an actor.

'Baby' & 'Ravmutt Batt' are one of the best plays of his theatre work. He was awarded with certificate of merit by Academy of Art culture & Languages for best

acting in the play 'Baby' & 'Ravmutt Batt'. Besides this, he also worked with Natrang under the direction of Padamshri Balwant Thakur and acted and performed in Bawa Jitto, Jammu Kashmir Festival, 'Rangla Jammu', Bhaderwah Festival and prestigious G20 Kashmir as a choreographer. In television, he started his acting career from the age of 9 years in 1994 as a child artist in Telefilm 'Parvas' for DDI. He also enacted in many short films & Ad films as a child artist. He also performed in TV serial 'Lavaris & Radha' for Doordarshan Jammu. He also worked in different TV serials for Star Plus under the guidance of KK Raina (Safed Jharne ka Matmela Pani Malted's Maika serial for Zee TV also). Moreover, he also performed in many serials for National Television such as Phuley, Gulrej, 31 ki Raat, Raaj teerangini, Hawaein, Lawaris and lately the popular series Pashmina.

## Mehbooba urges EC to not defer Anantnag-Rajouri LS polls

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief and party candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency Mehbooba Mufti on Monday urged the Election Commission to stick to the scheduled date of elections in the newly carved out Lok Sabha segment.

Mufti said that she is hopeful that the EC would uphold the high standards of fair play, set by it in the past, by not allowing the election process in the politically and strategically sensitive state of J&K to be fiddled with.

Some political parties, including the BJP have written to the poll panel seeking deferring the elections due to bad weather. The EC sought a report from J&K authorities which has already been submitted.

"Nobody knows it better than the officials who have



been asked to send their reports on the petition by the ruling BJP and its allies in Jammu and Kashmir to defer the elections, which in fact would mean invisible rigging of the democratic process," she said.

She said the Chief Secretary being a son of the soil and other officials who have been part of the J&K cadre are aware of the cost the state, the nation, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have had to pay for the subversion of democracy in the State.

She expressed hope that they would rise to the occasion and not be pressured into sending reports that defy the ground situation and history of elections in Jammu and Kash-

mir. Mufti said that the Election Commission has effectively and successfully conducted elections in the State during severe winter and people and officials have braved heavy snowfall during the process of voting in the past.

"Even in 2014 in the wake of disastrous and unprecedented floods, elections were conducted in the State almost immediately when the infrastructure in Kashmir Valley and most parts of Jammu had completely collapsed," she recalled.

"Sticking to the schedule in 2014 encouraged people in record numbers to participate in the democratic process," she said and pointed out that nothing at that scale was visible presently as a result of seasonal rains like last year's.

Mehbooba Mufti said there is no precedent in any part of the country to postpone elections

because of the vagaries of weather. No part of the country is immune to such weather cycles.

"It will be an injustice with the voters and workers of all parties especially those who have been carrying out their campaigns despite lack of financial resources, like the PDP," she said.

"The parties who have asked for the deferment of the elections, have the heaviest money bags at their disposal and it looks after observing their invisibility on the ground that they are solely banking upon manipulations in collaboration with the government and its agencies.

"If the Election Commission chooses to become part of this conspiracy, it will not be just unfortunate, but also could have very serious consequences given the fragile nature of our polity and the democratic deficit the state experienced ever since the Independence," she said.

## Kewa farmers sensitized about Maize Production Technology



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

In the ongoing spree of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar, SKUAST Jammu to educate the farmers regarding scientific maize cultivation practices under Front Line Demonstrations, a training programme for practising maize farmers was today conducted at village Kewa Zone Bounjwn of the District in collaboration with

the agriculture department under the guidance of Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

Dr Narinder Paul incharge KVK Kishtwar while delivering technical expertise to the participants stressed upon using the recommended seed rate, crop nutrition and pest management practices for raising production and productivity of maize crop. He raised

concern that farmers of the district very rarely use the balanced nutrition and generally rely on use of only one type of fertilizer which hampers the growth and productivity of crop.

Ajay Chander Agriculture Extension Officer Binoon also advocated for use of hybrid seed of maize for increasing production which he informed has been made available at all the seed

stores and outlets of the zone. He called for seed treatment before sowing the seed especially farm saved seed to prevent seed and soil borne diseases. Management of important insects of the crop was also deliberated upon during the programme. Human Chand, Devi Ram, Daya Krishan, Mohd Sadiq, Beer Singh and 25 other farmers attended the programme.

## NCC Group Headquarters Jammu Commemorates Raising Day

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APR 29

NCC Group Headquarters Jammu marked its Raising Day with fervour and pride at the NCC Academy Nagrota, embodying tradition and commitment to excellence. The event, held in customary fashion, witnessed a congregation of 160 Officers, Permanent Instructional Staff, Associate NCC Officers, and Cadets, all dedicated to shaping a future-ready youth.

The occasion commenced with the 2 JK NCC Girls Battalion giving the Guard of Honour, despite the drizzle demonstrating resolve symbolizing the discipline and determination intrinsic to the NCC ethos. Following this, Group Commander Brig PS Cheema delivered an



inspiring address, acknowledging the unwavering dedication and passion demonstrated by all stakeholders in their mission to nurture organised, trained and motivated youth and empower the cadets to become potential leaders and responsible citizens of the nation.

Brig Cheema underscored

the significance of such celebrations in fostering a sense of belonging and realigning organizational objectives with the 'True-North.' He applauded the collective efforts of the group that led to 20 Cadets being commissioned as officers in various esteemed services, enrolment of 300 plus Agniveers,

119 JK Police and a sizeable number in CAPF, and other govt jobs.

The Group Commander lauded the remarkable contributions of NCC Cadets under the adept guidance of Associate NCC Officers and Permanent Instructional Staff, particularly highlighting their commendable performances in prestigious camps and competitions such as Thal Sena Camp, Republic Day Camp, National Integration Camps, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat camp. The efforts in the Social Service and Community Development programmes were also appreciated and he called upon the NCC fraternity to engage the community to create a people's movement around these activities.



