



# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Final phase of Lok Sabha polls in 57 seats today, PM Modi in fray

**AGENCIES**  
VARANASI/CHANDIGARH,  
MAY 31

Fifty-seven seats across seven states and the Union territory of Chandigarh will go to polls in the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha elections on Saturday that include Varanasi, from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term. Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand

besides Chandigarh. Polling for the remaining 42 assembly constituencies of Odisha and bypolls to six assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh will also take place simultaneously. Other prominent candidates among the total 904 contestants in fray are Union minister Anurag Thakur, Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti and actor Kangana Ranaut. Over 10.06 crore citizens, including nearly 5.24 crore men, 4.82 crore women and 3,574 third gender electors are

eligible to vote in this phase. Saturday's voting will mark the end to the marathon polling process that began on April 19 month and has already covered 486 Lok Sabha seats in 28 states and Union territories. The assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim also went to polls. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. According to Election Commission guidelines, television channels and news outlets will be able to run exit poll data and its results on June 1 after 6.30 pm. The EC said poll-

ing parties have been dispatched along with machines and poll materials to their respective polling stations. At the 1.09 lakh polling stations, basic facilities including ample shade, drinking water, ramps, and toilets are being provided to ensure that polling takes place in a comfortable and secure environment, it said. The poll panel has also directed CEOs and state machineries to take adequate measures to manage the adverse impact of hot weather or rainfall wherever predicted. The commission called

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## PM Modi meditates at Vivekananda Rock memorial in Kanniyakumari

**AGENCIES**  
KANNIYAKUMARI (TAMIL NADU), MAY 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi started meditating at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari on Friday, where Swami Vivekananda once meditated.

Prime Minister Modi is in Kanniyakumari on a spiritual visit, he is meditating at the Dhyana Mandapam, the place where revered Hindu philosopher Swami Vivekananda is believed to have had a divine vision about 'Bharat Mata'. He will continue his meditation till June 1.

PM Modi arrived at Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari on Thurs-



Prime Minister Modi offered prayers at Bhagavathy Amman Temple in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, after the culmination of the Lok Sabha election campaign.

Prime Minister Modi concluded his election campaign in Punjab's Hoshiarpur on Thursday, for the final phase of the general elections, which will be held on June 1.

The Bharatiya Janata Party is eyeing its third term in office, and Prime Minister Modi has extensively campaigned for his party across the length and breadth of the country.

The Prime Minister held around 206

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day. According to mythology, Goddess Parvati also meditated at the same place on one foot as she waited for Lord Shiva. This is the Southern-most tip of India. Further, India's Eastern and Western coastlines meet. It is also the meeting point of the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. PM Modi is sending a signal of national unity by going to Kanyakumari. Earlier on Thursday,

## Six transport department officials suspended

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Six transport department officials in Jammu and Kashmir were suspended for alleged dereliction of duty on Friday, a day after 22 people were killed and 64 injured in a bus accident in Jammu district. The tragic incident occurred on Thursday, when the bus carrying 86 devotees from Haryana's Kurukshetra and heading towards the Shiv Khori shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district skidded off the Jammu-Poonch highway and plunged into a 150-foot

gorge. The driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve at the Tungi morh in the Chowki Chora area. Transport department Secretary Niraj Kumar ordered the suspensions and a probe after a high-level meeting was chaired by Principal Secretary of the Home department Chandraker Bharti. "Pending enquiry into the conduct and dereliction of duties, officials posted in the Regional Transport Office in Kathua (Lakhanpur) are placed under suspension with immediate effect and

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## Dulloo visits GMC, enquires about health of Akhnoor bus accident victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, to enquire about the health of the injured of Akhnoor bus mishap. The Chief Secretary termed the incident as tragic and unfortunate and directed the hospital authorities to ensure best medicare for the injured for their speedy recovery. He prayed for those who lost their lives in the road mishap. He extended heartfelt condolences to their families saying that



the government would extend all necessary facilities to the accident victims. He assured that best medical care would be provided to the injured.

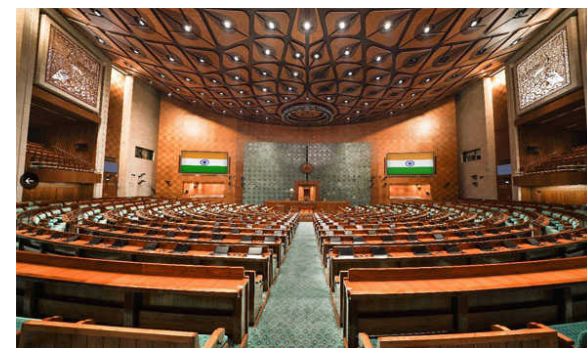
The Chief Secretary directed the administration to enquire into the causes of the road accident so that such

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## LS is all set to receive new members

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

As the results of the General elections are just 4 days away, the Lok Sabha is all set to receive new members and ensure that they have a seamless registration process. The registration process of the newly elected members will be done through an online integrated software application. The members would not be required to sign multiple physical forms with various branches, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement on Friday. The process will remain operational from 8 AM to 8 PM from 5th to 14th June



including on Saturdays and Sundays, it said. Earlier, the registration of newly elected members used to take place in the old Parliament House building (now Samvidhan Sadan). This time, the Secretariat has made such arrangements in the Parliament House Annexe.

The arrangements including setting up of paperless registration process, digital registration desks, guide posts at Airports and Railway stations, providing transit accommodation to Members, software-based computerised

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## Jammu's 13-year-old girl rocks 'America's Got Talent', stuns judges with horror dance

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

Arshiya, a young and talented dancer from Jammu, has made waves on the global stage by delivering a spine-chilling performance on "America's Got Talent". The 13-year-old sensation stunned the judges and the audience alike with her unique horror-themed dance routine and received a standing ovation from the judges. Speaking boldly with the judges, she introduced herself by saying, "I am from Jammu and Kashmir, India. I am a dancer, but I don't want to be like others. I want to be different. So, I tried incorporating gymnastics and adding some flexibility moves into



my dance to stand out." As per the details

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## Srinagar records 28.0 degree Celsius, Jammu seethes at 43.7 degree Celsius

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

With no rains in sight, the Kashmir Valley is all set to breathe a sigh of relief as the weatherman here has predicted no heat wave for the next nine (9) days. The maximum temperature continued to settle above normal across Kashmir on Friday with Srinagar recording 28.0 degree Celsius while Jammu areas continued to witness the intense heat wave conditions. According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), amidst the forecast of light rainfall till June 02, almost all the

stations across Kashmir recorded above normal temperature today. As per the local Meteorological department (MeT), Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded a maximum temperature of 28.0 degree Celsius. Qazigund, a gate way of Kashmir, was however the hottest in the Valley today at 28.6 degree Celsius while Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 28.0 degree Celsius. In Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, the mercury settled at 24.6 degree Celsius while Kupwara and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort record-

ed a maximum temperature of 27.4 degree Celsius and 18.0 degree Celsius respectively. Jammu, the winter capital of the Union Territory has recorded a maximum temperature of 43.7 degree Celsius while Banihal recorded 27.8 degree Celsius. Batote, Katra and Baderwah however, recorded a maximum temperature of 30.9 degree Celsius, 38.9 degree Celsius and 33.2 degree Celsius respectively. Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that the weather would remain partly

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## Search op launched after brief exchange of fire between SFs, Terrorists in Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Security forces launched a massive search operation on Friday after a brief exchange of fire with terrorists in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources said that a brief exchange of fire took place on Thursday evening between terrorists and security forces in the Marha Buffliaz area of Poonch district. "Acting on inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area, a search operation was launched near the Dera-ki-Gali forest belt," they said. They added that terrorists hiding in the woods fired upon the security forces, that triggered a brief exchange of fire. Taking advantage of the darkness and dense forest, the terrorists fled from the spot, adding that "no loss of life or injury was reported while the search operation is in progress."

## Srinagar Airport operations halted for an hour after Bomb threat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

Flight operations at the Srinagar International Airport had to be halted for an hour on Friday after a bomb threat as the authorities took preventive measures, officials said. The Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Srinagar Airport received a bomb threat on an Air Vistara flight from New Delhi, prompting a response from the authorities, including the Central Industrial Security Force



(CISF), which is responsible for the security at the airport, the officials said. They said a threat call was made to the airport around the noon about the flight, which had 178 passengers onboard. Immediately after the flight landed at the airport, it was directed towards an isolation bay and the passengers and the crew were

evacuated, they added. A thorough search of the plane was carried out, and bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs were also deployed to check any suspicious items, they said. After an exhaustive search, no explosives were found on the plane, they added. Flight operations, which had to be halted for about an hour, resumed later, the officials said. Investigations on the origin of the threat call have been initiated, the officials added.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the airline confirmed there was a "security concern" on Vistara flight UK 611 operating from Delhi to Srinagar, which was brought to the staff's attention while on board. "Following the protocol, we immediately informed the relevant authorities, and the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay after safely landing at the Srinagar International Airport where all passengers were disembarked," the Vistara spokesman said.

## 'World No Tobacco Day'

## J&K ranks 6th in India for tobacco use prevalence, over 20% population affected

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has been identified as having the 6th highest prevalence of tobacco use in the country, with over 20 percent of the population engaging in tobacco consumption, according to officials. Speaking with the news agency-Kashmir

News Observer (KNO), Dr Mir Mushtaq, State Nodal Officer (Kashmir Division) for the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), said that the prevalence of smoking tobacco in the region stands at 20.8%, ranking it sixth in the country, following Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. "The prevalence of

smokeless tobacco in J&K is the lowest in the country at 4.3%, just after Himachal Pradesh," he said. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2 data, 35.2% of men, 5.1% of women, and 20.8% of all adults in J&K smoke tobacco. It adds that 6.8% of men, 1.5% of women, and 4.3% of all adults currently use smokeless

tobacco. Overall, 39.7% of men, 6.2% of women, and 23.7% of all adults either smoke tobacco or use smokeless tobacco. Dr Mushtaq said the government has implemented numerous measures to reduce tobacco consumption. "Over the past four years, thousands of challans have been issued and substantial fines

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## World No Tobacco Day

## DHS Jammu organises awareness rally

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Directorate of Health Services, Jammu commemorated World No Tobacco Day today by hosting an awareness event at Government Hospital Gandhinagar. ANMT students and staff from the hospital and Officers of Directorate of Health, led by Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra took a Pledge to never use or consume any type of Tobacco Products, and motivate family members and acquaintances also to desist from tobacco use.

Pertinently, the theme for this year's World No Tobacco Day is Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference.

Afterwards, a Rally of the ANMT students was taken out from the Hospital. The Rally was flagged off by Director Health Services, Dr. Rakesh Magotra.



The students displayed handbills and banners highlighting the negative impact of Tobacco products on human health and the way Tobacco Industry try to ensnare the youth. "We must be aware of the tactics employed by the industry and make efforts to counter their actions. The Industry is actively advertising and using attractive displays at children's eye level, near toys, sweets and sugary drinks, using flavours that appeal to children in both smoking and smokeless types of Tobacco.

It is also using popular social media handles and influencers to promote tobacco and vaping products. Promotion and sponsorship of events where youth participate is also another ploy employed by the Tobacco Industry to influence the youth to take up the habit."

The Health Department appealed to the people to stop using Tobacco to save the future of the country. The Department is offering Tobacco Cessation services in all its District Hospitals to help people quit.

## Ramban observes World No Tobacco Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 31

'World No Tobacco Day' was observed across the district Ramban under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, to sensitize people, especially youth, about the dangers of tobacco use.

Awareness events on World No Tobacco Day were held in the health and educational institutions, focusing on this year's theme of "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference."

At CHC Batote, detailed lectures were delivered by BMO Dr. Opinder Singh, Medical Officer, Dr. Puneet Singh, Dr. Neha Mahajan and Health Educator Yasir Ullah on the tobacco industry's new tactics to attract children. They spread awareness about the ill effects of tobacco and urged the audience to disseminate this information further. Individu-



als addicted to smoking were encouraged to quit, with assurances from the doctors to support them in their journey to quit smoking.

The observance of World No Tobacco Day in Ramban was an effort towards educating the public and protecting

future generations from the harms of tobacco.

Additionally, children from IDPS led a huge rally through the main Gool market, spreading awareness about the dangers of tobacco. Their efforts were applauded as they promoted a healthier, smoke-free community.

Akhnoor road mishap  
Indian Red Cross Society team meet injured persons

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

In a swift response to the road accident at Tungi Morh area of Akhnoor, General Secretary IRCS-J&K Rohit Khajuria leading a team of Red Cross Staff visited GMC&H Jammu to inquire about the condition of injured persons.

Rohit Khajuria expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives in the incident. "We as an organisation are deeply committed to helping our fellow citizens in times of disas-

ter. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that all essential relief materials reach those in dire need without delay. We will continue to support the rehabilitation of the affected families and work closely with local authorities to enhance our disaster preparedness efforts," he said.

Further, Rohit Khajuria said that directions have been issued to the concerned quarters to provide immediate relief and assistance to the victims.

## Youth Rally organised to commemorate 'World No Tobacco Day' at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MAY 31

On the occasion of 'World No Tobacco Day,' a youth rally was on Friday organised in Ganderbal to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and to promote a tobacco-free society under NCD Programme Division.

The event was a collaborative effort led by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ganderbal, in partnership with the Department of School Education, District Administration and Police Department.

The rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal and culminated at the SSP Office Ganderbal.

The event was flagged off by SP Headquarters Ganderbal, Gh Hassan, who emphasized the critical importance of youth participation in health



awareness campaigns and the fight against tobacco use.

More than 700 enthusiastic students from various schools and Health Professionals, Police Personnel participated in the rally, carrying banners and placards with messages highlighting the harmful effects of tobacco.

The rally aimed to educate the young generation about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption and to

encourage them to adopt a healthy, tobacco-free lifestyle.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Medical Officer highlighted the theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day, which focuses on protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from using tobacco and nicotine products. She stressed the role of education and community engagement in achieving a tobacco-

free future.

Representatives from the Department of School Education and the Police Department also spoke on the occasion, underscoring their commitment to supporting such initiatives that foster a healthier environment for the community.

They lauded the students for their active participation and urged them to continue spreading awareness about the ill effects of tobacco use among their peers and families.

The rally received widespread appreciation from the local community, who acknowledged the efforts of the organisers and participants in promoting public health. The event concluded with a pledge by all attendees to abstain from tobacco and to work towards creating a healthier, smoke-free society.

## Principal District Sessions Judge Samba chairs Coordination Committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MAY 31

In terms of the Order No. 520 of 2021/RG dated 14.07.2021 of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, a Coordination Committee Meeting under the guidance of Adnan Sayeed, Chairman of Coordination Committee, (Principal District & Sessions Judge Samba) was convened in District Court Samba District today in the Office Chamber of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Samba.

The meeting was chaired by Adnan Sayeed, Chairman, Coordination Committee (Principal District and Sessions Judge Samba) to discuss the issues concerning ways and means for effective, efficient and timely rendering of justice to the litigants.

The main objective of convening the meeting in



District Samba was to discuss the agenda pertaining to infrastructural and security issues faced by the Judicial Institution in Samba District, and ways and means of developing and improving it.

The agenda taken up in the previous coordination meeting was resolved in the meeting and new agenda were taken up to be resolved before the next coordination meeting. The meeting was attended by all the stakeholders including Secretary Coordination Committee Preet Simran K. Grover (CJM Samba);

Vinay Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba; Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba Kuldeep Bhat; Public Prosecutor, Incharge Prosecution wing, Samba, besides other co-opted members including Executive Engineer PWD, JE PDD Samba, Deputy CMO Samba, CEO Municipal Committee Samba, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee, Forest officer, joined the meeting physically, while Superintendent Central Jail Kothhalwal and Superintendent District Jail Kathua, joined the meeting through virtual mode.