## SMVDU signs MoU with PEC, Chandigarh

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

In a landmark event nurturing academic collaboration and innovation, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra and Punjab Engineering College (PEC), Chandigarh joined hands in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony held at the prestigious SMVDU premises on April 27, 2024. The event was graced by the Registrar, Deans and Heads of the school from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi university highlighting the commitment of SMVDU towards fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence. The ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of the Director Prof. Baldev Setia and delegation from Punjab Engineering College (PEC), highlighting the significance of the occasion. The ceremony commenced with opening remarks by the esteemed Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, setting the tone for an event filled with promise, collaboration, and innovation. In his address, Prof. Pragati Kumar articulated the significance of the



partnership between SMVDU and PEC, emphasizing the potential for synergistic collaboration to drive academic and research endeavours to new heights. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU, captivated the audience with a comprehensive presentation offering insights into the rich academic tapestry of SMVDU. A brief overview of different programs being offered at SMVDU and introduction of new programs like B.Tech (Biotechnology), Bachelor of Design (B. Des), B. Tech in Mathematics and Computing, Design your Degree program and offering B. Tech (Honors) and B. Tech with Minor specializations from Academic session 2024-2025 at SMVDU was discussed and Director PEC applauded the SMVDU Vice Chancellor for introducing these

programs keeping in view the evolving educational scenario and attaining the vision of Atam Nirbhar Bharat. The comprehensive presentation offering insights into the overview of PEC was delivered by Dean, Research of PEC, Prof. Arun Kumar and Professor R.S. Walia, the distinguished representative from PEC, served as the gracious host and facilitator of PEC's participation in the event. With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, and Professor Baldev Setia, Director PEC, among other eminent delegates, doors have been opened for cooperation between the two illustrious institutions. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor of SMVDU expressed his hopes for collaborative PhD programs, praising

the potential for new ideas and collaboration that such endeavours could inspire. With the signing of the MoU, students pursuing different programs at both institutions stand to benefit from enhanced opportunities for cross-institutional collaboration, enriching their academic journey and preparing them for the challenges of the modern world. The ceremony's closing remarks by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs of SMVDU echoed the spirit of togetherness in diversity and the drive for greatness, signalling the start of a new age in academic collaboration as well as the formalities of a new relationship. As the sun set over the picturesque campus, attendees gathered at the Guest House of the University for an evening filled with Significant connections and delightful conversations.

## ASN School organizes Guru Vandana Chhatra Abhinandan Programme

- Moral values empower individual to perform better with human intentions: Ritesh  
- Every parent is proud of their child's good moral character: H C Vaid

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

The Management of A. S. N. Hr. Sec. School, Channi Himmat, Jammu in Collaboration with Bharat Vikas Parishad (Shivalik Branch, Channi Himmat) Jammu today conducted "Guru Bandana Chhatra Abhinandan Program" inside the school auditorium to enhance the student teacher relation in order to improve the education system and to inculcate moral values amongst the students. The function started with lightening of traditional lamp, garlanding of mother India followed by "Vandey- Matram". Ritesh Kapoor, Administrator of the School highlighted the importance of such programmes inside the school. He said today in the era of change, everybody is moving away from his social responsibilities and not only adopting the western culture but also forgetting our own cultural heritage. He added that Moral values empower an individual to perform better with human intentions, motives, acts, and relationships with other individuals. Moral values form the basis of all religious practices. A student's life is a cycle of challenges and changes. As a child grows, he or she imbibes a lot of lessons and moral values. While some may get forgotten, some stick till the rest of life. Therefore, it is highly essential to inculcate moral values in students' lives as their hands lie in the future. Students with ethical values become responsible and accountable people, while those spoiled become a threat to the society or culture.



tations of the same. He said celebrating Teachers day in the schools is basically to show the real contribution of teachers in making the life and future of the students. He

added that every Parent takes pride in his or her kid's good moral character. Most Indian families follow strict instructions to imbibe ethical values. They highlight the impor-

tance of moral values and teach them at an early age.

Various resource persons who spoke on the occasion are Ashok Gupta, Vice President State Body, Ashok Khajuria, Secretary Branch, Rakesh Sharma - Treasurer Shivalik Branch and Rajnish Gupta, Joint Secretary of Shivalik Branch. More than 200 students & around 20 teachers of the school attended this programme. Various students were also awarded for their outstanding performance in the school during the programme by members of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Ranvijay Singh & Pratibha of 11th Class, Samar Pikhan & Bhumika of 10th Class, Rekha & Piyush of 9th Class, Manik Pratap Singh & Arizoo of 8th Class, Arvind Kumar & Poonam of 7th Class, Zoya & Arnav of 6th Class, Aksha Khan & Muzavir of 5th Class, Radhika & Gandivay Singh Charak of 4th Class, Rashi Arya & Qutub-du-din of 3rd Class, Aryan & Piyush of 2nd Class, Shailja & Sandhya of 1st Class, Aarvi & Rehan of U. K. G. Class, Taskeen, Tridham Pratap Singh & Divyansh of L. K. G. Class, Aadhira & Divam of Nursery Class were felicitated on the occasion of Guru Vandana Chhatra Abhinandan Programme. The teachers felicitated the children are Suresh Sharma, Pankaj Jasrotia, Ruby Kumari, Sukhvinder Kour, Bhupinder Kour, Subha Gupta, Ankush Chib, Shashi Kesar, Sakshi Pikhan, Heena Slathia, Manpreet Kour, Muskan Singh, Usha Mattoo & Kusum Lata. The programme closed with National anthem followed by the vote of thanks presented by the Pankaj Jasrotia- Sr. Teacher of the School while the programme proceedings were conducted by Teacher of the school Subha Gupta.

## Joint meeting of NC - Congress held in Jagti, Nagrota: focus on KP's betterment

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 29

A joint meeting of the National Conference (NC) and Congress was convened at Minitown ship Jagti, presided over by Bushan Lal Bhat, former MLC, and Shadi Lal Pandita, convener of the Congress Migrant Cell. The meeting observed discussions on the historical role of both parties in advocating for the betterment of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) pre and post-migration. Bushan Lal Bhat emphasized the long-standing efforts of NC and Congress in championing KP causes, citing their dedication to KP welfare even amidst challenging circumstances. Shadi Lal, echoing party directives, urged support for NC candidates in the upcoming elections, emphasizing the importance of the INDI Alliance in the Valley's political landscape. Jatin Bhat lauded the



initiatives of the Omar Abdullah-led government, highlighting its role in providing employment opportunities for educated KPs and spearheading infrastructure development projects, such as the construction of two-room accommodations. He also underscored the significance of the Apex Advisory Committee in bridging the gap between KPs and the government, addressing a spectrum of community concerns. Kaka Ji Bhan, the Jagti incharge, rallied the camp's residents to turn out in force to support NC candidates from the Kashmir Valley. Adarsh San-

gram party led by Inder ji Labroo also extended his support to NC candidates of Kashmir valley. Notable speakers for the forgotten rights of the Kashmiri Pandit community at the meeting included Ashok Koul, Shadi Lal Tickoo, Shriya Handoo and Veer Ji. The gathering witnessed the presence of prominent figures from both parties, signaling a unified front in advocating for KP interests. These include Vinod, Rakesh, PN Koul, KN Bhat, Ashok Bali, Varinder, Ramesh Suri, Rakesh Koul, Ashotosh, Ashok jee, Raju Bali and Jawahar Lal.

## SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurates OPD services of NH Hospital in Akhnoor

JINNEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APRIL 29

For the people traveling from Akhnoor and surrounding areas to Amritsar for better healthcare facilities, Nirman Health Care Hospital Amritsar inaugurated its new OPD center in the Manda area of Akhnoor on Sunday. The chief guest of the event, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat, inaugurated this OPD center in the presence of esteemed individuals from Akhnoor.

Special OPD services for Orthopedics, Neurologists and general physicians will be available at this center. On the occasion of the center's inauguration, a free health check-up camp was also organized, where approximately 200 individuals from the region received free health check-ups.

Addressing the media on this occasion, SSP Mohan



Lal Bhagat extended congratulations to the founder of the center, stating that this OPD center will not only provide healthcare services but also take a step forward towards a healthy and prosperous future for the community. He mentioned that previously, people in the region had to rely on other states for specialized healthcare facilities, but with the opening of the OPD center at Akhnoor's Construction Hospital, people will have

better healthcare facilities near their homes. He also appealed to the people present at the event to adopt a healthy lifestyle both mentally and physically. Present at the event were Karan Singh, former sarpanch Kishori Lal, former sarpanch Virender Kumar, former sarpanch Ganesh Das, Vishal Sapolia, Rameshwar Das, Mangesh Sharma, and Pandit Ashwani Vashisht, among others.

## Motor vehicles lifter gang busted ; property worth lakhs recovered; three arrested



JINNEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APR 29

J&K police in Akhnoor sub-division of Jammu District have busted a motor vehicles lifter gang today under operation Avatar.

On 22/04/2024 a complaint was lodged in police station Akhnoor by complainant Ram Dass S/o Lal Chand with regard to theft of his splendor motorcycle and accordingly case FIR no 70/2024 under section 379 IPC was registered at police station Akhnoor and investigation taken up.

During investigation a special team of police was constituted by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Sharma. The special team collected dump data for technical analysis, collected

CCTV footage and also studied pattern of few suspects. After obtaining certain leads three suspects namely

- 1) Amit pawa@ Sundi s/o Ashok kumar
- 2) Rakesh choudary @ Nathu s/o Bagh singh
- 3) Sunny kumar @ Sunny pagal s/o Yash pal all residents of Devipur Jourian, jammu were arrested for questioning and during interrogation all the three accuseds have confessed their involvement in instant case.

On the disclosure of accuseds stolen motorcycle has been recovered by special team consisting of SHO Akhnoor Tariq Ahmed, Chowki officer Jourian sanjeet singh, chowki officer Chowki Choura Pankaj Katoch &

PSI Karnail Singh. Besides five more motorcycles of different makes total six have been recovered from different locations of district jammu on the disclosures of arrested accuseds. Another case FIR no.31/2023 under section IPC of police station Akhnoor has also been solved. In addition to this some more recoveries including Gas cylinders-2, Mattresses-2, Containers-2, Transformer-1, Gas chullaah-1. The approximately value of recoveries is more than 7 lakhs. All arrests and recoveries have made by police teams under supervision of SP Rural Brijesh Sharma. Since the investigation is under way more arrests and recoveries are expected.

## Cyber Police Station recovers online defrauded amount of Rs. 29,39,841/-

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

Cyber Police Station Jammu has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment in combating cybercrime by successfully recovering online defrauded amount of Rs 29,39,841.00 (Twenty-nine lakh thirty-nine thousand eight hundred forty one only) w.e.f. 18.04.2024 to 28.04.2024.

These complaints were related to online frauds involving KYC update fraud, investment related frauds, credit card frauds, online job/task frauds and installation of third-party mobile apps, among others. The Cyber Police Station Jammu swiftly initiated investigations into various complaints/FIRs and recovered a total money amounting to Rs. 29,39,841.00. (Rupees Twenty-nine lakh thirty-nine thousand eight hundred forty one only).

The Cyber Police Station Jammu led by DySP Cyber along with her team under the close supervision of SP PC Jammu, Incharge Cyber Police Station Jammu, displayed relentless efforts and advanced technical skills leading to the successful recovery of the aforementioned defrauded amount. Cyber Police Jammu reiterated its appeal to the general public to remain vigilant regarding various Cyber Frauds and promptly report any suspicious online activities to the National Cyber Crime Helpline Number 1930 or lodge online complaints at www.cybercrime.gov.in or Cyber Police Station Jammu on 0191-2436709.

## ICG & ATS Gujarat seize Indian fishing boat carrying 173 kg of narcotics; Apprehends two crew members

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APR 29

In a coordinated effort, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) seized an Indian fishing boat in the Arabian Sea carrying 173 kg of narcotics and arrested two perpetrators on board.

Acting on specific and credible intelligence provided by ATS Gujarat, ICG strategically deployed its assets ensuring comprehensive surveillance to intercept the suspected boat. Subsequent investigations upon intercepting the boat confirmed the accuracy of the intelligence inputs, establishing the involvement of the fishing boat and its two perpetrators in smuggling drugs. Further investigation into the crew's involvement is underway.

The operation marked the twelfth such seizure by the ICG in the last three years, including recent detention of a Pakistani fishing boat with a substantial quantity of drugs on board, highlighting the commitment of both agencies to safeguard the maritime borders and combating illicit activities at sea.

## People block road, hold protest against PDD Sunderbani

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SUNDERBANI, APR 29

Today the local people of village Sodra blocked the Sunderbani Kangri road and protest against PDD Sunderbani. Even after repeated accidents, questions are being raised on the working style and duty devotion of the department. The high voltage HD wire coming out of Sunderbani, which is only two kilometers away from the co-engineer electricity office of Sunderbani, has broken four times in the last one month. While once a woman standing on the roof also died after coming in contact with this wire. But even after the death of a woman, the electricity department did not show any interest in repairing the high voltage HD wire which is causing frequent accidents. Let us tell you that 15 days ago this HD wire fell on an animal shed. But luckily there was no loss of life or



property.