## E-Challan drive conducted on NH-244 at Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 31

To promote road safety and enforce traffic regulations, an e-challan drive was today conducted on NH-244 Doda-Kishtwar Highway at Doda under the supervision of ARTO Rajesh Gupta.

The focused operation targeted violations including over-speeding, overloading, with a primary emphasis on ensuring compliance with speed limit devices. The team of officials comprising Motor Vehicle Inspectors C.M Sharma and Robin Parihar, along with Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspector Nitin Manhas executed 46 e-challans. The expected fine to be realized from the e-challans amounts to Rs 1.19 Lakh.

## Educationists' role essential in achieving tobacco free society: Justice Tashi

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

Commemorating the World No Tobacco Day, the J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, Bilaliya Educational Institute, Srinagar, Nageen Lake Conservation organization, Kashmir Concern, Agri Industries Vikas Chamber and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on "World No Tobacco Day".

The event, held at the main Auditorium of Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, witnessed participation of various dignitaries, educators, students and volunteers.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior most Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, was the chief guest on the occasion. He underscored the importance of today's event held collectively by the legal and educational bodies, who joined hands in intensifying the fight against growing menace of tobacco use particularly among the young genera-



tion. Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, also played a key role in organizing this event who joined virtually displaying his resolve in raising voice against this menace.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi highlighted the need for raising awareness among the younger generation about the ill effects of tobacco and tobacco products.

He emphasized the role of parents and teachers in this endeavor, noting that "tobacco is the first step towards substance abuse" and stressed the importance of keeping students away from such harmful practices. He further stated that in order to achieve tobacco free society concerted efforts by educationists is need of the hour.

Adding to the day's activities, a painting com-

petition on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" saw enthusiastic participation of students, highlighting their creativity and commitment to the cause. Additionally, a rally led by students, was flagged off by Justice Tashi, resonating through the area, amplifying their collective voice against tobacco consumption.

The event featured presentations by Dr. Tawseef Ahmad, Chairman Kashmir Concern, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo, Chairman, Bilaliya Educational Institute and Advocate Syed Mujtaba, Child Rights Activist, who shed light on the severe health consequences and societal impact of tobacco consumption, reinforcing the message that preventive education is critical.

The event also featured dynamic performances by students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute, who creatively showcased the ill effects of smoking and tobacco use through engaging skit and presentations. These performances were not only educational but also left a lasting impression on their peers and the wider community.

The programme witnessed active participation of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, Yasmeen Jan, Secretary to Justice Tashi Rabstan, Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shakeel Ahmad Dar, Chairman Crescent Public School, Manoj Gupta, Chairman of Agri Industries Vikas Chamber, Advocate Syed Mujtaba, Child Rights Activists and Dr Tariq Ahmad Dean Academics Crescent Public School, Srinagar. The faculty members, staff, paralegal volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, volunteers of Kashmir Concern, and students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute were also present, reflecting a broad-based community commitment towards the cause.

As the programme concluded, it left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all participants, reaffirming their collective resolve to fight tobacco use and protect future generations from its harmful effects.

The programme proceedings were conducted by Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar.

## Kathua FC lifts trophy by defeating Anantnag FC



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAY 31

The highly anticipated First Edition of the two-day Inter-District UT Level Futsal Tournament, organized by the District Administration Kishtwar led by Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav, in collaboration with the District Youth Services & Sports Office (DYSSO) Kishtwar, concluded successfully the other day here at the Futsal Astro Turf of Government Degree College (GDC).

As many as 10 teams from Kathua, Udhampur, Jammu, Doda, Anantnag, Srinagar, and Kishtwar districts participated in

the tournament. The tournament was sponsored by Rattle Hydro Power Corporation (RHPC).

The concluding ceremony was graced by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav and SSP Abdul Qayoom. Other notable attendees included DIO Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, DYSSO Jafer Husain Sheikh, Convener of the Futsal Tournament Bharti Sehrawat, staff of the DYSSO office, team players and numerous Futsal enthusiasts.

The tournament's final match featured an exhilarating contest between Kathua FC and Anantnag FC, with Kathua FC securing a decisive 7-3 victory.

During the felicitation ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with SSP Abdul Qayoom and other officials, presented the trophies and prize money to the teams. The winning team, Kathua FC, received a prize of Rs 25,000, while the runner-up, Anantnag FC, was awarded Rs 12,000 in addition to trophies. In his address, Dr. Yadav congratulated all the teams and organisers for making the league a grand success. He emphasised the unique advantage with pleasant climate Kishtwar offers for hosting National football tournaments in summers.



## DDMA organises 03 Days Capacity Building Disaster Preparedness programme at Gurez

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MAY 31

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Bandipora in collaboration with Sub Divisional Administration Gurez, SDRF, F&ES, and Education Department organised three days Capacity Building Disaster preparedness programme in Gurez Sub Division of Bandipora.

The programme commenced on Thursday with 'Community Based Disaster Awareness Programmes' at Govt. Degree College Dawar and Boys Higher Secondary School Dawar.

The programme was aimed to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and build community capacity for effective response.

During the event, elaborate demonstrations



were conducted to impart practical knowledge to the participants which included disaster management, common regional disasters, preparedness measures, emergency response, first aid, rescue techniques, and community-based risk reduction initiatives.

Resource persons delivered lectures and interactive sessions besides edu-

cational materials were provided to participants.

The programme sought to empower the local community, especially the younger generation, with essential knowledge and skills to mitigate disaster impacts and enhance resilience.

On day two today Community Based Disaster Awareness Programmes were conducted at Govt.

Higher Secondary Schools in Dawar and Izmarg, Gurez.

The awareness programmes served as a powerful platform to equip the young generation with essential knowledge and necessary skills regarding disaster management besides promoting preparedness and resilience within the local community.

## World No Tobacco Day

## Indira Gandhi Government Dental College organizes series of awareness activities

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu has been organising extensive activities to mark the observance of World No Tobacco Day under the guidance of the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Akhter Lone.

The event, aimed at increasing awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco, aligns with this year's theme "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference."

Following the guidelines of the Dental Council of India (DCI), the Department of Public Health Dentistry headed by Dr. Iqbal Singh along with the team comprising Dr. Anu Gandral, Dr. Amita Pariharand Dr. Manisha Koul conducted a series of month-long anti-tobacco awareness activities.

These included targeted school-based sessions



across various schools like International Delhi Public School, Army Public School Miran Sahib and Jammu Sanskriti School, to educate students about the dangers of tobacco use. Anti-tobacco awareness camp was specifically organized for the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel at Bantalab.

A pledge ceremony was held in line with DCI guidelines to commemorate World No Tobacco Day. Through this, the

participants committed to a tobacco-free life, reinforcing the endeavours to promote anti-tobacco awareness. To broaden the impact, additional anti-tobacco awareness sessions were conducted at various public locations such as malls and Bus-stand in Jammu. This initiative sought to engage the general public and increase widespread awareness of the risks associated with tobacco use.

The IGGDC has proudly

operated a Tobacco Cessation Centre since 2017. This centre provides ongoing support and counselling to patients visiting the OPD who report tobacco use, educating them on the severe consequences of tobacco on both oral and general health. This year, felicitation of four patients, who have reportedly quit tobacco after counselling done by the Department of Public Health Dentistry, was also done.

The Department of Public Health Dentistry leveraged the power of social media to engage a broader audience and amplify its anti-tobacco message by organising Instagram Reel Competition. This competition aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and promoting a tobacco-free life which garnered an impressive 32,000 views reflecting mass anti-tobacco awareness.

## Awareness Programme on World No Tobacco Day held at Kathua



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MAY 31

An awareness programme marking World No Tobacco Day 2024, under the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," was organized here today at the office of Chief Medical Officer Kathua.

The event saw active participation from Jarad Pratik Anil (IAS Probationer), Head of Psychiatry Dr. Rajesh Chandel and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina, along with the entire staff of the CMO office.

The theme for this year's 'World No Tobacco Day' highlights the disturbing trend of the

tobacco industry targeting youth through pervasive social media and streaming platform campaigns. Such tactics are increasingly exposing young people to the appeal of tobacco products, posing significant threats to their health and well-being.

The programme commenced with an insightful awareness lecture delivered by the District Health Officer Kathua. Following the lecture, attendees collectively took a pledge to combat the influence of the tobacco industry on children. The event also featured the flagging off of an IEC Van, set to traverse key areas of the city, including all designated hotspots, to spread the

anti-tobacco message.

In conjunction with the awareness programme, a series of debates and a poster-making competition on the theme were organized at ANMT School Kathua. Students participated with great zeal, demonstrating their creativity and commitment to the cause.

The top performers were honored by CMO Kathua, and refreshments were provided to all participants. Engaging students in these activities was a strategic effort to ensure the anti-tobacco message is taken home and shared widely, encouraging them to abstain from all forms of tobacco.

## ADM Jammu discusses Civil Defence Plan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal chaired a meeting here today to discuss the Civil Defence Plan for the district. Officers from across all stakeholder departments attended the meeting. Each department was briefed about its role in case of any eventuality, including natural calamities.

Speaking at the meeting, Ansuya Jamwal emphasised the importance of preparation and general awareness about disaster management among the members of society. "We should foresee any and all prospective calamities and prepare beforehand," she said. She stressed the need for action plans to be prepared and shared among all stakeholders and underlined the importance of conducting



regular training and mock drills. Deputy Controller Civil Defence Jammu Anita Pawar, Dy SP provided valuable insights during the meeting. She highlighted the necessity of preparedness in case of disaster, which involves regular reviews of required measures, periodic mock exercises to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and a clear understanding of the risks involved. She emphasised the need for simple, well-documented plans with specific objectives, defined duties and iden-

tified escape routes and shelters. She also called for training different functionaries and effective public awareness campaigns to ensure plans reach the lowest levels.

The meeting served as a foundational gathering among different departments to prepare a future roadmap for civil defence.

The meeting was attended by the Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Superintending Engineers of PWD, ARTO, District Social Welfare Officer and other stakeholders.

## TLSC Bijbehara organises public awareness programme on 'No Tobacco Day'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, MAY 31

The Tehsil Legal Service Committee (TLSC) Bijbehara under the auspices of District Legal Services Authority Anantnag today organised a public awareness programme on the topic 'No Tobacco Day' at Public School English Medium Bijbehara.

The programme was attended by Jaffer Hussain Beg, Principal District & Sessions Judge Anantnag (Chairman DLSA Anantnag) as the chief Guest.

Tabassum Qadir Secretary DLSA Anantnag, Muzamil Ahmad Wani Chairman TLSC (Sub-Judge) Bijbehara, Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer S.D.M. Bijbehara, Asif I/C S.D.P.O Bijbehara, Rukhsana Assistant Public Prosecutor Bijbehara, President Bar Association Bijbehara, Secretary Bar Association Bijbehara and other advocates of bar association Bijbehara, besides Principal, Teachers and students of Public School English Medium Bijbehara participated in the programme.

The Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag delivered



a special address in the inaugural session of the programme. He administered a pledge to the students of no smoking.

A skit was performed relating to the topic by the students in presence of the chief guest and received appreciation and applause from the audience. Besides this, a book titled 'Echoes of the Soul', a collection of poems, authored by a 9th class student of the school namely Iram Nazir, was presented to the guests and received warm praise and appreciation from the chief guest who honoured the author/poet with cash prize in the event.

Students were advised to follow excellence by

nourishing their talent. The learned chief guest also appreciated the arrangements made by the school authorities for hosting the event and presented a portrait of Pre-ambles of the Constitution to the school through its principal.

The working session was addressed by Sub-Judge Bijbehara, Muzamil Wani, who highlighted the role of reason in human development and stressed that all addictions compromise human reason which is the zenith of human attributes.

S.D.M. Bijbehara in his address wished the students a bright future and highlighted practical prob-

lems of smoking. S.D.P.O Bijbehara & President Bar Association Bijbehara also delivered their addresses on the topic.

Secretary DLSA Anantnag concluded the programme while highlighting the importance and role of legal services authorities in spreading awareness in school and colleges as part of the initiatives on justice. She stated that justice would not be possible until all voiceless have voice and proper representation and fair access to justice.

Students on the occasion also performed various activities including speeches and debates relating to the topic.

## DC conducts extensive tour of Dudu, Basantgarh Sub-Divisions

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 31

To assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and mega projects, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today conducted an extensive tour of the remote areas of Dudu and Basantgarh. The inspection covered works under PMGSY, PWD, JJM and other sectors.

The DC was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, SDM Dudu Dr. Manmeet Kumar, SDM Basantgarh, Chief Education Officer Geetu Bangotra, and other officers from relevant departments.

During the inspection of road projects and other developmental works, the DC emphasized timeline completion with use of quality material.

The executing agencies were instructed to mobilize resources effectively



and complete the ongoing projects within the stipulated timeframe.

Later, the DC visited Government Higher Secondary School Basantgarh, where she flagged off an awareness rally to mark World No Tobacco Day.

Addressing the participants, she highlighted the significance of the day in spreading awareness about the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use. The DC pointed out that tobacco use not only

harms people's health but also causes emotional, physical, and financial distress to their families. She stressed the importance of willpower, determination, and counseling for quitting tobacco use. Additionally, she discussed the effects of passive smoking and suggested various ways to control it while addressing the students. The DC urged the students to actively disseminate this information among the general public.

## Baramulla observes 'World No Tobacco Day' with Student Rally

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MAY 31

In observance of 'World No Tobacco Day', a spirited rally involving students, organized by the District Administration Baramulla was today flagged-off by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

The rally commenced at the Girls Higher Secondary School and concluded at the Boys Higher Secondary School, Baramulla.

Students enthusiastically participated in the event, carrying banners and placards adorned with powerful anti-tobacco slogans. The rally aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to encourage the community to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Addressing the participants, the DC emphasized the importance of educating youth about the harmful effects of tobacco. Our aim is to create a tobacco-free generation. Today's rally is a testament to the commitment of our young people and the community to fight against tobacco use, he said.

The event was marked by the active involvement of local schools and community members, reflecting a strong united front against tobacco. Various activities, including skits and speeches, were also organized to further highlight the detrimental impact of tobacco on health and the environment.

'World No Tobacco Day' serves as a global call to action, and Baramulla's initiative is a significant step towards a healthier future. The administration, along with educational institutions and the health department, remains dedicated to continuing such awareness campaigns and ensuring a tobacco-free society.

## Valedictory event marks end of special Educational program in Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 31

A vibrant Valedictory function was held today in Town Hall Doda, marking the end of the special series of educational activities conducted by Gujarat based Vishwagram Trust in schools across the district. Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh was the chief guest.

The activities held in schools included cultural events, painting competitions, debates, and other educational engagements.

The final mega event featured a cultural program by the Vishwagram Trust volunteers, which included a display of the traditional Indian charkha.

The event was attended by CPO Manesh Kumar; CEO P.L. Thapa; Executive Officer Amit Kumar Sharma; besides teachers and students. The enthusiastic participation and support from the community underscored the success of the event and its impact on promoting educational and cultural activities in the region.



## Two boys from Doda drown, bodies retrieved after 62 hrs

Saroori asks administration to constitute a team of expert scuba divers for Chenab Valley

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAY 31

Two youths were drowned in two separate tragedies in two separate incidents in Doda District of Kishtwar region, Chenab, which caused mourning in the area.

Following the incident, the body of the missing youth from Doda was recovered during a 62-hour joint rescue operation by divers, JKSDRF and Ababeel volunteers. In another tragic incident, Muhammad Usman Wani (23), a resident of Tandla village, drowned while taking a bath in Jhajjar Kotli (Katra).

Vice Chairman of Democratic Progressive Azad Party and former minister Ghulam Muhammad Saroori described these incidents as tragic. The district administration, while appreciating the volunteers of JKSDRF and Ababeel, involved in the long operation to recover the dead body, has requested the district administration to form a team of expert divers in the Chenab region to save precious lives in such trag-



edies. In the event, the search for bodies could be effective.