Meanwhile giving information in this regard, local Chaman Lal Sharma said that two weeks ago this HD wire suddenly broke near a house built near Sodra bridge. After which electric current was generated in the surrounding area. There was no loss of life or property due to timely detection. Along with this, he told that just 2 days ago, the local people who were harvesting wheat in their fields, suddenly broke the

HD wire and fell in the fields and a loud hissing sound started coming, then all the villagers ran away from the fields. Fortunately, that day too, this wire did not fall on anyone, otherwise many people could have died untimely while working in the fields. Taking cognizance of all these incidents, the local people went to the office of the Sub Engineer of the Electricity Department in Sunderbani and met Kewal Krishna several

times and told him their problems. But despite the local people visiting the electricity office several times, the officials of the Electricity Department did not take any cognizance of this and did not take any action. Angry villagers today blocked the road going from Sunderbani to Nowshera via Sari at around 10:00 am and started a sit-in demonstration against the Electricity Department there. After this, DDC member Rajinder Sharma, who reached the spot, convinced the local people and removed them from the road. At the same time, Tehsildar Sunderbani also reached the spot and assured the people that their problem would be resolved soon. After the intervention of the administration, the Electricity Department woke up from its deep sleep and then the officials of the Electricity Department reached the spot and assured the

local people that the work of repairing the HD high voltage wire will be started from today itself. So that in future the local people do not become victims of any kind of accident.

Meanwhile when assistant executive engineer (AEE) of power development department (PDD) Sunderbani Kewal Krishna rushed on the spot to know his side, he said that the frequent breakage of HT lines is not a new thing. They keep breaking often and not only in Sunderbani but also in other areas. He said that we are with you. Whatever instructions we get from above, we will take the same action on the ground. He said that our job is to prepare the project and send it to the government. The rest of the work is of the higher officials and the government. Whether they take measures to protect the lives and property of the people or not. It is not our responsibility.

## Vibodh, Sham Lal address party workers at Nowshera



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

Accusing the Congress, PDP and National Conference (NC) of discriminating against the districts of Rajouri and Poonch, especially the Gujjar-Bakerwal and Pahari tribes, former MLC, BJP General Secretary, and Jammu-Poonch Incharge, Vibodh Gupta, stated that these parties committed criminal injustices with both the districts across various matters during their successive governments.

Speaking at a workers' meeting at Khokhar Hall, Nowshera, along with BJP Vice-President and former minister Sham Lal Sharma, district president Neena Sharma, and other leaders, Vibodh Gupta mentioned that the Congress and NC held power in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for the longest period after independence, yet Rajouri and Poonch were neglected in their policies and schemes. He accused both parties of deceiving the innocent people of Rajouri and Poonch with false promises to garner votes.

Gupta emphasized that the Gujjar-Bakerwals,

Paharis, and OBCs suffered the most due to the vote-bank politics of PDP and NC. He highlighted issues such as the denial of basic rights to Gujjar-Bakerwals, the ban on inter-district recruitment, and the absence of a tribal department under Congress and NC regimes. He expressed public anger and resentment towards these parties and predicted their defeat in upcoming elections. He also asserted that BJP-aligned candidate would triumph over NC, and PDP candidate in Rajouri-Anantnag Lok Sabha seat. Gupta praised the Modi government for providing complete justice to the people of Rajouri and Poonch, citing the granting of ST status to Pahari tribes, political reservation for Gujjar-Bakerwals, extension of Forest Protection rights, and establishment of a tribal department. He urged people not to be swayed by false promises from Congress, NC, and PDP during elections. BJP Vice President and Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma, while speaking in the meeting, said that the recently held elections in two seats of Lok Sabha have witnessed massive support in favour

of BJP and further asserted that the BJP supported candidate in the Rajouri-Anantnag Lok Sabha seat will come out to be victorious with huge margins. Sham Lal Sharma said that the BJP government under PM Narendra Modi has governed the country for two terms and achieved the distinction of being a dispensation which worked for every section and region and put the country on the path of development and welfare of masses. He asked the party workers to reach the masses and educate them about the good works of the Modi government and also inform them about the step motherly treatment given to them by the Congress, NC and PDP. District President, Neena Sharma, in her address, said that the Modi government has done real work for the social - economic upliftment of the women in the country and in Jammu & Kashmir too various welfare schemes have changed the lives of the daughters of the soil. She also asked the party cadre to expose the parties which always betrayed the people and are once again seeking votes on false slogans.

## CUJ organizes Daylong Educational Field Visit for students to forward areas, LoC in Akhnoor Sector, Jammu



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 29

In continuation with the visionary approach of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, towards organising field-based educational learning programmes for the student community. The Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu organized a daylong educational field visit to the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor sector, Jammu facilitated by 16 Corps, Indian Army.

The educational field visit was organized to explore the importance of our diverse borders and their crucial role in enhancing national security. India shares a multifaceted border landscape with its neighboring nations and the trip was aimed to enrich students and scholars understanding the nuances of LOC and inspire them to contribute towards Nation Building. This experience

was an integral part of the curriculum, aiming to provide valuable insights into the subject.

During their visit, students, scholars, and faculty members of the Department had the opportunity to learn about the significance of LOC. Further, the dynamics of LOC were explained through interaction with the army officers, while also latest weapons and equipment were displayed followed by fire power demonstrations.

The trip was organized by the department under the support and mentorship of Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Head, Department of National Security Studies. Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor of the Department of National Security Studies was the coordinator of the trip. The organizing committee included Dr. Neeta Rani, Dr. Ekta Manhas, and Dr. Anuradha Choudhary. The students, scholars, faculty and staff of the Department participated in the educational field visit.

## Former JKUM MLA announces support for Apni Party candidate in Srinagar LS seat

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Former legislator Ishfaq Jabbar who is heading Jammu Kashmir United Movement (JKUM) on Monday announced to support the Apni Party candidate contesting the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat.