According to the sources, Faizan Ahmed, son of Ghulam Haider, resident of Udhampur, a helper working in 850 MW Ratley Power Project Darabshala in Kishtwar District, died after his vehicle overturned in the river, after which Deep Divers, JKSDRF and Ababeel volunteers but unfortunately his body was recovered after 62 hours of searching.

Meanwhile, the DPAP Vice Chairman Ghulam Mohammad Saroori termed this rescue operation commendable and thanked the local people, administration, company management, and Ababeel Volunteers for helping in fetching the body from the river.

A scuba diving person

was also brought from UP for this. Saroori has appealed to the district administration to make a team of scuba divers who are skilled in scuba diving to help in such incidents. GM Saroori expressed deep sorrow and solidarity with the bereaved family.

In another tragic incident, Muhammad Usman Wani aged 23 years resident of Tandla village drowned while bathing in Jhajjar Kotli (Katra). Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, he expressed his condolences to the bereaved family. He advised the people, especially the youth, to be careful while bathing in the rivers and streams in summer and avoid going into dangerous water and urged LG administration to release compensation in favour of the deceased's family.

## 'Crazy to me': Rohit & Najmul marvel in New York stadium magic

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, MAY 31

Ahead of India and Bangladesh's June 1 warm-up meeting at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Rohit Sharma and Najmul Hossain Shanto have taken in the sights of the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

June 3 will be the ground's true day of destiny when it hosts its first match in the tournament proper, though cricket fans' eyes will be transfixed on June 1 when the New York ground plays host to two heavyweights putting in some final work ahead of their respective campaigns. Coming off a scratchy series defeat to the USA, Shanto's side will be desperate to put the pieces of a winning plan together, while it's a vital, sole warm-up hitout for an India side yearning to lift the T20 World Cup trophy on June 29.

There's a surreal feeling seeing the two star skippers of international cricket spin around in surprise at the new facility - one started and finished in just three months - set to play a starring role in hosting the biggest T20 World Cup ever staged.



Having only seen the facility through photos and various time lapses in the build-up, Shanto was floored seeing the stadium in person, an ICC report said.

"It's unbelievable. I think it's crazy," Shanto began.

"I mean we all saw on the internet there was nothing (three months ago). Now it looks like a proper stadium and feels great," he said.

"The Eastern grandstand in particular, I didn't expect it to be like this. I think it's almost a proper stadium. The ground itself looks very good. It's a proper cricket ground," Shanto said.

"To be very honest I wasn't expecting anything like this but we all followed on social media how the ground would be, and we

are very excited as to what is going to happen here," he said.

"It feels very good and looks crazy to me," Shanto added.

Seating up to 34,000 people, temporary stands designed by Populous were raced up, with turf brought in from LandTek Group, an organisation boasting successful projects with both New York Major League Baseball teams and the Inter Miami Major League Soccer team.

The drop-in turf square meanwhile was curated in Florida by Adelaide Oval Turf Solutions and head curator Damian Hough, driven on a 20-hour trip in several pieces before being moved into the centre.

Looking around at the stands and peering towards the centre square, a relaxed

Rohit Sharma saluted those who pieced together the bold project.

"It looks beautiful. It's quite an open ground. When we come here and play our first game, I just can't wait to feel the atmosphere in the stadium," the India captain said.

"It's a decent capacity as well. Hopefully it's gonna be a good one," he said.

While enjoying a moment to take in the scenery, India must hit the ground running in the warm-up, with their first group game at the same venue on June 8 against Ireland.

"We're looking to understand the conditions more importantly (before the tournament proper) as we haven't been here before," Rohit continued.

"We will try and make the most of the conditions, get used to what it's going to be like on June 5 when we play our first game. It's just about getting into that rhythm of getting the feel of the ground, pitch and stuff like that," he said.

"People in New York will be very interested in coming and watching the World Cup, with the World Cup happening for the first time here," Rohit said.

Global Boxing Series to be held in Mumbai on Jun 1

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, MAY 31

Boxing fans in India will witness the electrifying atmosphere and high-octane tussles between professional boxers at the inaugural Global Boxing Series which will be held at the Jade Garden Banquets here in Worli on June 1.

The first-ever pro-boxing fight series being promoted by Devraj Das, Founder of Marine Pro Boxing Promotions, and one of India's most famous radio jockeys, host and actor Salil Acharya, aims to provide a platform for Indian professional boxers to not just showcase their skills during an exhilarating night of pro-boxing but also create a pathway for them to make a career on the international stage.

The Global Boxing Series will be shown live on premier Sports OTT platform, Disney Hotstar in 4K Ultra HD.

Das, who has worked closely with multiple global pro boxing entities in South East Asia as well in various capacities with the International Boxing Association. He has also been one of the original promoters of professional boxings in India and has been actively supporting pro-boxers, is excited

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Final phase of Lok Sabha...

upon voters to turn out in greater numbers and vote with responsibility and pride. The turnout in the first six phases was 66.14 per cent, 66.71, 65.68, 69.16, 62.2 and 63.36 per cent respectively.

The campaigning for the last phase which ended Thursday evening saw BJP leaders led by Modi accusing the Congress and the INDIA alliance of being corrupt, anti-Hindu and engaging in loot, appeasement and dynastic politics.

The Opposition parties have been claiming that the BJP is anti-farmer, anti-youth and will change and scrap the Constitution if they win the elections.

On Thursday evening, Modi headed to Kanyakumari where he is meditating till June 1 at the site associated with Swami Vivekananda. Modi had 206 public outreach programmes, including rallies and roadshows, since the Election Commission announced the Lok Sabha election schedule on March 16.

The parliamentary seats where polling will take place in Uttar Pradesh are Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Bangaon (SC), Ghosi, Salempur, Ballia, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Robertsganj (SC), spread across 11 districts.

Uttar Pradesh is seeing a direct contest between the BJP-led NDA and the coalition of INDIA bloc members Samajwadi Party and Congress.

From Chandauli, Maharajganj and Mirzapur, Union ministers Mahendra Nath Pandey, Pankaj Chaudhary and Anupriya Patel respectively are contesting. Late Mukhtar Ansari's brother Afzal Ansari is in the fray from Ghazipur and former prime minister Chandrashekhar's son Neeraj Shekhar is contesting from Ballia.

In Varanasi, those contesting against Modi are Ajay Rai (Congress), Ather Jamal Lari (BSP), Kolisetty Shiva Kumar (Yuga Thulasi Party), Gagan Prakash Yadav, (Apna Dal, Kameravadi), and independents Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Sanjay Kumar Tiwari.

The polls in South Bengal, a traditional TMC stronghold, will test the party's dominance amid an 'old versus new' power struggle, with the national spotlight on Sandeshkhali in Basirhat due to allegations of atrocities on women and land grabs.

The seventh phase will cover Dum Dum, Barasat, Basirhat, Jayanagar, Mathurapur, Diamond Harbour, Jadavpur, Kolkata Dakshin, and Kolkata Uttar, where the TMC secured victories in the 2019 elections.

TMC heavyweight Abhishek Banerjee, considered the party's de facto number two, is contesting from Diamond Harbour. Banerjee's performance in this seat, which the TMC touts as a 'model constituency', will be closely watched as the opposition attempts to paint it as a 'laboratory of violence'. The two-time MP faces CPI (M)'s Pratikur Rahaman and BJP's Abhijit Das in a three-way contest.

The minority-dominated Basirhat Lok Sabha seat, and specifically the Sandeshkhali segment, is a microcosm of the broader electoral battle as it garnered national attention due to allegations of atrocities on women and land grabs by local TMC leaders.

The BJP has capitalised on these issues by nominating Rekha Patra, a prominent local protestor, against TMC veteran Haji Nurul Islam. The CPI (M) has fielded former MLA Nirapada Sardar, making this a three-cornered contest.

In Punjab, prominent candidates in the fray are four-time MP Preeten Kaur, former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, three-time MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Ravneet Singh Bittu.

The BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal are contesting the polls on their own for the first time since 1996 while two INDIA bloc parties - the Congress and AAP - have fielded their own candidates.

The prestige of Ranaut and Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh Singh, the heir of the erstwhile Rampur royal family and son of six-time former chief

minister Virbhadra Singh, is at stake in Mandi.

Stakes are also high for Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Thakur, who is seeking a fifth term from Hamirpur, and former Union minister Anand Sharma, who is the Congress candidate from the Kangra Lok Sabha constituency, while for Sukhu, the six assembly bypolls are for survival and stability of his 17-month-old government.

In Bihar, Union minister RK Singh is aiming at a hat-trick from Arrah, where his principal challenger is Sudama Prasad, a sitting MLA of the CPI(M) Liberation.

In Patna Sahib, veteran BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad is aiming at a second consecutive Lok Sabha term. His principal challenger is Congress spokesman Anshul Avijit, son of former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and grandson of Jagjivan Ram.

In Pataliputra, Misa Bharti is trying her luck for the third time. BJP MP Ram Kripal Yadav is aiming at a hat-trick.

Karakat is witnessing a multi-cornered fight which is being most talked about because of Bhojpuri superstar Pawan Singh, who is contesting as an Independent. Singh entered the fray after having earlier turned down a BJP ticket from Asansol in West Bengal. The move has led to his expulsion from the party.

Upendra Kushwaha, a former Union minister who heads the Rashtriya Lok Morcha, had won the seat in 2014 but lost it five years later upon quitting NDA. He is hopeful of wresting the seat back following return to the BJP-led coalition. The CPI(M), which has a strong presence in the area, has fielded Raja Ram Kushwaha, a former MLA and farmer leader. The pitch has been queried further with the AIMIM fielding Priyanka Chaudhary, a Zila Parishad member. (PTI)

### PM Modi meditates...

election campaign events, including rallies and roadshows, in 75 days. He also did around 80 interviews with different news and media platforms.

The Prime Minister is known to undertake spiritual journeys at the end of election campaigns. In 2019, he visited Kedarnath, and in 2014, he visited Shivaji's Pratapgarh.

The election for 543 Lok Sabha seats is being held in seven phases starting April 19. The counting of the votes will be held on June 4. (Agencies)

### Six transport department...

are attached in the office of Transport Commissioner, Jammu," Kumar said in an order.

The suspended officials are Ranjeev Bhasin (motor vehicle inspector), Sumit Magotra (junior assistant) and multi-tasking staff (MTS) members Ashwani Kumar, Aman Kumar, Keshav Singh and Rakesh Kumar.

An inquiry into the conduct and performance of the suspended officials will be led by Additional Secretary (Technical) Paramvir Singh, who will submit a report with recommendations within a week, Kumar said.

The officials have been attached to the transport commissioner's office in Jammu, pending the outcome of the enquiry.

The Jammu district magistrate has already initiated a magisterial inquiry into the incident and the report is expected within seven days.

The district administration is closely monitoring the treatment of those injured in the accident, besides communicating with authorities in the passengers' home regions of Hathras and Aligarh and in Uttar Pradesh.

Deputy Commissioner of Jammu Sachin Kumar said the treatment of the injured is going on at the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital.

The Jammu administration announced on Thursday that it has set up a 24-hour helpline to provide information and assistance to the relatives of the victims.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to those injured.

According to some injured passengers, the accident occurred when the driver was negotiating a blind curve and a speeding car was approaching from the opposite direction. However, some passengers have blamed the driver for overloading the vehicle.

The accident is the deadliest in the region since a similar one on November 15, 2023 in Doda district, where a bus skidded off the road and fell into a 300-foot gorge, killing 39 people and injuring 19.

### Dulloo visits GMC...

incidents are avoided in future.

After preliminary investigations, the Administration had suspended 6 officials of the transport Department for dereliction of duty.

Pertinent to mention here that a bus carrying pilgrims to Shiv Khori Shrine met an accident here in Akhnour area killing 22 passengers and injuring many others.

The local administration immediately came into action and carried out rescue operation. All the bodies were recovered and injured were taken to GMC Jammu for treatment.

### LS is all set to...

systems and making CGHS medical posts functional 24x7 have been put in place for the members.

As many as 20 digital registration counters with as many computers, 10 each in Banquet Hall and Private Dining Room (PDR), have been set up in the Parliament House Annexe. These counters have been set up for the end-to-end registration process, the Secretariat said.

A waiting area has been provided for family members and guests of the MPs at the Banquet Hall in the Extension to Parliament House Annexe, it said.

A total of 70 Officers have been trained to man the registration Counter in shifts. The Liaison Officers have also been imparted training to make data entry through the Tabs while the MPs are waiting in the designated waiting area.

A team has been assigned the task of keeping a close tab on the Election Commission website on the day of the declaration of results and entering the contact details of successful candidates in near real-time.

Accommodation desks have been set up at Parliament House Complex to allot transit accommodation to the newly elected Members. The services of the accommodation desk will be available 24x7. Transport facilities will also be available at Airports and Railway Stations for ferrying members, the statement said.

CGHS Medical posts will function on 24x7 basis in North Avenue and South Avenue and near Western Court Annexe at Telegraph lane to extend Medical facilities to the Members. In addition, Ambulance services will also be available 24x7. In case of any medical emergency the nearby hospitals have also been sensitized.

### Jammu's 13-year-old...

obtained by the news agency, Arshiya's performance began with an eerie silence, setting a tense atmosphere that captivated everyone in the auditorium. As she appeared on the stage with her horror makeup, she moved with an intensity and precision that left the judges and audience visibly startled. Her routine, a blend of contemporary dance and horror elements, showcased her exceptional skills and creativity.

The judges, including Simon Cowell and Heidi Klum, were left in awe. Klum praised Arshiya's originality and execution, saying, "When you said you were going to leave and come back with a change, I thought you would

return in a pretty dress, but what I saw was something else entirely."

Another judge, Simon, added, "I thought you were going to come back and do something like Disney or something sweet, but you left us blank, which was unexpected and brilliant at the same time."

Meanwhile, the judges continued to express their admiration, saying that she was amazing, her makeup and the act were fantastic. She received good comments from all the judges and was selected for the next round.

Speaking to KNO over the phone, her father Anil Sharma said it was a proud moment for him as being her father. "My daughter has participated at the state and national levels, and it was her first international appearance," he said, adding that Arshiya went for America in March. The episode of her was aired on May 28.

### Srinagar records...

to generally cloudy for the next two days with possibility of light rain, thunder at isolated places with gusty winds at few places.

He further stated that the weather would remain generally dry on June 03 and June 04, adding that generally cloudy with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thunder is expected at many places with gusty winds at few places from June 05-07

Ahmad also informed that as per the present forecast, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected on June 08 and June 09.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has stated that generally hot & dry weather with heat wave over plains of Jammu during June 02-04 is expected.

No heat wave over Kashmir during next 9 days, the advisory reads.

### J&K ranks 6th in...

collected from violators for smoking in public places in the Kashmir division. These efforts have resulted in hundreds of people quitting smoking, with thousands receiving counselling and pharmacotherapy sessions," he said.

"Awareness programs are being conducted to inform people about the ill effects of tobacco. If we can make people conscious of the dangers, enforcement will not be as necessary," the Nodal Officer said, adding, "Various awareness initiatives have already been launched to educate the public about the hazards of tobacco use, and officials have been instructed to carry out regular enforcement drives for the implementation of COTPA-2003."

According to officials, smokers and tobacco users are 2.5 times more likely to develop tuberculosis (TB). "Tobacco use raises the risk of TB, increases recurrence, and impairs treatment," they said while urging people to quit tobacco for a healthier future.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir has imposed a complete ban on the sale of loose cigarettes, loose bidis, and loose tobacco. All educational institutions and tourist destinations have been declared tobacco-free zones.

Tobacco is recognised as the leading cause of preventable deaths worldwide, killing over seven million people globally and more than one million in India annually. Lung cancer has emerged as the second most common cancer, and in recent decades, Kashmir has seen a rise in cases of lung and breast cancers.

Hospital-based data from the Kashmir Valley reveals a higher incidence of lung cancer among males, directly correlated to the duration and frequency of smoking. While quitting smoking reduces the risk of developing cancer, the risk does not disappear entirely, the officials said—(KNO)



## Affectionate Farewell Accorded to Joint Director Agriculture (Input) Jammu



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu bids a fond farewell to Sanjay Verma, Joint Director Agriculture (Input), who retired after an illustrious tenure spanning over three decades.

In a heartwarming ceremony, the staff and officers of the Directorate came together to express their gratitude and appreciation to Sanjay Verma for his dedicated services.

Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Arvinder Singh Reen, along with sectoral officers and departmental staff, extended their warm wishes to the retiree for a prosperous post-retirement life.

Sanjay Verma was commended for his invaluable contributions to the welfare of the farming community, his unwavering commitment, and exemplary dedication to his duty. Reflecting on his jour-

ney, the retiring officer shared insightful experiences garnered over the years, leaving an indelible mark on the department and its endeavors.

Beyond the confines of Jammu, colleagues from several districts joined in conveying their heartfelt regards and best wishes to the retiring officer. A memento was presented to Sanjay Verma by the Department, symbolizing the profound respect and admiration for his service.

## World No Tobacco Day DEERS hosts Symposium, painting competition at GBHSS Sarwal



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

The Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Jammu celebrated World No Tobacco Day on the theme "Protecting Children from tobacco industry interference" at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Sarwal.

The event was organized to raise awareness about the importance of the day. During the event a symposium/painting competition was organised on the subject "Smoking free Environment in schools". A skit was presented by a group of students based on smoking among peer groups and its repercussions.

Ravinder Kumar Raina, Principal of the School joined the occasion and shared his success story, how he quit the habit of smoking after 20 big years.

Sajad Ahmad Khan, Environment Soil Conservationist, DEERS, praised the students for their eloquent speeches regarding dangers of tobacco use and emphasized that education is the only way that could play a pivotal role to save the children from this nuisance particularly, the age group of 13 to 15 years who are targeted easily. He also highlighted the consequences of tobacco consumption on health, economic and social well-being of society.

## DC inspects Government offices in Udhampur Town



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 31

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai paid a surprise visit to several government offices in Udhampur town to inspect their functioning. The DC inspected the Tehsil and other government offices to check attendance, working and cleanliness in the offices and address any issues faced by the public. She directed the heads of concerned departments to ensure employee punctuality for better service delivery to the people.

Later, the DC inaugurated a new water cooler at the Tehsil office. She

also inspected different sections of the Tehsil office and emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean and orderly environment. Punctuality of the office staff was checked, with a stern reminder for everyone to adhere to official timings.

The Tehsildar was directed to conduct regular checks at Common Service Centers (CSCs) to prevent overcharging and ensure fair services for the public. Additionally, the TSO was instructed to streamline the process of ration card upgrades to ensure citizens do not face unnecessary delays or difficulties.

## DC Doda inaugurates Arm Wrestling competition

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 31

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh inaugurated an arm wrestling competition here today. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar, Manager Arm Wrestling, representatives from NGOs, enthusiastic arm wrestling teams and several other guests.

The event marked the commencement of the arm wrestling competition that drew participants and spectators from across the region.

DC Doda expressed gratitude to organiz-



ers and emphasized the importance of such events in nurturing talent and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle in the community.

The inauguration cer-

emony set the stage for an action-packed day of competition and excitement, with arm wrestling teams gearing up to showcase their strength and skill in this ancient sport.

## DC Doda inspects progress of work on Jodhpur Kendriya Vidyalaya School Building



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 31

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh visited the construction site for the new Kendriya Vidyalaya school building in Jodhpur (Doda) and inspected the progress of ongoing development works. The inspection included a thorough review of the construction of residential quarters, boundary wall, underground tanks, retaining walls, connecting roads with breast wall and surface drain, as well as the E&M works being executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) of the Government of India.

During the visit, the DC, as the chairman VMC, chaired a meeting of the Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC). The agenda of the meeting included administrative approval of budget VVN+SF for the session 2024-25, construction of a permanent building, expansion of the Vidyalaya, academic status, establishment of a kabaddi court at the temporary

building, demand sanction of staff strength, new admission cases, requirement of water supply and electricity for the new building, white wash of the temporary building, sports achievements, and hard station.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders including the Principal of KV, eminent cultural personalities, representatives of local PWD, co-opted members from the community, representatives of SC/ST communities, central government employees, eminent educationists, doctors, teacher members, parents, and representatives from the construction agency.

The DC Doda expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the construction site and emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project for the benefit of the students and the community. The meeting also provided a platform for constructive discussions and decisions regarding the future development and academic status of the Kendriya Vidyalaya school in Jodhpur Doda.

## DLSA Bandipora organizes Awareness programme on 'Anti Tobacco Day'

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MAY 31

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal today organized an awareness programme on Anti Tobacco Day at Govt Higher Secondary School Hajin Bandipora.

The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Amit Sharma, Chairman District Legal Services Authority/ Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora and guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bandipora and under the supervision

of Bazila Bashir, Chairman TLSC Sumbal.

On the occasion, Advocate Abid Hussain Malla, Advocate Irshad Ahmad Dar and Advocate Tasleema Jan Panel Lawyers of TLSC Sumbal delivered lectures on the topic. They said the aim of the day is to raise awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure.

They highlighted the theme of Anti Tobacco Day 2024 which is 'Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference.' They also discussed the relevant laws and legislations that help to curb smoking menace and about Drug addiction

## DEO Samba holds De-briefing Session with Officers

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, MAY 31

District Election Officer (DEO) Samba Abhishek Sharma today chaired a de-briefing session with district officers to review and discuss the collective experiences from the recent election process to identify areas for future improvement.

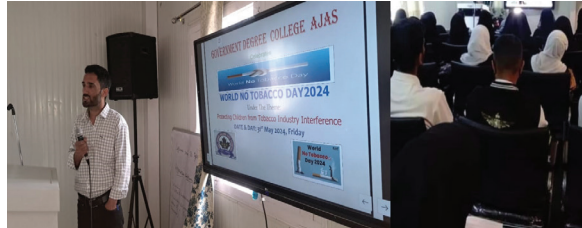
The session commenced with District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Mohammad Sayeed, welcoming all the attendees.

The DEO Sharma acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of SSP Samba, ADDC, ADC, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), the nodal officer, district officers, and sectoral officers for their active role during the Lok Sabha elections, highlighting the commendable voter turnout of 75.2%.

Senior officers shared their experiences and provided constructive feedback to enhance the efficiency for future elections.

In recognition of their hard work, all nodal officers, district officers, and sectoral officers were felicitated by the District Administration.

## GDC Ajas observes 'World No Tobacco Day'



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MAY 31

Govt. Degree College Ajas today observed 'World No Tobacco Day' with a series of enlightening and impactful events aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and promoting a healthier, tobacco-free lifestyle.

The event was attended by faculty, students, and staff members, all committed to the cause of reducing tobacco consumption.

On the occasion, principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Kouser recited a poem capturing the emotional and physical toll that tobacco takes on individuals and their loved ones. Her poem was both a call to action and a poignant reminder of the lives lost and affected by tobacco use.

Prof. (Dr.) Kouser also delivered a speech, in which she highlighted

the various strategies and policies needed to reduce tobacco consumption. She highlighted the importance of educational institutions in leading the charge against tobacco use, advocating for stronger enforcement of tobacco control laws and greater public awareness campaigns.

Her speech provided a comprehensive overview of the steps that can be taken at both individual and community levels to tackle the tobacco epidemic.

Earlier, the program commenced with introductory remarks by Dr. Aijaz, who emphasized the significance of 'World No Tobacco Day' and its role in highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ashaq Hussain, the Convenor of the Seminar and Debates Committee.

## World No Tobacco Day: DDAC Bandipora organises Awareness rally

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MAY 31

District Drug De-Addiction Centre (DDAC) Bandipora in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare Bandipora, Government Secondary School Bagh Bandipora and Implementing Agency JKSWM today organized an awareness rally at Bandipora under Community Peer Led Intervention (CPLI).

The rally aimed to emphasize the detrimental effects of tobacco and substance abuse on individuals' health and well-being commenced from DDAC and proceeded via Bagh Bandipora, Har-mukh Chowk and adjacent areas and finally concluded back at DDAC. Headmistress, GHS, Bagh Bandipora on the occasion said that World No Tobacco Day serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of tobacco and substance abuse. She emphasized collaborative initiatives to create a healthier and tobacco-free environment for all.

## ADC reviews parking issues at GMC Doda

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 31

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sudershan Kumar today conducted a significant visit to the Government Medical College Campus. The purpose of the visit was to review and assess the current parking situation and devise effective solutions to streamline traffic flow and improve parking.

The ADC was accompanied by Tehsildar Dr Subuh Ahmad Shad, DySP Traffic Shamsher Singh, DySP Headquarters Ajay Anand, and Executive Officer Amit Kumar Sharma.

Numerous challans were issued during the visit to deal with immediate traffic violations and ensure compliance with parking regulations.

The traffic officers issued guidelines regarding the management and smooth functioning of the parking system within the GMC premises.

The ADC directed the officers to ensure that the parking issues are resolved within the stipulated time. Additionally, tagging of GMC doctors' vehicles was recommended to facilitate proper parking and avoid any incorrect parking practices.

The traffic officers assured that every necessary step would be taken to maintain and improve the parking system at GMC Doda. This comprehensive approach aims to enhance traffic flow and ensure efficient use of the parking facilities, ultimately benefiting both staff and visitors.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan GDC Vijaypur organises pledge taking ceremony



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, MAY 31

As part of the series of events being organised under "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" a pledge taking ceremony on 'World No Tobacco Day 2024' was organised by Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Committee of the college.

Teaching staff, non-teaching staff, NSS volunteers and other college students participated in the activity with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. The activity was organised under the supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college. The event com-

menced with the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Kumar Bhagat, Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Committee. He emphasized upon the message of saying no to tobacco among the college students and the faculty as consuming tobacco leads to serious health issues. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Anita Jamwal, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Committee) and Prof. Ritu Bhagat. It was organized by Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Manoj Heer, Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, Prof. Meetu Sharma and Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo.



## EDITORIAL

## Heatwave turning lethal?

The tragic deaths of over 40 individuals due to suspected heatstroke underscore the lethal consequences of the ongoing heatwave in the country. With temperatures reaching unprecedented levels, including a questionable 52.9°C in Delhi, India is grappling with an environmental crisis of far-reaching impacts. The previous record of 51°C, set in Rajasthan's Phalodi in 2016, has been shattered, highlighting the severity of the current heatwave. The scorching reality extends across North India. Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan have seen alarming temperature spikes over the past week. In Jammu, the mercury has climbed to 45°C, making life unbearable for residents. At least 40 suspected heat-related deaths include 25 among staff deployed on Lok Sabha poll duty in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The heatwave has gripped a large swathe of the country, with officials reporting additional heat-related deaths from Odisha (10), Bihar (8), Jharkhand (4), and Uttar Pradesh (1) on Thursday alone. The soaring temperatures have also caused severe water scarcity in parts of the country, including Delhi and other parts of the country. Residents face continued acute shortages, with long queues of people struggling to secure enough water for their daily needs. The brutal weather has forced schools in the region to shut a few days ahead of the scheduled vacation and raised the risk of heatstroke for people working outdoors. This dire situation is compounded by a severe water crisis. As temperatures soar, the demand for water escalates, but the supply remains critically inadequate. The struggle against the heat is symptomatic of broader climatic shifts affecting urban India. Record-breaking temperatures, exacerbated by urban heat islands, highlight the urgent need for adaptive measures. Urban heat islands, where urban areas experience significantly higher temperatures than their rural surroundings, are driven by factors such as rampant concrete expansion and dwindling green spaces. Climate change is intensifying heatwaves across the globe, and urbanization without adequate planning for climate resilience has turned cities into furnaces. The frequency and severity of heatwaves will increase unless comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies are implemented. The tragic deaths across the country should serve as a wake-up call for sustained action to protect vulnerable populations from global warming. Governments at all levels must prioritize climate resilience in urban planning and development. This includes increasing green spaces, improving water management systems, and implementing early warning systems for extreme weather events. Immediate steps must be taken to mitigate the current crisis. Ensuring adequate water supply, providing cooling centers for vulnerable populations, and modifying working hours for outdoor laborers are essential measures. Long-term strategies should focus on enhancing urban infrastructure to withstand extreme heat and integrating climate adaptation into policy frameworks. The lethal heatwave across the country is a stark reminder of the urgent need to address the impacts of climate change. It is imperative to take comprehensive and sustained action to protect our communities and future generations from the escalating threat of global warming.

## RBI dividend aids Government finances

UTTAM GUPTA

In the amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act through the Finance Bill 2018-19 (the amendment was based on the recommendations of Dr N K Singh's committee mandated to review the FRBM Act (2003)), the Modi - the Government had pledged to achieve fiscal deficit or FD (excess of total expenditure over total receipts) of 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the FY 2020-21. Following the Corona pandemic that played havoc with the economy leading to plunging revenue and ballooning expenditure during 2020-21 and the resultant zooming of FD to 9.1 per cent, it changed this fiscal glide path. In her budget speech for FY 2021-22, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Government's decision to achieve FD of 4.5 per cent by FY 2025-26. From 9.1 percent during 2020-21, the FD descended to 6.7 percent during 2021-22; 6.4 percent during 2022-23 and 5.8 percent during 2023-24. For 2024-25, in the interim budget presented by her on February 1, 2024, she has set the target at 5.1 per cent. If the Government can achieve this target, then 4.5 per cent for 2025-26 should be within easy reach.

Against this backdrop, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come up with a bonanza for the Centre. The RBI Board has approved a record dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore to the Centre for its (read: RBI) FY 2023-24. This will be reflected in the accounts of the central Government for the FY 2024-25. This amount is 2.4 times the dividend transfer of about Rs 87,400 crore made by the RBI for its FY 2022-23 and available for use by the Centre during 2023-24. Even when compared to the provision of about Rs 80,000 crore made by Sitharaman in the interim budget for 2024-25, the dividend amount available from the RBI i.e. Rs 210,000 crore for use by the central Government during the year will be over two-and-a-half times. This gives a cushion of Rs 130,000 crore (210,000-80,000). This translates to about 0.4 per cent of the GDP. While this should give substantial leeway to the Government in managing its fiscal situation and ensuring easy compliance with the 5.1 per cent target, there is no room for complacency. First, it shouldn't forget that the new glide path of 4.5 per cent for 2025-26 is way behind the original FD target of 3 per cent for 2020-21 as per the FRBM (Amendment) Act 2018.