Jabbar made this announcement during a press conference which was attended by Apni Party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, and Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, who is the party's candidate for the LS polls in the Srinagar constituency. "We have decided to support the candidate from the Apni Party in the Lok Sabha elections for the Srinagar constituency. This decision was made in the best interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I firmly believe that we must oppose the parties that have greatly harmed the interests of the people of J&K. Therefore, we will ensure that Mohammad Ashraf Mir is elected as a Member of Parliament representing the Srinagar constituency," he said.

Pertinently, Ishfaq Jabbar is one of the prominent political figures in Ganderbal. Like his late father, Sheikh Jabbar, who served as a minister in Jammu and Kashmir, Ishfaq Jabbar holds vast influence over the people in the district.



Jabbar launched his political party JKUM last year, months after he was expelled from the National Conference's (NC's) membership. The former NC legislator from the Ganderbal, Jabbar is the son of Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, one of the founding members of NC who was considered a close confidant of Sheikh Abdullah.

Jabbar today hit out at his former party and also the Peoples Democratic Party.

"The National Conference has now openly come forward to join hands with Shiv Sena. Previously, leaders of both the NC and PDP adamantly stated that they would abstain from participating in elections until Article 370 was reinstated. However, they have suddenly forgotten their pledge and jumped into the poll fray. These parties have consistently harmed the interests of the people," he said.

He expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that

like-minded parties need to come forward to work for the well-being of the people.

"We cannot afford further deaths and destruction in this land. We have already suffered greatly. The future of traditional leaders and their children is secure; they live in London. But we need to think of the vulnerable young population here. Look at the drug menace. We cannot afford to watch this situation as silent spectators. We need to work for the peace and prosperity here," Jabbar said.

Apni Party leader Hassan Mir said that he was sure that this support would significantly bolster the party campaign.

"We are not fundamentally against parties like NC and PDP; rather, we oppose their political narrative. Their narrative has widened the gap between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country, thus adversely affecting the interests of our people," Mir said.

## VKMI confers 'Life Time Achievement Award' to ID Soni



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 29

Vichar Kranti Manch International conferred 'Life Time Achievement Award' to ID Soni, Educationist, Social Activist, Philanthropist, former Deputy Director Education, in a simple & impressive function. K B Jandial IAS, Former JMC Commissioner was Chief Guest, Prem Gupta, Retd IGP presided over, Rameshwar Mengi, Chairman Shiksha Niketan Trust & RMPS and Vijay Bhagotra, retired SC & Gen Secy Home for Aged & Infirms, Ambphalla were Guests of honour, SC Rekhi, Patron & Gen Secy Retired Officers Forum was Special Invitee.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association & President Vichar Kranti Manch International, Composed a life sketch in poetry in favour of Sh Soni, which was presented to him.

ID Soni is a Senior most personality of J&K State who belongs to Bhaddu, Billawar (Kathua), Retd as Dy Director School Education & worked in various capacities after

retirement in State/Central Depts. He is President (GOI) awardee with 'Silver Elephant' Award in 2003, a highest award for rendering a very dedicated, sincere, diligent service as Scouter to Scouting Moment. In addition to this he has received many awards including 'Certificate of Appreciation from Rajya Sainik Welfare Department, Gandhian Centre for Peace & Conflict studies, University of Jammu, From Union Ministry of Education for rendering his services as Project Director, Evaluation J&K State, Best Administrative Award by G N Azad, the then Chief Minister of J&K, Best Teacher Award from DBN, Best Social Worker Award from VKMI and Munshi Ram Khazuria Trust for dedicating Social Services to humanity.

He is holding Responsibilities of Various NGOs & Educational Institutions, which included Chief Patron J&K Confederation of Social & Charitable Organisation, President Retired Officers Forum, Chief Patron Hari Parbhu Sanstha, Billawar, President Home for Aged & Infirms, Chief Advisor VKMI & Patron Bharat

Vikash Parishad etc. He has written three books, very useful for society and other three are in process of writing.

C M Sharma, Gen Secy VKMI & State coordinator Annamalai University, conducted the proceedings of Programme.

"LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD", was conferred to Mr Soni by the Executive Members of VKMI, including Dr SK Jain, CM Sharma, Dr Usha Tickoo, Prof Sarla Kohli, KS Samyal, Ashok Gupta, GN Jain, Yesh Paul Sharma, Anju Bansal, DK Gupta, SK Gupta, Jaipal Singh etc. Other NGOs including Bharat Vikas Parishad, Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Retired Officers Forum, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Hari Parbhu Sanstha, Skill Development, NSK Swera, Sai Shyam College of Education, Shiksha Niketan/RMPS, Sarv Uthan Trust, J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, JRC Home for Handicapped also participated in the function. All members wished ID Soni on his 97th Birthday. Anju Bansal & KS Samyal presented good Bhajans.

Ashok Gupta Vice President VKMI presented vote of Thanks.

## DPS Kathua celebrates International Dance Day with Special Assembly

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APR 29

DPS Kathua proudly hosted a special assembly on April 29th, 2024, in celebration of International Dance Day. The event, organized by the school, showcased the vibrant and diverse world of dance, highlighting its significance as a form of expression and cultural exchange. The highlight of the assembly was a dance performance by student of class VI & X.

"Dance is not just movement; it is a univer-



sal language that speaks to the soul," stated Mr. Vivek Arora, Principal. "Through dance, we com-

municate emotions, stories, and traditions that transcend borders and connect us on a deeper

level." Arora encouraged students to explore various dance forms, embrace

their cultural heritage, and use dance as a means of self-expression and personal growth.

## IPL: Jacks soars to record-breaking century with Kohli's guidance

AGENCIES  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 29

In a stunning display of power-hitting and strategic guidance, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) achieved the fastest successful chase of a 200-plus target in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, courtesy of an extraordinary century by Will Jacks. The Englishman's blistering knock, supported by Virat Kohli's mentorship, propelled RCB to victory against their opponents.

Facing a challenging task at the crease, Jacks initially struggled to find his rhythm but found solace in the advice of his senior partner, Virat Kohli. Kohli's insights on tackling spin bowling, particularly against the formidable Rashid Khan, proved instrumental in Jacks' resurgence. Speaking after the match,

Jacks credited Kohli for his guidance during the early phase of his innings, which ultimately paved



the way for his record-breaking performance.

"Virat kind of helped me through my first 15 balls where I was struggling," Jacks revealed. "He was giving me tips on playing spin. He said he was reading Rashid well and could take him down, which helped me."