The Corona pandemic of 2020 was once in a lifetime event. Its impact was transitory and it won't be logical to use it as a basis for altering the medium-term fiscal trajectory. This is all the more when from 2021-22 onward, the economic situation was more or less back to normal. The Government ought to be aiming at an FD target of 3 per cent by 2025-26 and going by this benchmark, it has still a long way to go. Second, we need to assess things from the RBI perspective. Unlike a public sector bank (PSB) or any other public sector undertaking (PSU), the RBI is not a commercial enterprise hence, is not expected to pay any dividend. Instead, it is a "full service" central bank. Apart from managing the currency and payment systems and keeping inflation/prices in check, it is also mandated with managing the borrowings of the Union Government and State Governments; and supervising or regulating banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). While carrying out these functions or operations, it generates a surplus. Typically, the RBI's income comes from the returns it earns on its foreign currency assets (FCA) - which could be in the form of bonds and treasury bills of other cen-

tral banks or top-rated securities and deposits with other central banks. It also earns interest on its holdings of local rupee-denominated Government bonds or securities and while lending to banks for very short tenures, such as overnight. Its expenditure is mainly on the printing of currency notes and staff, besides the commission it gives to banks for undertaking transactions on behalf of the Government across the country and to primary dealers, including banks, for underwriting some of these borrowings. The excess of income over expenditure is the "surplus". After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation fund, etc. and for all matters provided for under the RBI Act (1934), the balance of surplus is paid to the Union Government by Section 47 (Allocation of Surplus Profits) of the Act. Apart from this routine stuff, the financial crisis in the early 90s, when India's foreign exchange reserves had plummeted to a level barely enough to buy two weeks of imports, brought to the fore a dire need to prepare the RBI for dealing with 'unexpected' and 'unforeseen' events by enhancing its capacity to absorb financial shocks, ensure financial stability and provide confidence to

the markets. So, it started transferring part of the surplus to a 'Contingency Fund'. This was in line with the recommendation of a committee to build contingency reserves (CR) of 12 per cent of its balance sheet. In 2013, a panel led by Y H Malegam, then a member, of the RBI board, also reiterated the need for building CRs. Subsequently, in its annual report for 2015-16, the central bank alluded to a "draft economic capital/provisioning framework to assess its risk-buffer requirements in a structured and systematic manner." Meanwhile, in 2018, the RBI set up a Committee on Economic Capital Framework (ECF) under Dr Bimal Jalan. The Committee recommended that the RBI should maintain a minimum contingency risk buffer (CRB) of 5.5 - 6.5 per cent of its balance sheet as risk buffer. The ECF was to remain in force for five years. The RBI adopted the ECF on August 26, 2019. During accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, it determined the surplus transferred to the Union Government taking the CRB at the lower end of the range i.e. 5.5 percent of its balance sheet. For arriving at the transferrable surplus during 2022-23, the CRB was increased to 6 per cent. However, for calculating the amount for 2023-24, it has used the higher

end of the band prescribed by the Committee i.e. 6.5 per cent. The surge in dividend transfers for 2023-24 over 2022-23 despite the increase in CRB is due to the substantial increase in the RBI's interest income from foreign securities as well as exchange gain from foreign exchange transactions (according to the State Bank of India (SBI), these two factors accounted for 60 - 70 per cent of the increase in income of the RBI from Rs 235,000 crore during 2022-23 to around Rs 375,000 - 400,000 crore during 2023-24). This in turn was due to a sharp hike in interest rates by the US Fed and central banks of other developed countries; the hikes were prompted by the dire need to bring down high inflation in those countries. But the situation may not be sustained as the US Fed prepares to move the interest rate 'south' from the latter half of 2024 and other central banks follow suit. Even if it doesn't happen so soon and RBI repeats its performance during 2025-26, it would do well to retain more surplus with itself in the CRB. As a matter of prudent policy, the Centre should avoid riding piggyback on the RBI for managing its FD. (The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

## Significance of Modi's meditation at Kanyakumari

BHARAT BHUSHAN

Opposition parties have objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to meditate at Dhyana Mandapam at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, and have approached the Election Commission of India to ban any telecast of it. Since the meditation will last from the evening of May 30 when campaigning has to stop, to the evening of June 1 when polling ends, the Opposition has alleged that any publicity of the event would amount to indirect campaigning. In 2019, Modi undertook a well-publicised 15-hour-long meditation in an isolated cave near the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand, before the last phase of polling for the general elections. He had followed up this spiritual sojourn with a tweet urging the electorate to vote in large numbers on the last day of polling. At the time the Opposition did not recognise the photo-

ops at Kedarnath, and Modi's subsequent tweet, as campaigning while the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force. In retrospect, the Opposition is wiser. The electoral contest is also much keener this time around. With the Opposition united in most parts of India, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is fighting tooth and nail with the I.N.D.I.A. bloc for every seat. On June 1, apart from polling at Modi's constituency Varanasi, there will also be voting in nine seats from West Bengal, among other seats. The contest is exceptionally keen between the BJP and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC). Although the influence of Swami Vivekananda is pan-Indian among the Hindu community, perhaps it is nowhere more intense than in West Bengal where he enjoys iconic status. West Bengal is also where the Ramakrishna Mission, set up by Vivekananda, is headquartered at Belur Math in Howrah district. Banerjee

had accused individual monks including one from the Rama Krishna Mission of campaigning for the BJP in the ongoing elections. Banerjee came out all guns blazing, "Does anybody who meditates do it in front of a camera? He basically wants to show his meditation to people? ... He cannot campaign like this. ... That will be a violation of the model code of conduct." The Congress has claimed that through the meditation trip, Modi was attempting to circumvent the 48-hour silence period and "unfairly leverage the ethno-cultural significance of the chosen location in an attempt to bolster his campaign and maximise his vote share in violation of the Representation of the People Act, as well as the Model Code of Conduct." The ECI, however, is yet to take a view on the complaint that the united Opposition has now filed. It is uncertain whether

telecasting Modi's meditation will significantly impact the remaining nine seats in West Bengal. The battle lines between the BJP and TMC in West Bengal were drawn long ago that it is unlikely that the event in Kanyakumari will have any significant last-minute effect. Why else then would Modi undertake this specific ritual, and at this specific site? Modi deliberately combines Hindu rituals in his public persona for the political purpose of appealing to the Hindu masses. This is a part of his political persona and public behaviour. He is known to enact publicised rituals like bathing in the Ganges during Kumbh in black clothes and washing the feet of five sanitary workers. He also visited six temples in the 11 days before the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya. These were: the Kalaram Temple at Maharashtra, Veerabhadra Temple in Andhra Pradesh, Guruvayur Temple

and Thiruvaprur Shree Ramaswami Temple in Kerala, and Ranganathaswami Temple in Tamil Nadu — all believed to be linked to Ayodhya and Lord Ram. He also declared that he would be following 'yama niyam' — defining restraint and moral conduct as specified in the Vedas — for the 11 days preceding the Ram temple inauguration. On February 25, he donned scuba diving gear to offer prayers underwater at the submerged city of Dwarka in Gujarat. He was assisted by Indian Navy divers. Tweeting pictures of the event with him at the centre of it all, he tweeted after his underwater prayers. However, meditating at Vivekananda Rock Memorial specifically will not only refurbish his image as a righteous Hindu leader but will reconnect him to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its project of Hinduising India. A meditation in the privacy of his home or his garden will not have the same significance.

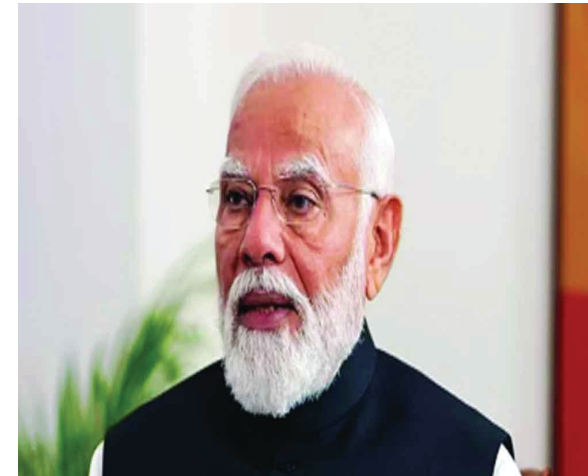
Vivekananda Rock Memorial is the brainchild of the RSS. It was an RSS proselytiser Eknath Ranade who conceived of the rock memorial as Swami Vivekananda is said to have meditated on the rocky outcrop at Kanyakumari in December 1892 for three days. More than consolidating his Hindu support base, it is important for Modi to emphasise his ideological ancestry with the RSS and his commitment to its principles. There is speculation that in the event of the BJP falling substantially short of the majority in the elections, the RSS may press for a leadership change in the party to facilitate the formation of a coalition government led by the BJP. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that he is simply taking time off at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial after the hurly-burly of the long election campaign. He is still politicking sitting at the extreme edge of India. (Bharat Bhushan is a Delhi-based journalist.)

## Turning a Bold New Leaf in Foreign Policy

KUMARDEP BANARJEE

In a week from now, a new central Government would be in place, picking up from where the last Government had left. If the BJP comes back to power for a third time, India's foreign policy push would be towards enhancing its stature globally. In a couple of interviews with various media, PM Modi has stressed a confident India now actually mediating on critical global affairs, than the earlier practise of being an observer. In most of the interviews, he mentions the role India played or continues to play, behind the scenes in the Ukraine situation, a sensitive topic. India has a historical relationship with Russia, which has never attempted to alter the relationship, however, Russia has of late started getting into a tighter embrace with China, cooperating

on several critical projects including hydrocarbons and technology partnerships. Meanwhile, India has grown closer to the US and has been rightly projected as a key ally for the Indo-Pacific region. PM Modi has also highlighted that his third term would ensure, that the Indian PM would be the senior most among democratically elected leaders, serving as he would post a decade of tectonic shifts in geo-political affairs. He hinted that a more confident India has to act more responsibly with its allies while expanding the network, especially with an aggressive China in the neighbourhood. It was no coincidence that external affairs minister S Jaishankar while delivering a key note on the Nikkei Future of Asia forum mentioned "The world is undergoing a flux - driven by geopolitical, geo-economic and



geo-technological developments. In the last four decades, economic and political rebalancing accelerated by globalisation has been driving us towards multipolarity. Today, the global order is visibly under stress, with Asia and the Indo-Pacific very much part of this transformation. But it is not just change we are seeing; there is also much greater risk-taking. It is

visible in the conflict in Ukraine, in violence in the Middle East and the disregard for international law and agreements in Asia and the Indo-Pacific. This has economic facets, perhaps even more concerning. The supply chain challenge, over-concentrations stemming from globalisation and the use of economic coercion by States have put a premium on resilience and redundan-

cy. Equally important is the technology challenge that has created a new level of inter-penetration and inter-dependence." Mr Jaishankar underscored India's future foreign policy roadmap with a firm focus on neighbours in the East, West and the Indian Ocean. He also highlighted the centrality of the Indo-Pacific in India's progress. Cross-border road infrastructure and integrated port facilities have found traction in India's external policy in the recent past. The Iran-based Chabahar port, whose long-term maintenance contract India secured a few weeks back, providing access to crucial land-locked Central Asian countries and beyond is a recent example. External Affairs minister highlighted in his speech the pace at which road and rail networks are getting built in India, even when one of the largest

democratic exercises in the world, India elections are underway. He said "The transformation of India is critical to strengthening multipolarity in Asia itself, a pre-requisite for a multipolar world. India's growing weight will ensure that the overall balance in the world order remains in favour of freedom, openness, transparency and a rules-based order. Equally, its greater sense of responsibility and more contributions are also making a difference. Indian naval ships are currently operating in the Red Sea to protect maritime shipping. India has been a First Responder for natural disasters across the Indian Ocean, sometimes even beyond." Without speculating for next week, it would be safe to assume a huge diplomatic outreach, awaits the new Government. (The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)



## Karnataka HC flags defect in HD Revanna's bail order

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, MAY 31

On Friday, the Karnataka High Court observed that the trial court's order granting bail to Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD Revanna in a kidnapping case appeared to be flawed in its interpretation of a legal provision.

Justice Krishna S Dixit, noting this apparent defect, issued an emergent notice for HD Revanna's response to a bail cancellation petition.

The petition was filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted by the state to investigate kidnapping and sexual abuse allegations against HD Revanna and his son, Prajwal Revanna. The court has scheduled the bail cancellation case for a hearing as soon as the notice is served to Revanna. Earlier this month, HD Revanna was granted bail in two criminal cases involving allegations of sexual assault and kidnapping. This bail grant was challenged by the SIT in the High Court.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) senior advocate Prof Ravivarma Kumar, representing the SIT, argued that the trial court's order granting bail was perverse. He pointed out that the trial court had erred in applying Section 364A (kidnapping for ransom) of the Indian Penal Code.

After reviewing the trial court's bail order, Justice Dixit found merit in Kumar's argument, stat-



ing, "This appears to be defective. There appears to be an error apparent on the face of the record."

Kumar urged the High Court to prioritise the matter, citing the urgency due to the kidnapping of a witness intended to prevent her from filing a complaint. He warned that allowing such actions could deter others from filing criminal complaints.

In response to the arguments, the court listed the matter for priority hearing and issued an emergent notice to the respondent. "Issue emergent notice to the respondent since an arguable case is made out by pointing out a kind of interpretation by the learned judge of the court below on Section 364A IPC... The post immediately after service of notice," ordered Justice Dixit.

In a related development, Revanna has also filed petitions in the High Court to quash the two FIRs filed against him in both cases. This petition is also set to be heard by

Justice Dixit.

The case against Revanna is linked to sexual abuse allegations against his son, Prajwal Revanna. The allegations emerged after over 2,900 videos depicting the sexual assault of several women were circulated on social media and other platforms.

On April 28, an FIR was registered against Prajwal Revanna and HD Revanna under Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (insult to modesty of woman) of the Indian Penal Code at the Holenarasipur town police station, Hassan district. The complaint was filed by one of the victims, and the case is being probed by a team led by senior IPS officer BK Singh.

Following a political and public outcry, Prajwal Revanna fled to Germany soon after the April 26 Lok Sabha polls in the state. He returned to India on May 31 and was arrested upon arrival.

## Boxing Federation of India agrees to join World Boxing

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

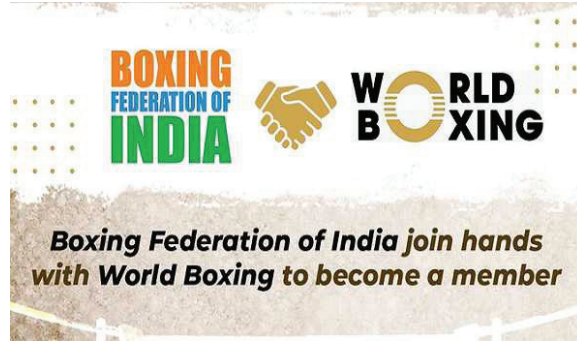
The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has agreed to become a member of World Boxing, the International Federation established to ensure boxing remains at the heart of the Olympic Movement.

The membership application has been approved by the BFI's General Assembly and will be ratified by World Boxing's Executive Board.

BFI President, Ajay Singh, recently met with World Boxing's President and Secretary General to discuss ways in which India can support the International Federation in growing its membership base in Asia, where the BFI is one of the largest National Federations.

As part of its commitment to the future development of World Boxing, the BFI aims to play a leading role in establishing an Asian Confederation and drive the recruitment of other National Federations in the region.

It also intends to actively participate in the work of



World Boxing Committees and all Commissions as well as bidding to host World Boxing competitions and supporting World Boxing's efforts to secure commercial partnerships and generate new income streams, according to a media release.

President of World Boxing, Boris van der Vorst, stated, "India is a very important country in international boxing and we look forward to welcoming the BFI into the growing World Boxing family. This is a very exciting development which will significantly increase our presence in Asia and I look forward to working closely with the BFI in delivering our common goals."

"In both its public com-

ments and during our recent meeting, the IOC has delivered a clear message to all National Federations that if they want boxers from their country to have the opportunity to compete at future Olympic Games then they must now join World Boxing. This is the only path that will see our sport remain in the Olympic Games after Paris 2024 and National Federations must act now and follow the example of the BFI if they want boxing to have any chance of still being part of the programme at Los Angeles 2028," Vorst said.

BFI President Ajay Singh, said: "It is absolutely vital to the sustainability of boxing that it retains its Olympics status, so we are delighted to join World Boxing and

look forward to working closely with the Executive Board and our fellow members to shape the future development of the sport and deliver a brighter future for boxers across the world."

"The BFI shares the same values and goals as World Boxing and are keen to play a leading role in its development. We also wish to be at the forefront of the formation and hosting of a new Asian confederation to ensure boxing continues to expand and grow its membership on the continent," he said.

World Boxing was launched in April 2023 and aims to ensure that boxing remains at the heart of the Olympic movement. On 7 May 2024 it held its first formal meeting with the IOC which signalled the start of formal collaboration between the two organisations aimed at establishing a pathway for boxing to remain in the Olympic Games.

World Boxing currently has members covering all of the five Continents that compete in international boxing.

## PM's meditation at Vivekananda Rock hinders pilgrims progress: Cong

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Senior Vice President G Niranjan criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that his 45-hour long meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari has caused severe inconvenience to thousands of pilgrims who visit for daily darshan.

In a statement issued on Friday, Niranjan demanded that Modi apologise to those affected. He questioned how the memorial organizers could permit Modi's extended meditation, disregarding the problems faced by the visitors.

Niranjan stated that many pilgrims, unaware of Modi's meditation schedule, travelled to Kanyakumari from various parts of the country and abroad, only to return without being able to visit the memorial.

He claimed that this incident once again demonstrated that Modi does not care about the needs and convenience of the public, prioritising his personal agendas instead.

"It is surprising how Modi could undertake 45 hours of meditation without considering the public's suffering," Niranjan remarked. He also questioned the authenticity of Modi's meditation, ambiguously referring to it as "Dhyana or Konga Japa" meaning "the crane in a meditative pose that bewitches its prey".

## Paris 2024 sport climbing venue nears completion

AGENCIES  
PARIS, MAY 31

The construction of the sport climbing venue for the upcoming Paris Olympic Games in Le Bourget is nearly complete, as organizers unveiled one of the three newly-built Olympic venues to the press.

A temporary 15-meter-high outdoor wall has been erected in the new Parc des Sports du Bourget, located in the northeastern suburb of Paris, and the assembly of the temporary spectator stands is almost complete, the organizers said on Friday.

The climbing wall, featuring the main color scheme of this year's Olympics with a gradient of green and pink borders, is equipped with a canopy to protect it from direct sunlight and rain. The temporary spectator stands have 3,000 seats and 3,000 standing places. After the competition, these structures will be dismantled, and the climbing panels will be reassembled at other locations across France for continued use.

"Our ticket sales have been very successful. All our tickets are sold out, and 36,000 people will watch the competition during the event," said Vincent Causse, the head of the climbing venue.

This will be the second appearance of climbing in the Olympics, following its debut in the Tokyo Olympics. Unlike the Tokyo Olympics, which only featured the combined event (bouldering, lead, and speed), the Paris Olympics will introduce speed climbing as a separate event. There will be two sub-events: the combined (bouldering and lead) and speed climbing, with a total of four gold medals to be awarded for men and women.

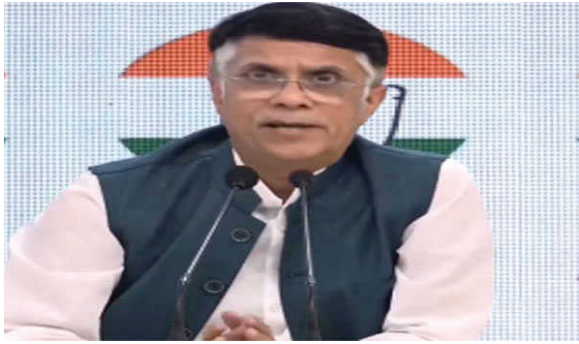
## Cong not to participate in exit poll debates on June 1: Pawan Khera

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The Congress on Friday said that the party will not participate in any of the exit poll debates on June 1 related to the general election and said that it was not in favour of indulging in speculation and slugfest for TRP.

Congress Spokesperson Pawan Khera however said that the party will happily partake in debates from 4th June onwards.

On social media post X, Khera said, "Voters have cast their votes and their verdict has been secured. The results will be out on 4th June. Prior to that, we do not see any reason to indulge in speculation and



slugfest for TRP".

He said, "The Indian National Congress will not participate in the debates on exit polls.

The purpose of any debate should be to inform the people. We will happily partake in debates from 4th June onwards".

It may be mentioned that the seventh and final

phase of the Lok Sabha election will be held tomorrow for 57 Parliamentary Constituencies spread across eight States and Union Territories.

The Election Commission has restricted the media from telecasting exit polls before 6 PM on June 1.

## Team India Champions geared up to take cricket's World Championship of Legends by storm

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The world is set to witness an unparalleled spectacle of cricketing excellence as India's iconic stars, including the dynamic Yuvraj Singh, the legendary Harbhajan Singh, and the energetic Suresh Raina, showcasing their champion mentality and skills.

The India Champions team will be playing in the inaugural World Championship of Legends (WCL), to be held in the United Kingdom this July.

The World Championship of Legends is poised to be the future hub for cricket legends, thanks to its strong legitimacy bolstered by the backing of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). This endorsement ensures that the league provides a credible and prestigious platform for cricketers to extend their careers and continue their passion for the sport on a global scale with the utmost competitive attitude.

The India Champions squad and the team jersey was unveiled on Friday in New Delhi in the august presence of top Indian cricketing stars - 2007 World T20 champions and the 2011 World Cup winner including RP Singh and Suresh Raina.

Also present at the launch of the India Cham-



pions jersey were the Owners of India Champions-Salman Ahmed, Sumant Bahl, and Jaspal Bahra, who own prominent businesses in the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar and are extremely passionate cricket fans themselves, along with Harshit Tomar and Nishant Pitti, the promoters of World Championships of Legends.

Expressing their enthusiasm while launching the Indian Team and being part of the inaugural edition of the League, the Owners of India Champions Team said, "We are immensely proud to own this team and embark on this extraordinary journey alongside our champion cricketing icons. With the credibility of the league bolstered by the ECB's backing, and with India's rich cricketing heritage at the heart of this global spectacle, we are dedicated to realizing our vision of delivering a cricketing extravaganza that not only captivates audiences but also underscores India's

pivotal role in shaping the world of cricket."

India Champions are geared up to set Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Northamptonshire on fire against other top international stars and the team promoters believe that the platform will provide many more senior cricketers a chance to showcase their skills in the second innings of their careers.

Captain Yuvraj Singh expressing his excitement to represent India Champions and play in England, once more said, "I have always had a very special connection with England, and the opportunity to play here once again for the India Champions holds immense meaning for me. The NatWest Finals still evoke unforgettable emotions. I am eagerly looking forward to the incredible atmosphere, the enthusiastic fans, and the vibrant crowds that make playing in the UK such a unique and memorable experience."

Unveiling the jersey, Raina along with other

## Southwest monsoon advances into remaining parts of northeast Bay of Bengal: IMD

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The Southwest Monsoon advanced into the remaining parts of northeast Bay of Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam and most parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

On Thursday, the IMD had announced the onset of Southwest monsoon over Kerala and northeast India. The monsoon hit the country's mainland two days in advance against its normal date of onset on June 1.

In 2023, the southwest monsoon had set in on June 8.

The IMD said, "the conditions are favourable for further advance of monsoon into some more parts of the central Arabian Sea,



vailing heatwave conditions over Northwest, Central & East India gradually during the next 2-3 days.

Lakshadweep, Kerala, some parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Southwest Bay of Bengal during the next 2-3 days".

On heatwave conditions, it said heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are very likely in many parts over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab till 2nd June. The highest maximum temperature of 48.3°C was reported at Sri Ganganagar in the West Rajasthan yesterday.

The IMD predicted some relief from the pre-

"Gradual fall in maximum temperatures by 2-3°C is very likely over Northwest & Central India during next 3 days and no significant change thereafter", it said. IMD said light rainfall with thunderstorms, are likely over the plains of Northwest India from May 31 to June 3.

"Duststorm is very likely over East Rajasthan from 31 May to 3rd June; Uttar Pradesh on 31st May and 1st June and West Rajasthan on 1st and 2nd June" it said in a statement.

## Electoral Mandate to INDIA bloc will be clear & decisive on June 4: Cong

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The Congress on Friday raised question on the reliability of the Election Commission in conducting the Lok Sabha Election, and said despite these odds the electoral mandate to the INDI alliance will be clear and decisive on June 4.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Party spokespersons Jairam Ramesh, Supriya Shrinete and Pawan Khera said the grand old party contested the election keeping in mind people's issues which were trampled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government.

Jairam Ramesh said, "We made 117 complaints to the Election Commis-



sion in 77 days and these complaints were about various violations including the Model Code of Conduct. Of these, 14 complaints were made against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, eight complaints against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, three complaints against Home Minister Amit Shah, besides BJP president JP Nadda, Smriti Irani, Himanta Biswa Sarma but no action has been taken".

The Rajya Sabha MP said the election campaign of the Congress party was very positive and this due to the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

"From January 23 to March 16, Congress presented five justices and 25 guarantees to the country. Through them, 'Yuva Nyay, Nari Nyay, Kisan Nyay, Shramik Nyay and Hissedari Nyay' were discussed," Ramesh said.

He, however, said besides these guarantees, the Congress party's priority is to protect the Constitution and on June 4, the INDI alliance will get a decisive majority.

Unveiling a report titled "72 Days, 272 Questions, 0 Reply Bhaag Modi Bhaag" the Senior Congress leader said, "In the last 72 days, when the Prime Minister started his election campaign we raised 272 questions but we did not get a single reply".

Pawan Khera said, "While our leaders were questioning the Prime Minister on inflation, unemployment and issues related to people, Modi on the other hand diverted himself and his party from the core issues of the country".

The Congress party's campaign derailed Narendra Modi's campaign and he had nothing to say in this election. After distracting the country for 10 years, Modi has now gone to meditate, Khera alleged.



## Drinking water crisis deepens in Kandi belt: Manjit Singh

J1 NEWS SERVICE

PARMANDAL (SAMBA), MAY 31

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has expressed concern over deepening crisis of drinking water shortage in Kandi belt where the Jal Shakti Department has failed to ensure supply of the water amid the constant soaring of the temperature. As per a press release, S. Manjit Singh conducted an extensive tour of the Kandi areas in Parmandal and met the villagers in various areas to know about their condition in these summers when the temperature has crossed 44 Degree Celsius.

During the visit, he expressed his shock over learning the ground reality of the inability of the authorities to provide the drinking water to the affected villages where



the people have to purchase the drinking water through private tankers.

"The Govt has not been able to supply water through the Jal Shakti tankers and tap water system. The people are suffering because of the heat wave, and it appears, the system of Jal Shakti Department has collapsed badly," he stated. He said that the authorities should have constituted teams to assess the situation and send them on the ground, but no one is concerned about the poor villagers who have been compelled to purchase their water for drinking water.

He said that "It becomes

a moral duty of the authorities to arrange drinking water and supply it through the department's own tankers."

Meanwhile, he also said that the electricity supply has also disrupted the water supply system. He said that unscheduled electricity cuts have hampered the normal life of the people, and the JPDCCL appears to be incompetent.

"The people are suffering in Jammu's Kandi Belt due to the constant long unscheduled power cuts and the Govt should streamline the system to give some relief to the people," he added.

## Inter-School Zonal Sports Competition held at PS Gei, Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE

DODA, MAY 31

Indian Army provided administrative support to ensure smooth conduct of Inter School Zonal Sports Competition for children of Dessa Region organised by Youth Service and Sports Department of Doda in Under-14 and Under-17 category at Primary School, Gei Dossa on the requirement of residents of Gei. The

sports event observed participation of 200 children including 120 boys and 80 girls in two age categories participating in sports like Volleyball, Cricket, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Carom and Chess. Motivational talk about the importance of sports was also delivered by the Chief Guest. Provision of Volleyball Court, Sports Equipment, refreshments and shelter was provided to the children during the event.

The event was aimed at developing a competitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent. The match witnessed keen interest by one and all thus generated bonhomie amongst the players as well as residents. The officials of the Youth Service and Sports Department of Doda thanked the Armed Forces for the support in the event.

## Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara, Chabeel distribution program at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 31

Braham Jyot Satti, (Senior leader and incharge BJP OBC Morcha) inaugurated Bhandara and "Chabeel" (Sweet Water) distribution program at Canal Road near irrigation office, Jammu.

In the view of rising temperature and scorching heat this program was organised by R.K Super Market, Nischal Gupta and Ritesh Gupta.

In the program firstly dignitaries offered prayers for the peace and prosperity of the nation then they opened bhandara and Chabeel for general public. During this almost 4 hours long distribution program hundreds of people mark their presence.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot Satti appreciated organisers Ritesh Gupta and Nischal



Gupta for this kind task and said every year they organised various social programs and help spread social harmony.

He said social work like Bhandara is highly appreciable and Mata Rani will bless all organisers with health, wealth and prosperity.

He said as temperature rises heat becomes more

scorching and in the view of rising temperature we are trying to provide some relief to people by organizing chabeel distribution programs.

He said providing food to a hungry person is real service of humanity and BJP supporters are continuously organizing these kind of tasks across Jammu Kashmir.

## Kavinder meets Haryana CM, asks for persuading industrialists to invest in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR (PB), MAY 31

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Friday met Chief Minister of Haryana, Nayab Singh Saini in Gurdaspur and urged him to persuade big industrialists hailing from his State to invest in industrial projects in the Union Territory.

During a threadbare discussion on J&K, the BJP stalwart leader said that the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has become a new hotspot for investments after the scrapping of Article 370 and Modi government's special focus on the region.

Kavinder said that ease of doing business is the central idea of the New Industrial Policy adopted by the J&K government and no investor will be disappointed after



deciding to invest in J&K. He said that the decision of Modi Government to abrogate Article 370 has worked very well as the region has seen colossal development after this historic move by PM Modi.

Kavinder said that already investments of hundreds of crores of rupees have become a reality after the August 5, 2019. He said that sky is the limit for the investors investing in J&K as gov-

ernment here has taken many pragmatic steps to create a conducive atmosphere to help businesses and industry to thrive and make good fortune.

The Haryana Chief Minister expressed keenness in the offers made by the senior BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir, and assured that he will explore all possibilities for working on the lines suggested by the former deputy chief minister.

## India has unprecedented trust in Modi's Guarantee: Rekha Mahajan

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 31

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan said saturation of government welfare schemes is a mark of "true secularism and social justice" for all domains of society and India has unprecedented trust in Modi's Guarantee.

The BJP leader is advocating for the common people by organizing a camp to resolve issues with connecting to the Adhaar card, resolving grievances related to the Ration card, Ayushman card, ABHA card, and domicile here at senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre trikuta nagar jammu in response to the inhabitants of Trikuta Nagar in the Bahu Constituency. Rekha Mahajan along with Ex Councilor Shub-Chander Verma, President Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre Baldev Raj Gupta, TR Taggar, District Treasurer Rajesh Gupta, Minority Morcha Mandal President Daljit Singh, IT Incharge Abhisekh, Social Activist Ankit Sood and others attended the camp. Senior citizens also praised BJP leader Rekha Mahajan's efforts and



pledged to set up a camp in the near future to provide early public redress.

Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan said the implementation of several schemes by the central government in J&K has attained 100 percent saturation. She underlined that disparities between people vanish when there is saturation of multiple methods. No one in the J&K union territory has to pay a bribe to obtain their rights; all beneficiaries receive the full benefit. She said saturation is Modi's guarantee to J&K and the country, and to attain this saturation, the central government conducted the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. While guiding the general

public, Rekha Mahajan asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a tall example of a strong and decisive leader who can deliver what he promises. She added that the Modi ki Guarantee covers a wide range of promises across sectors, citizens, and schemes. Modi ki Guarantee means a steadfast commitment to the welfare of the people. Modi ki Guarantee means a Viksit Bharat, or Ek Shrestha Bharat. It is a guarantee for the development of the youth, the empowerment of the women, the welfare of the farmers, and all those marginalized and vulnerable who have been ignored for decades. According to her, the BJP will form the next government with 400+ seats with the approval of the

common masses.

Rekha Mahajan highlights Modi ki Guarantee, which means a Viksit Bharat, an Ek Shrestha Bharat, and an "Ujawala" Bharat. It started with his strong slogans "Sab-Ka-Sath," "Sab-Ka-Vishwas," "SSab-Ka-Vikas," and "Sab-Ka-Priyas," when today India is proud to acclaim enough prominence in every field of development in this country. Day in and day out, as we watch, massive development initiatives are launched in an effort to elevate India's standing among the world's most developed nations—it currently stands as the fifth-largest economic power. According to Modi Ki Guarantee, it has now reached its third such position, Rekha continued.