Jacks' innings, characterized by eight boundaries in his last ten balls, culminated in a remarkable 41-ball century, delighting

his partner Kohli, who also contributed a formidable 70 off 44 deliveries. Reflecting on their partnership, Kohli expressed admiration for Jacks' explosive batting display, jokingly remarking on their on-field chemistry.

The sensational victory not only marked a significant milestone for RCB but also ignited a sense of momentum within the team. Jacks emphasized the importance of building

on this success, stating, "We have still got a chance. We have shown what we can do. You just sneak into fourth place there in great form and then you never know."

Teammates, including Glenn Maxwell, were effusive in their praise for Jacks' performance, describing it as the happiest they had been in a long time. Head coach Andy Flower, celebrating his birthday, expressed gratitude for the memorable victory, highlighting the collective effort and individual brilliance displayed by Jacks and Kohli. The match-winning partnership not only secured a crucial victory for RCB but also showcased the significance of mentorship and teamwork in achieving remarkable feats on the cricket field. As the IPL season progresses, the camaraderie and synergy within the RCB camp will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in their pursuit of further success.

## Colonel Lamba: Defying odds from Ironman to the Sahara Desert

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, APRIL 29

In the realm of extreme endurance sports, few challenges rival the Marathon Des Sables, a grueling multi-stage race set amidst the unforgiving terrain of the Moroccan Sahara. Yet, for Colonel Jangvir Lamba, a serving Indian Army Officer, the 38th edition of this legendary marathon was not just another race – it was a test of endurance, resilience, and the unyielding spirit of human determination.

Amidst scorching temperatures reaching up to 50 degrees Celsius, Colonel Lamba embarked on a journey spanning 253.5 kilometers of endless dunes, rocky jebels, and blistering salt plains.

Carrying his survival items and drawing upon his experience as a triathlete and bodybuilder, he faced the ultimate test of physical and mental fortitude.

In a remarkable display of strength and perseverance, Colonel Lamba completed the Marathon Des Sables in 67 hours and 07 minutes, solidifying his place among the elite ath-



letes who dare to conquer the world's toughest foot race.

Colonel Lamba's path to the Sahara desert was paved with years of dedication and training. A fourth-generation Indian Army Officer hailing from Jaipur, Rajasthan, he had previously conquered the Ironman Triathlon – a

grueling test of endurance comprising a 3.8 km swim, 180 km cycling, and a 42.2 km marathon.

His achievements include completing Ironman events in Malaysia, Australia, and India, showcasing his versatility and unwavering commitment to pushing his limits.

For Colonel Lamba,

the Marathon Des Sables was more than just a race. It was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Transitioning from the structured courses of Ironman events to the vast expanse of the Sahara presented a challenge unlike any other.

Yet, armed with his experience and unwavering determination, he defied the odds and emerged victorious. His journey serves as an inspiration to athletes and adventurers alike, reminding us that no challenge is insurmountable with dedication and determination.

As Col Lamba stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, his journey from Ironman to Sahara resonates far beyond the realm of sports. His triumph in the face of adversity serves as an inspiration to all who dare to dream big and push the boundaries of what is possible.

As Col Lamba continues to inspire others with his remarkable feats of endurance, he proves that true strength lies not just in physical prowess, but in the resilience of the human spirit.

## Saifuddin returns to Bangladesh T20I squad for Zimbabwe series

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, APRIL 29

Bangladesh have recalled fast bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin to the T20I squad for the series against Zimbabwe in May. With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in focus, the squad is bolstered by the addition of Saifuddin, who has played 34 T20Is for Bangladesh, the last of which came in October 2022.

Saifuddin returns after a long injury layoff and recently featured for Fortune Barishal in their title winning campaign in the Bangladesh Premier League.

Also in the squad is ODI opener Tanzid Hasan, who is yet to play T20 internationals, an ICC report said.

The squad, led by Najmul Hossain Shanto, is without Shakib Al Hasan, but the all-rounder is



expected to play a part in the latter half of the series.

After the 2023 ODI World Cup concluded in November, Shakib took a break due to an eye condition and a finger injury. He returned to international cricket in the Chattogram Test against Sri Lanka ear-

lier this month.

Bangladesh will play the first three T20Is against Zimbabwe in Chattogram on May 3, 5, and 7. The final two T20Is will be held in Dhaka on May 10 and 12.

Bangladesh squad for first three T20Is: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Litton

Kumer Das, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Jaker Ali Anik, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tanvir Islam, Afif Hossain, Saifuddin.

## Alcaraz into last 16 at Madrid Open

AGENCIES  
MADRID, APRIL 28

Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz breezed into the last 16 of the Mutua Madrid Open with a straightforward 6-3, 6-3 victory over Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild in a match that lasted just 75 minutes on a chilly Sunday afternoon.

Wild never looked like beating the Spaniard and committed 23 unforced errors against a rival who has now won his last 23 matches in Spain on clay.

Alcaraz will now face Lennard Struff, whom he beat in the 2023 final in Madrid.

"I hope everything goes as well as last year, but I am going to have to work



hard and give 100 percent. It will be an uncomfortable game to play, but the fans will enjoy it," said the Spaniard after his game.

Andrey Rublev won his third-round match 7-6 (12), 6-4 after a marathon first set against Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokin, who looked comfortable on the beaten clay

at Madrid's Caja Magica.

Elena Rybakina moved into the last 16 in the women's tournament with a routine 6-1, 6-4 victory over Mayar Sherif, with the number four seed quickly establishing her dominance in the opening set, where his patience to control the play on her second serve was a key

factor. Number 10 seed, Daria Kasatkina had to work hard to beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-6 (7) 7-5 in a close game where Kasatkina's serve was an important factor.

Yulia Putintseva also qualified for the last-16, with the Russian-born Kazak beating Carolina Dolehide 6-2, 6-2, as she took advantage of her powerful serve at Madrid's altitude.

18-year-old Sara Bejlek from the Czech Republic is the surprise package of the women's singles in Madrid, as the World ranked 133 performed brilliantly to defeat Ashlyn Krueger of the USA, 6-3, 6-1.

## ISL: Dimitrios Petratos wins back-to-back player of month awards

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, APRIL 29

Mohun Bagan Super Giant forward Dimitrios Petratos continues to shine in the Indian Super League (ISL), clinching his second consecutive Player of the Month award.

He maintained his pivotal role within the team throughout April, contributing significantly to their three consecutive victories, ultimately securing their first ISL League Shield.