## Drug peddler arrested with 500 grams of Ganja by J&K Police



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 1

In a significant crackdown on illegal narcotics, the Jammu & Kashmir Police in Kanachak area of Jammu District apprehended one person namely Balwant Singh @ Banttu, age 38-year-old resident of Kalyanpur, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu. The arrest has been made under FIR No. 80/2024, registered under sections 8/20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The arrest made out under operation Sanjevani of Jammu police to combat the menace

of drug trafficking in the region and to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents.

Balwant Singh, son of Bodh Singh, was apprehended today on May 31, 2024, during a routine patrolling. The accused was found with the contraband in Kalyanpur, and immediate action was taken by the vigilant police officers from the Kanachak Police Station.

The contraband has been confiscated, and further investigations is underway.

For further details or to report any information related to narcotics, please contact the Kanachak Police Station.

## Apni Party leaders meet Akhnoor road accident victims at GMC Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 31

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders of the Party today met the injured pilgrims of Akhnoor road accident, during their visit to the Government Medical College, and Hospital, Jammu.

S. Manjit Singh interacted with the injured pilgrims to enquire about their health and met the doctors tasked to provide treatment to the road accident victims.

Meanwhile, the Party leaders also arranged blood donations for the injured persons.

The Former Minister was accompanied by Provincial Vice President, Jammu,

Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Provincial Secretary, Dr Rohit Gupta, Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President of the Minority Wing, Balbir Singh, Vice President, Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Secretary, Women Wing, Shivani Koul, Provincial Secretary, Sheetal Sharma, Provincial Secretary, Women Wing, Sheekha Bhardwaj, Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Jammu District, Vaibhav Mattoo, District President Minority Wing, Jammu Urban, Dalbir Singh, District Publicity Secretary, Vishal Jyptshi, District President of the Women's Wing Ritu Pandita, the District President of the Minority Wing, Inderpal Singh, and others.

## GDC Billawar observers "World No Tobacco Day"



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 31

Red Ribbon Club, NCC and NSS unit of GDC Billawar Observed "World No Tobacco Day" on 31st May, 2024, with an aim to discourage tobacco use. J&K faces a huge tobacco burden and is the 6th highest consumer of tobacco in the country. The event was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Alka Sharma, Honable Principal, GDC Billawar. In this context, two competitions: Slogan writing and Essay Writing were organized. The day was observed with an objective to create awareness about harmful effects (Physical, Mental, psychological and Social) of tobacco use. More than

20 students participated in these competitions.

In Slogan writing Competition, First position secured by Diksha Thakur of Sem-3rd, Second position secured by Nisha Devi of Sem 3rd and Third secured by Baby Verma of Sem 3rd.

In Essay Writing, Competition the First position secured by Shivang Chopra, Second by Sunil and Third by Neeraj Choudhary. The whole program was conducted by Red Ribbon Club (Prof. Sunita Devi, Co-Convenor), Prof. Kiran Kumari(member), Prof. Suneet Kumar (member), Prof. Raj Kumar (member), NSS Unit (Prof. Kiran Mala, member) and NCC ANO (Mr. Akshay Sharma).

## Steel-cutting ceremony for first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel of ICG held at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 31

The steel-cutting ceremony for the first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) took place at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai in the presence of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) officials on May 31, 2024. The Ministry of Defence had, in December 2023, signed a contract with MDL for the procurement of six NGOPVs for the ICG at a total cost of Rs 1,614.89 crore. The project aims to bolster the capabilities in coastal and offshore patrol, safeguard maritime zones, and enhance operational efficiency.

The NGOPVs are equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and equipment. The vessel is powered by two diesel engines which are capable of achieving a maximum

continuous speed of 23 knots and cover a distance of up to 5,000 nautical miles. Furthermore, they boast integral twin-engine helicopter facilities and staging for heavy helicopters, enabling swift and effective aerial surveillance and response capabilities. Incorporated with advanced features such as multipurpose drones, AI capabilities, and wirelessly controlled remote water rescue craft, the NGOPVs provide the ICG with unparalleled flexibility and operational edge.

The vessel is scheduled for delivery by May 2027 and it represents a testament to the collaborative efforts of the ICG, MDL, and other stakeholders involved in the project. The NGOPV project underscores the nation's commitment to self-reliance and indigenous manufacturing.



## BJP holds Parliamentary Election Management Committee review meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a meeting of its Parliamentary election management committee to review the election working during the Parliamentary elections at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, chaired the meeting, while he, along with Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, discussed and sought detailed reporting about the Parliament election 2024 from the State Incharges of various departments under BJP

State Election Management Committee.

Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary BJP & Prabhari of J&K BJP also addressed the meeting through virtual mode.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM, Cluster Incharge for Parliament Constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former MP (Rajya Sabha), Sunil Sharma, General Secretary J&K BJP. Adv. Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary J&K BJP, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary J&K BJP & State Convenor J&K BJP Parliament Election Management Committee also addressed the meeting.

Pawan Khajuria, Vice-



President J&K BJP & Co-convenor J&K BJP Parliament Election Management Committee coordinated the proceedings of the meeting.

Tarun Chugh, while addressing the meeting, appreciated the dedicated work by the party cadre

throughout the parliamentary elections. He asked the Incharges and the members of the various committees under Election Management Committee to note down their experiences during this election and use this knowledge in the forthcoming Assembly and

Local Body elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina said that the party cadre worked with extreme grit and dedication and faced every challenge with utmost professionalism during the entire election period.

He said that the party cadre worked relentlessly which will result into the massive win of the party on both the Parliamentary seats contested by BJP in Jammu & Kashmir. He asked the party cadre to further improve their skill by taking advantage of their experiences during

these elections and working with even more vigor in future elections.

Ashok Koul, while interacting with all the Incharges under the State election management committee, prompted them to share their experiences and pointed out the various specified areas that will need further effort by the party cadre.

Later in the evening, a review meeting of the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency was also held, which was addressed by Ravinder Raina, Ashok Koul, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Chandher Mohan Gupta and Bharat Bhushan.

## BSP expresses sorrow over bus road accident occurred on Thursday in Kalidhar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RS PURA, MAY 31



Bahujan Samaj Party has expressed deep sorrow over the bus road accident that occurred on Thursday in Akhnoor, Jammu and has demanded from the government that those who died in this road accident should get proper help from the government and those who got injured should be given better treatment as well as financial help from the government.

Bahujan Samaj Party Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana has expressed deep sorrow over the bus that came from Uttar Pradesh for Shivkhodi Dham Darshan in which 22 devotees died and 69 people were injured and said that Bahujan Samaj Party is with the affected families in this hour of crisis. He said that this horrific road accident has devastated many families. He demanded

from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir that the families of those who died in this road accident should get financial help of at least Rs 50 lakh and those who got injured should be given better treatment as well as help up to Five Lakh. Along with this, Bahujan Samaj Party's Jammu Kashmir President Darshan Rana said that road accidents are constantly happening in Jammu Kashmir in which people are dying, in such a situation the government needs to take effective steps to stop these accidents. Along with this, He also placed a demand before the government to provide better road facilities to the people in the hilly areas.

## India successfully concludes hosting of 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

India successfully concluded hosting of the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46) and the 26th Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP-26) from May 20th to May 30th, 2024 in Kochi, Kerala.

Shri Kiren Rijju, Union Minister, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, announced India's plan to set up an Antarctic research station, Maitri-II.

The ATCM-46 was held with the overarching theme of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase that means one Earth, one family, one future. This resonates deeply with the Antarctic Treaty System, which promotes peace, scientific cooperation, and the preservation of Antarctica for mankind. ATCM-46 was inaugurated by the Honourable Union Cabinet Minister, Shri Kiren Rijju, Ambassador Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and Dr Shailesh Nayak, former Secretary of MoES and Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Ambassador Pankaj Saran, former Deputy Adviser

to the National Security Board, was elected as the Chair of the 46th ATCM. Dr Vijay Kumar, Scientist G-Adviser, MoES, was the Head of the Host Country Secretariat.

Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES and Head of the Indian delegation (host country), informed that soon India will be submitting comprehensive environmental evaluations for establishing Maitri-II. He said, "The successful hosting of the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP in India underscores our collective resolve to safeguard Antarctica's unique ecosystems and promote global environmental sustainability. Through dialogue, cooperation, and concerted action, we can ensure that Antarctica remains a beacon of peace, science, and environmental protection for generations to come."

The ATCM-46 and CEP-26 were hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, with support from the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquartered in Argentina. The event witnessed the reaffirmation of the Antarctic Treaty (1959) and the Protocol



on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol, 1991) by the Parties. The ATCM and CEP are crucial global forums for Antarctic affairs convened annually that set collective and concerted dialogue and action towards preserving one of Earth's most pristine and fragile ecosystems. An additional working group discussed the development of a tourism framework for the southern white continent this year.

The CEP-26, held from May 20 to 24, 2024, addressed a range of issues and contributed to the implementation of the Environmental Protocol in Antarctica. The Committee agreed to prioritize further work on the management implications of sea ice change, enhancing environmental impact

assessment of major activities, protecting the emperor penguin, and developing an international framework for environmental monitoring in Antarctica. Following the advice of the CEP, the Parties adopted 17 revised and new management plans for ASPAs (Antarctic Specially Protected Areas) and several modifications and additions to the list of Historic and Monument sites. The ATCM also encouraged efforts to increase renewable energy use and to ensure robust implementation of biosecurity measures to minimize the risks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

To mark the ATCM-46 and CEP-26, NCPOR (MoES) organised several side events. It organized a seminar entitled 'Changing Antarctic and Challenges Ahead' jointly with

the Korean Polar Research Institute and Polar Cooperation Research Centre, Kobe University, on May 20, 2024, comprising two panel discussions themed 'Challenges in Antarctic governance' and 'Shared responsibilities and commitments for Antarctic future'.

Mystamp customised with the ATCM-46 logo was released in collaboration with India Post.

A mural themed 'Species-rich Antarctica' designed by school children, aimed at enhancing awareness of Antarctica amongst young minds, was unveiled in collaboration with Germany, ASOC, and its partners. A panel discussion on 'Antarctic Synergy: Driving Scientific Progress through Diplomacy, fostering Cooperation through Research' was organized as an outreach effort for college students from Kochi, Kerala. Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director, NCPOR, congratulated his team for successfully hosting the high-level Antarctic meetings in Kochi. "Our active and strategic participation in Antarctic affairs, India's polar programme and its role as host showcased our dedication to fostering global partnerships and advancing the cause

of environmental conservation on a global stage," he said.

The Parties also discussed several important Antarctic matters, including liability, biological prospecting, exchange of information, education and awareness, a multi-year strategic work plan, safety, inspections, science, future science challenges, scientific cooperation, climate change implications, and tourism management, amongst others. A significant outcome was the adoption of a decision to develop an ambitious, comprehensive, flexible, and dynamic framework for regulating tourism and non-governmental activities in Antarctica. The parties also discussed consultative status requests from Canada and Belarus, but no consensus was reached.

India hosted 400+ delegates from 56 countries at the global meeting on Antarctic affairs which brought together diplomats, scientists, and experts to discuss a variety of Antarctic matters, including science, policy, governance, logistics, operations, environmental stewardship, etc. The meetings were in-person events with a virtual audience.

## DGP J&K sanctions retirement gift of Rs. 1.50 Crore in favour of 150 police personnel

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

As a token of appreciation for their services to the Department, the Director General of Police, J&K, Shri R. R. Swain has sanctioned retirement gift of rupees one crore and fifty lakh in favour of 150 Police personnel of J&K Police who are retiring from services after attaining superannuation or voluntary retirement.

Retirement gift of rupees one lakh each has been sanctioned vide PHQ/J&K order No. 1346 of 2024 in favour of four gazetted officers, eighty nine non-gazetted officers, seventeen lower subordinates & five followers. These personnel belong to different units and wings of the

department. The amount has been sanctioned out of the Contributory Police Welfare Fund.

The gift is sanctioned to police personnel/SPOs at the time of his/her retirement and serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services rendered to the department.

During the current year till date police headquarter has sanctioned 9.95 crore as retirement gift in favour of 995 police personnel who have retired from the services on superannuation.

As a welfare measure Police Headquarters has taken many initiatives to ensure increased help and assistance for the welfare of its personnel and their families.

## Govt unmoved as power, water crisis deepens in Jammu Division: Bhalla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Friday slammed BJP for putting Jammu's interests and development subservient to the pleasure of personal vested agenda for remaining glued to power.

"Despite being in power at the Centre and in the State the party failed miserably on governance front and let down Jammu on all fronts", he said, adding that the BJP has nothing to showcase as its achievement, least to fulfilling liberal promises during elections. Bhalla said while interacting with booth agents at Bhour Pind, Bhour Kullian Ward 73 organized by Pawan Bhagat Secretary JKPCC. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Amrit Bali Gen Secretary JKPCC, Gurmeet Singh Block President, Gurcharan Singh Naib Sarpanch, Kewal Krishan, Kapoor Lal Ward President, Sat Pal, Mohan Lal, Harbans Lal, Avinash Singh, Parshotam Lal, Rajinder Singh, Gurbaksh Singh, Parveen Sharma, Bans Lal, HL Bhagat, Rash Pal, Hans Raj, Sham Lal, Mohan Lal besides others.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Bhalla observed that heat-wave has triggered a severe water and power crisis in several areas of the Jammu division, but authorities have failed to set up control rooms and appoint nodal officers in each district to cater to public complaints. He regretted that over the past week, several places, particularly Jammu city, have faced major water and power shortages, leading to public protests, and the stopping of a Vande Bharat train at a railway station but nothing happened on ground. Like other parts of the country, the increasing temperature has thrown normal life out of gear in Jammu also, and the poor water supply here has further added to the miseries of the people who are forced to purchase water from private tankers at exorbitant rates. He said water supply is not regular in almost entire of the Jammu city and its peripheries with certain areas getting water supply even after eight days and that too with a very low pressure and the supply even remaining for less than 30 minutes. Apart from most parts of Jammu city, the worst affected areas remained Bhatindi, Chowadi, Channi, Narwal, Bahu Fort, Talab Tillo, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Paloura, Janipur, Bantalab, Kot Bhalwal



etc. "They get the water supply after 2-3 days and that too for a few minutes with a very low pressure," said Bhalla.

Bhalla said the treachery and deceit of the BJP is haunting Jammu people who reposed their unflinching faith and support to it with the hope that Jammu may perhaps get a better deal as during the days of its wilderness in the opposition, the BJP leaders were crying hoarse over discrimination and neglect. He charged the BJP for reversing some of the prestigious projects launched during the tenure of Congress Govt for putting the Jammu region on equal pedestal of development. "Not only on the front of development but equally in terms of instilling a sense of confidence among the people, the BJP has desperately failed", Bhalla said and referred to uncertain

political climate prevailing across J&K ever since the BJP dispensation came into being. He said the BJP ditched each segment of society which feel left out with government nowhere visible on ground. He said BJP Govt failed to put their act together and get into operational mode by shunning opportunism and politics of convenience.

Referring to the issues confronting people of J&K, Bhalla said that being a representative of the people, he has been pursuing all those connected with development for giving push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of society. He said that the BJP led government at the Centre has miserably failed to live up to the expectations of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that there is a strong resentment among

people against the government as the BJP leadership has failed to fulfill its promises that were made at the time of both parliamentary and the assembly elections. "The BJP has played with the sentiments of people who voted them to power. People are not happy with their policies. Growing public disenchantment is a reflection of dismal performance of the central dispensation on all fronts. BJP exploited public sentiment, not only by whipping up passions on religion and region but also by making hollow promises about development," Bhalla said.