Petratos scored a goal and provided three assists across four matches in April, including setting up both goals in the

final league game against Mumbai City FC.

In their significant win over Bengaluru FC, he delivered one assist and he secured the solitary winning goal against Punjab FC, further underlining his value to the team.

It has indeed been an exceptional season for Petratos, with involvement in 16 goals across 20 league matches, scoring 10 and assisting in six.

Notably, he has provided either a goal or an assist in every game since March, including an assist in the first leg of the semi-final against Odisha FC. He'll undoubtedly aim for another stellar perfor-

mance in the second leg to stage a comeback against the Kalinga Warriors.

The award selection process involves a split between fan and expert voting, with fans' votes accounting for 50% of the total and experts determining the remaining 50%. The voting took place from April 22 to 26.

Nominees included Petratos and his Mohun Bagan SG teammate Hector Yuste, as well as players from other clubs such as FC Goa's Noah Sadaoui and Carlos Martinez, Mumbai City FC's Lallianzuala Chhangte, Punjab FC's Madih Talal, and NorthEast United FC's

Parthib Gogoi. Petratos secured a commanding 52% of the fan votes, with Sadaoui trailing at 18%. Chhangte came in third with 12%, followed by Talal (6%), Gogoi (6%), Yuste (5%), and Martinez (1%).

The Aussie was the outright winner among the experts as well, garnering six votes, while Sadaoui and Talal received two and one vote respectively.

After combining both sets of votes, Petratos emerged as the winner with 60%, followed by Sadaoui and Talal, who came second and third with 20% and 8% of the votes respectively.

## Chakaravarthy's bowling lays foundation for Salt to guide KKR to victory



AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, APRIL 29

In a dominant display at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) clinched a comfortable seven-wicket victory against Delhi Capitals (DC) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter on Monday.

Varun Chakaravarthy emerged as the standout performer, delivering a masterful bowling display that paved the way for KKR's triumph. His exceptional spell saw him claim three pivotal wickets, conceding just 16 runs, effectively stifling DC's batting lineup.

Throughout the 47th IPL match, Chakaravar-

thy's relentless attack on the opposition batsmen proved decisive, with his strategic bowling tactics consistently posing a threat to DC's defenses. His contributions swung the momentum firmly in KKR's favor, setting the stage for their commanding victory.

Chasing a target of 154 runs on a challenging pitch, Phil Salt and Sunil Narine provided a strong start for KKR, adding 79 runs for the first wicket. Despite Narine's early dismissal, Salt continued to dominate the opposition's bowling attack with an aggressive innings of 68 runs off 33 balls, guiding KKR towards victory.

KKR sealed the win by

reaching the target with ease, finishing at 157/3 in 16.3 overs, showcasing their dominance in the match. With this win, KKR secured their sixth victory in nine matches, consolidating their position in the IPL standings. Earlier in the match, KKR's bowlers, led by Chakaravarthy, displayed an impressive performance to restrict DC to a modest total of 153/9. Supported by notable contributions from Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana, who claimed two wickets each, KKR's bowling attack maintained consistent pressure on DC's batsmen. Despite DC captain Rishabh Pant's decision to bat first, the team faced early setbacks, losing

opener Prithvi Shaw in the second over. Although Pant and the middle order made valiant efforts, wickets fell at regular intervals, limiting DC's scoring opportunities. KKR's disciplined bowling, coupled with contributions from Mitchell Starc and Narine, ensured that DC struggled to build significant partnerships. Kuldeep Yadav's unbeaten 34 off 26 balls provided some resistance, but DC ultimately fell short in their innings.

With a convincing victory under their belt, KKR continues to showcase their strength in the ongoing IPL season, while DC will look to regroup and bounce back in their upcoming matches.

## Six days long technical workshop cum training programme on 'Human Wildlife Conflict for frontline staff' commences at Dachigam National Park

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K under the guidance of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K Sarvesh Rai, is organizing six days Technical workshop cum training programme on 'Human Wildlife Conflict for the frontline staff of Kashmir Region consisting of Forest Territorial, Forest Protection Force and Wildlife Department from 29th April, to 4th May, 2024.

The workshop cum training for the frontline staff shall be imparted in three phases for three circles viz; Srinagar, North and South Circle.

The inaugural function of the training programme was held today at Nature Interpretation Center of Dachigam National Park here.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional Pr. Chief Conservation of Forests, Kashmir Chief T. Rabi Kumar.

Divisional Forest Officers, Deputy Directors of Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Wardens, President, National Society & Water Resources,



Wetlands & Forests, J&K, Executive Director, WCF, Head, Wildlife SOS, Chairman, SRDE and the Project Head, Wild Life Trust of India besides the special invitees, panel of national experts from Himachal Pradesh dealing with Man Wildlife Conflict headed by Ashish Dasgupta, Ex-Member State Board for Wildlife(HP) and Honorary Wildlife Warden for the State of HP and his team members Rajive Solomon, Rao Talha Farhat and Syed Ali Bin Hadi and trainees from Forest Territorial, Forest Protection Force and Department of Wildlife Protection were present during the event.

In his address, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir expressed his satisfaction and con-

gratulated the organizers for the programme. He gave an overview of practical strategies to be employed for effective conflict control pertaining to wildlife and stressed on conducting such type of programs in near future as well.

DCF, Regional Wildlife Warden, HQs, J&K, Rashid Yahya Naquash, shared his introductory remarks wherein he summed up with statistical and historical data pertaining to human-wildlife conflicts in the area and the essence and purpose of such trainings. Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Pradeepchandra Wahule, in his inaugural remarks briefed about the importance of trainings in upgrading the technical

skills required for the forest and allied staff to monitor and control the leopard, bear and other wildlife issues prevalent in the valley.

On the first day of training programme, Technical sessions and interactive workshop on Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Kashmir were held with thrust areas like overview of Human Wildlife Conflict in Kashmir Province with specific reference to leopards and bears, overall perspective of man-wildlife conflicts and methodology of resolution, Leopard and Bears- behavioural pattern on prey, mating, food chain etc based on habitat and change of behaviour in areas with high frequency of human exposure and strategies

to be adopted for conflict resolution namely trapping, tranquilizing or in exceptional cases requiring liquidation, methodology thereof.

Pertinently, in the second day of training programme, trainees shall undertake trekking of Man Wildlife Conflict-prone areas and shall be educated about various aspects like tracking of Wild animal by direct/indirect evidences by way of identification of pug marks, scats, fur, animal articles, carcass etc; protocols suggested for officers & officials of Wildlife Department & other line Departments; strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution and interaction with villagers of villages prone to man-wildlife conflicts.

## DC Bandipora chairs NCORD/COTPA meeting



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee under NCORD (Narco Coordination) and Cigarette and other Tobacco products Act (COTPA) at Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting discussed various advancing initiatives for drug de-addiction and rehabilitation steps taken in the district.

The DC took department-wise review of activities conducted by different departments, including Drugs Controller, Health Department, Social Welfare, and Education, besides reviewed activities carried out by District Drug De-addiction Centre and Addiction Treatment Facility.

He also reviewed the measures taken against

illicit crop cultivation and destruction in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the importance of a multi-faceted approach encompassing prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and community support.

He emphasized effective strategies to prevent substance abuse, provide treatment to those in need and support their journey towards recovery and rehabilitation.

Highlighting the role of mass awareness in preventing drug addiction, Shakeel ul Rehman stressed on outreach programmes in order to encourage individuals to seek assistance when needed besides stressing on prioritizing vulnerable sections and age groups as part of drug de-addiction initiatives. He also asked the concerned departments to involve Youth Icons, sports icons in

awareness programmes to encourage youth participation.

He emphasized the need for seamless collaboration among different departments, including health, education, law enforcement, and also stressed coordination among different stakeholders, including parents.

He stressed the drug control department to ensure 100 percent installation of CCTVs and computer billing by all medical shops and Jan Ashudi Kendras.

The meeting was attended by ASP Bandipora Sandeep Butt, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Umar Shafi Pandit; ACD Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, DIO Dr. Naseer Ahmad, ARTO, DSWO, CMO, Tehsildars, MS District Hospital, Representatives of Drug De-addiction Centre, and other concerned.

## DC Kupwara reviews status of rescue & evacuation operation, restoration of essential services



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, who is also Chairperson District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kupwara today, convened a meeting of all concerned officers to review the status of rescue and evacuation operation and restoration of essential services in the district amid flash floods.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC stressed upon all the concerned officers to ensure rescue and evacuation operation on priority basis in flood prone areas of the district. She asked them to ensure evacuation operation is finished by 7 'O' clock this evening to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience.

The DC was informed that 285 families have been evacuated from Handwara subdivision so far belonging to Kawari, Tarathpora, Vilgam, Kulangam and other areas to prevent any loss of lives,

besides, 47 families have also been evacuated from Kupwara division. It was also informed that shelter homes have been established for rescue of the evacuated people.

The DC directed the concerned to ensure electricity, water, food and other essential services to the shelter homes.

It was given out in the meeting that an NDRF Team will be kept available in Kupwara to deal with any exigency arising due to floods.

Reviewing the situation of roads, the DC asked the SE R&B to take necessary and immediate measures for safeguarding of Khumriyal bridge keeping in view the incessant rainfall which could damage the bridge. He was also directed to make necessary diversion of Shumriyal village, the link road of which has got damaged due to rising water level in Nallah Lolab.

Reviewing the PHE sector, the DC directed the concerned engineers to take up the repair work

wherever feasible for restoration of water supply schemes. They were also directed to ensure availability of tankers for supplying water in affected areas.

Ayushi also reviewed the status of power supply and directed the concerned officers for restoration works wherever feasible while ensuring safety of employees.

The CMO and CEO were directed to keep close vigil on Health Centres and Schools respectively for any possible damage.

SSP Kupwara also spoke in the meeting and assured full support from the Police department to tackle any untoward situation due to heavy rains in the district.

SSP Kupwara, Shobhit Saxena; ADDC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; ADC Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf; ADC Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, ACR, SE R&B, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers of different departments and other concerned Officers attended the meeting.

## Kishtwar admin gears up disaster response machinery amid Heavy rains, flash floods



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 29

District Administration Kishtwar has put the disaster response machinery on high alert amid heavy rains being experienced in the region from the last 4 days. Reports from the concerned Tehsildars have indicated damage to about one dozen houses in Tehsil Nagseni, Mughalmaidan and Kishtwar.

In Tehsil Nagseni, a Kacha house was fully damaged, while in tehsil Mughalmaidan, 07 Pacca houses and 2 Kacha houses were partially damaged due to rains.

Similarly a Pacca house and a Cow Shed suffered major damages, while a mud house and Private

School Building were partially damaged in Kishtwar Tehsil. The district administration under the overall supervision of District Magistrate, Dr. Devansh Yadav, promptly relocated the affected families to nearby safe places, while the Red Cross team is actively involved in delivering relief material and essential support to the affected people.

In response to the situation, the public has been advised to avoid unnecessary travel to vulnerable spots. In case of emergencies, citizens can contact the control room on 01995-259555 or 9484217492, besides PCR Contact numbers - 9906154100- 01995-259193 and 100.

## ADC Sopore visits Flood prone areas amid heavy rainfall; urges residents to exercise caution

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina conducted a comprehensive visit to flood-prone areas including Babagund, Pazalpora, Gonipora, and Behram-pira.

The visit was aimed to address the escalating risks posed by heavy rainfall, particularly the rising water levels in Nallah Pohru, potentially leading to flood-like situations.

During the visit, ADC Raina engaged with local residents to understand their concerns regarding the increasing water levels and emphasized the need for proactive measures, including securing boats for potential rescue operations. Instructions were given to explore options for boat availability to ensure readiness for any emergencies.

Furthermore, discussions were held regarding reinforcing the embankments of Nallah Pohru, with the Executive Engineer of Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC)



directed to provide sandbags for strengthening the embankments. This initiative aims to enhance the resilience of the area to potential flooding and minimize risks to the community. ADC urged residents to exercise caution and prioritize safety by avoiding unnecessary outdoor activities. Collaborative efforts between authorities and residents were highlighted as essential for safeguarding lives and properties against the adverse weather conditions.

Meanwhile, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri, Javed Ahmad Rather, undertook a thorough

visit of landslide-affected areas including Boniyar, Nambal, Parampila, Noorkha, and nearby regions.

Interactions with residents focused on identifying immediate challenges and priority areas for intervention.

Emphasizing the importance of coordinated response efforts, SDM reassured affected residents of the administration's commitment to providing support and assistance in the aftermath of landslides. Residents were urged to remain vigilant and adhere to safety guidelines to ensure the well-being of all community members.