Referring to the unprecedented price rise and record unemployment, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, Bhalla said the Modi Government has failed to bring prices under control. "The common man is suffering due to unprecedented price rise of all essential commodities and unreasonable taxes," he said. He asserted that the impetus generated during the successive Congress governments in the erstwhile state is totally missing. He said that the party believes in an inclusive and prosperous J&K that does not discriminate on the basis of religion, caste, class, language, region or creed. He further said the principles envis-

aged by Congress "helped us unite as a people." "The party can only advance its cause determinately if it works as a whole unitedly. The road ahead of us is rough. We have to keep up with our fight for the restoration of our infringed rights and on another front we have to ensure the well-being of our people. Ours is the party that defines the soul of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. He accused the BJP of resorting to making false promises and indulging in rhetoric with an eye to win polls only. Bhalla claimed the BJP had already generated discontentment among youth and was "fully exposed" for playing with the sentiments of Jammu people. The BJP had been hammering discrimination and invoking Jammu pride for six decades of its wilderness in the opposition but once getting into the cradle of power, it has left the people in lurch and pushed the youth to deprivation, he alleged. He claimed the BJP had lost the moral right of claiming to be the champions of the Jammu cause. He said the people of Jammu are feeling let down as the entire system of governance has gone haywire. "Soaring prices are breaking the backbone of poor, utility services are in a shambles, grievance mechanism is in

complete disarray and all sectors of development are suffering inertia. Same is true about implementation of welfare schemes, Bhalla alleged. To divert the attention from its alleged failures, the BJP has again embarked on "hoodwinking" people by shifting blame to other parties, he alleged. "In fact BJP was never ever serious on delivering promises during its ten years' misrule, as getting glued to power was its single-point and ultimate agenda", he said.

Bhalla charged BJP of playing politics of opportunism and said failure on all fronts has now started boomeranging with discredited party leaders desperately grappling with peoples' ire. He said people of Jammu will never forgive the BJP for treachery and deceit, as their pride has been bartered for few loaves of power. "Jammu interest has been made subservient to personal ambitions", he said and questioned BJP's moral authority in facing people again after putting the State in a spell of unprecedented political uncertainty and mess. "A State that needed further push to progress and development, initiated by the Congress led government, has been pushed to wall due to political mis-management of BJP", he said.

## Cyber cell of J&K Police in Jammu solved online financial fraud amounting to Rs.1,47,450

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Cyber Cell of DPO Jammu solved three separate online cyber crime complaints.

A complaint was received regarding financial fraud of Rs.62,450/. The complainant received a phone call on WhatsApp regarding task of review on hotels and restaurants and earn money. Victim invested money there and lost an amount of Rs. 62,450/.

One complaint was received regarding financial fraud of Rs.52,000/- in which complainant saw a post on telegram about investment. The victim invested Rs 52,000. Later complainant came to know that its a fraud.

A complaint of financial fraud of Rs 35,000/ in which victim searched a Bank for online loan from google and contacted with the bank officials and they suggested him to download a Loan App in which victim had to pay some security fees and defrauded him with an amount of Rs. 35,000.



## UN chief presents award to Indian peacekeeper Maj Radhika Sen, calls her 'true leader and role model'



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres was all praise for Indian peacekeeper Major Radhika Sen, who was honoured with the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year award. He described her as "a true leader and role model".

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the honour for Major Sen is a proud moment for India, and that Indian peacekeepers continue to contribute to global peace and security through their steadfast commitment and courage.

"Indian women leading on all fronts - proud moment for India!"

UNSG @antonioguterres honoured Indian peacekeeper, Major Radhika Sen with

the 'UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year' Award.

"Our peacekeepers continue to contribute to global peace & security through their steadfast commitment & courage," he posted on X.

UN chief Guterres in a post on X said:

"Congratulations to Major Radhika Sen of India, our @UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year.

Major Sen is a true leader and role model. Her achievements #ServingForPeace with @MONUSCO underscore the essential role women play for peace & security."

On Thursday, the UN honoured Indian peacekeeper Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld medal.

The UN Secretary Gen-

eral also presented the 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award to Major Radhika Sen, a military officer from India, during the event on May 30, observed as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

India is the second largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping. It currently deploys more than 6,000 military and police personnel to the UN operations in Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan, and Western Sahara.

Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh served with the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).

Major Radhika Sen also served with MONUSCO.

## 5 days crash course for 10 batch of New Criminal Laws-23 concluded at DTC DPL, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

10th batch of 89 Police officers/officials from various units of Jammu District today on 31.05.2024 concluded, five-day Crash Course on the New Criminal Laws-2023 at DTC(District Training Centre)DPL Jammu.

The course aims to equip Police officers/officials including SHOs, Incharge Police Posts, Investigating Officers & other staff from various units of the District Police Jammu with the essential understanding of the new promulgated laws by the Central Government, which are going to be implemented on ground from 1st July-2024.

The crash course was organized under the directives of the Police Headquarters J&K, the primary objective of this course is to ensure that the Police officers/officials are well-versed with the key provisions of the new Criminal Laws-2023, so



that they can be effectively implemented on the ground in both letter and spirit.

The concluding ceremony of the course was

graced by the presence of SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar-IPS along with SP hqrs Jammu Sh. Irshad H. Rather-JKPS(Course Coordinator) and DySP DAR

Jammu Sh. R.S. Kotwal. SSP Jammu underscored the significance of familiarizing oneself with all three new Criminal Laws, namely Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita-2023 (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023(BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam-2023(BSA), stressing their crucial role in enhancing law enforcement practices.

On the occasion, certificates were distributed among the officers/officials who successfully completed the 05 day crash course.

With the successful completion of crash of 10th batch on New Criminal Laws-23 and 6th batch on "Practical Demos for Investigating Officers regarding New Criminal Laws & NDPS Act," about 1200 police personnel have been successfully imparted training regarding New Criminal Laws-2023 and Investigation techniques at DTC, DPL Jammu so far.

District Police Jammu is committed to foster continuous learning and professional development among its personnel to ensure the highest standards of service delivery and community policing.

## Manufacturing, Construction sectors push Q4 GDP growth to 7.8 pc

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

Beating market estimates, India's gross domestic product (GDP) logged 7.8% year-on-year growth in January-March quarter (Q4) of the financial year 2023-24 on the back of strong performance by sectors such as manufacturing and construction.

Both manufacturing and construction sectors registered over 8% year-on-year growth in the March quarter of FY24.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant prices in Q4 of 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 47.24 lakh crore, against Rs 43.84 lakh crore in Q4 of 2022-23, showing a growth rate of 7.8%," said Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in a press note on Friday. Real GVA (gross value added) in Q4 of 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 42.23 lakh crore as against Rs 39.74 lakh crore in Q4 of 2022-23, thus registering a growth rate of 6.3%.

"While the growth in India's GDP and GVA moderated to a four-quarter low of 7.8% and 6.3%, respectively, in Q4 FY2024 from the revised prints of 8.6% and 6.8% in Q3, it exceeded both our and market expectations," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

For the full financial year ended March 31, 2024, the GDP growth is estimated at 8.2% as compared to the growth rate of 7% in FY 2022-23.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 173.82 lakh crore in the year 2023-24, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for the year 2022-23 of Rs 160.71 lakh crore. The growth rate in real GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 8.2% as compared to 7.0% in 2022-23," MoSPI said. Real GVA in the full financial year 2023-24 grew by 7.2% over 6.7% in 2022-23. This GVA growth has been mainly due to significant growth of 9.9% in manufacturing sector in 2023-24 over -2.2% in 2022-23 and growth of 7.1% in 2023-24 over 1.9% in 2022-23 for mining & quarrying sector," the official release said.

## GCE, Canal Road Jammu organizes College picnic

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Staff and students of Govt. College of Education went for picnic to patnitop. The sole purpose of picnic was to provide enjoyment, relaxation and an opportunity to connect with each other in pleasant environment. Principal Prof. Dr. Jyoti Parihar appreciated the efforts of the picnic committee and flagged off the buses. She further said that picnic and rejuvenation are very important aspect for the mental health of students and staff.



## NOTICE

I, Mohd Yasif, S/o Mohd Farooq, a resident of Bajalta, Jammu declare that my mother's name, Sharifa Bi, has been wrongly written as Shareefan Bibi in my Class 8th marks card under Roll No. 8701541, Registration No. GN-22-VIII-00359 and Session: Annual 2022-23, issued by DIET Jammu. Her correct name is Sharifa Bi. I am applying for correction of the same in Class 8th marks card. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned.

## Indian Army organizes Essay Writing Competition at Cherji, Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAY 31

In its efforts to connect with and simulate the young minds of future generation Indian Army organised an Essay Writing Competition on the topics 'Importance of Education in Life', 'Reason

for increasing unemployment' & 'Jal Hai toh Kal Hai' for the children of High School, Dedna at Cherji region, Kishtwar District. The students participated with zeal and enthusiasm. They expressed their sincere gratitude for the opportunity to show case their

views on the paper. A total of 30 children participated in the competition. The competition ended with prize distribution for the winners, with consolation prizes among all participants. The children were overjoyed to participate in such a creative event.

## They will torture me more, but I will not bow down: Kejriwal

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

Ahead of his surrender before Tihar jail authorities, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday took a jibe at BJP stating these people would torture him more than before this time, but he would not bow down.

In a video message, Kejriwal said, "I will surrender the day after tomorrow. I will leave my house at around 3:00 PM to surrender. It is possible that this time they will torture me more, but I will not bow down."

"They tried to break me in many ways, tried to bow me down, tried to silence me. But they did not succeed," Kejriwal alleged.

"In jail, they stopped my insulin injections for many days, my sugar reached



300, 325 (mg/dL). If the sugar remains so high for so many days, then the kidney and liver get damaged. I don't know what these people wanted, why did they do this," Kejriwal added.

"When I went to jail, my weight was 70 kg. Today it is 64 kg. Even after being released from jail, my weight is not increasing. Doctors are saying that this can also be a sign of some major disease in the body. Many tests need to be done, ketone level in my

urine has also increased a lot," he said.

He further assured the people of Delhi that they would continue to get all facilities. Wherever I live, all your work, including 24-hour free electricity, treatment, and bus travel for women will continue, I will not let them stop, Kejriwal said.

"We are all fighting dictatorship together. If something happens to me to save the country, if I even lose my life, then do not be sad," Kejriwal added.

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONST. DIVISION KRISHNA NAGAR, JAMMU. Email: [xenmicdiju@gmail.com](mailto:xenmicdiju@gmail.com)

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT NO. MICD/J/8 Dated:30/05/2024 Due on:08/6/2024

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Krishna Nagar, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms/ reputed workshop owners doing similar nature of works having valid PAN No. and GST No. for below mentioned work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'A' - Tender fee and Bid Security Declaration Form, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover 'B' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S.no.	Name of Work	EMD	Performance Security	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Position of funds
1.	repairs to 100KVA Electric transformer and providing and fitting of main Switch with allied works at LIS Nud Behra	Rs. 6000.00	3% of the contract value of L1	Rs.200.00	07 Days	120 days	Available

#### Key points of tender

- Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 31/5/2024 (05.00PM onwards).
- The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 31/05/2024 (05.00PM onwards) to 8/06/2024 (Upto 12.00PM).
- The cover "A" containing Tender fee, Bid Security Declaration Form & prequalification/ technical bids shall be opened online on 08/6/2024 (02.00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu. In case of holiday or if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of Cover 'A' the same shall be opened on the next working day or any other convenient day.
- Cover B containing the financial bids in the prescribed BOQ shall be opened after evaluation of the opened technical bids.
- Bids must be accompanied with EMD that should be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation construction Division Jammu in the form of CDR/FDR and shall have to be valid for 120 days along with copy of the cost of tender document as mentioned in the e NIT (Notice Inviting Tender). The cost of downloaded tender document shall be in the form of treasury challan favouring Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu by crediting the requisite charge to MH: 0702 (Revenue). The firm claiming any discount/rebate shall attach the relevant supporting document/certificate to the effect.
- The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
- Lowest bidder will submit the performance security in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank equal to 3% of the contract value in addition to the EMD amount along with Tender fee and other relevant documents after opening of financial bid online within 3 days. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office. In case the original documents are not submitted by the lowest bidders after opening of financial bid, the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further tendering process in the division.
- The original documents submitted by the L1 should be the same as uploaded online (scanned copies).
- The bids shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- All other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bidder is advised to visit the site. The bidder should be well versed with the site conditions, distance, head load and other related difficulties to be faced during execution of work.

No: MICD/J/206-08  
Dated: 30/05/2024

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Mech. Irr. Construction Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-887/24  
Date: 31-5-24



## Students of GPJ visits Kandari Begerages to get Technical Experience

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Government Polytechnic Jammu organized a one day Technical/ Field visit for the students of 2nd and 4th semester Instrumentation and control Engineering department to Kandari beverages pvt. Ltd. cola plant located at samba industrial area under the guidance of Er. Arun Bangotra Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu. The main objective of this Field visit was to provide a Technical experience of the work atmosphere of coca cola plant and creation of interest of students in studies and provide practical exposure to the industrial environment.

Mr Sunil Ganjoo plant head kandari beverages share their valuable experience with students and brief about all process work culture and employment opportunities of the plant



and Mr Jitender HR head and its team also express about safty norms of coca cola plant.

Kandhari Beverages is one of the bottling partners of Coca-Cola in India, operating several plants across the country. One of their significant facilities is located in Samba, Jammu & Kashmir. This plant is part of Coca-Cola's extensive network in India, producing and distributing a variety of beverages under the Coca-Cola brand. The Samba plant, like other Coca-Cola bottling plants, is equipped with modern production technologies

and adheres to stringent quality control standards to ensure the beverages meet the high standards expected by consumers. The plant contributes to the local economy by providing employment opportunities and supporting local supply chains. This visit is an integral part of our curriculum and aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Staff members who accompanied the students during the visit were Er. Ashok kumar verma, Mr. Shakesh Ahmed and Mr Rakesh kumar.

## Sandeep Kumar (IFS) visits Nowshera Forest Division to monitor fire incidents

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NOWSHERA, MAY 31

Conservator of Forests, West Circle Rajouri, Sandeep Kumar (IFS) made a field visit to Forest Compartment 132/N in Nowshera Forest Division to monitor the response to the recent fire incidents. He was accompanied by DFO Nowshera Shweta Deonia, Range Officer Nowshera Anil Kumar. During his visit, Kumar issued several instructions and strategic guidelines to the fire fighting teams at the ground level with the aim to effectively deal with the threat of forest fire. He emphasized the important role of these teams in protecting the forest and directed them to take all necessary measures to control



and extinguish the fire promptly. In his address, Kumar appealed to all stakeholders including local residents to immediately inform the Forest Department about any fire incident and assist the department during fire fighting operations. He highlighted the importance of community participation in preventing and controlling forest fires. Kumar also expressed concern over the increasing incidence of forest fires due to rising

temperatures. He underscored the importance of protecting forests for future generations, and said forests provide significant environmental, economic and social benefits. The visit and directives of the Conservator reflect the Forest Department's continued commitment to preserve and protect the forest resources of the region through proactive and community-participatory fire management strategies.

## Motivational Lecture By Gallantry Awardees at Lam, Rajouri



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MAY 31

A 'Motivational Lecture by Sub Maj & Hony Capt Ajeet Singh, SM (Retd) of 15 JAK RIF was organised at Govt High Sec School, Lam. The Inspiring Lecture by Gallantry Awardee was organised as part of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas Celebrations wherein, he shared first-hand experiences of Sacrifices and the

spirit of valour that the Indian Army exhibited during Kargil War. The address motivated and reminded the students of the heroes of the brave hearts in the Kargil War. The event served as a tribute to the heroes who defended our country and also a source of motivation for the young students aspiring to join Armed Forces. A sense of Patriotism, was felt in the environment during

the lecture. Lectures by the War Heroes, levies a positive impact on young generation and Motivates them to join Indian Army and become responsible citizens of our country. The students, teachers and villagers were enthusiastic and have participated keenly in the interactive session. The populace paid keen interest and conveyed their gratitude for such a graceful event.

## Awareness Campaign of Friendly, Secular Indian Army organized at Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MAY 31

'Awareness Campaign of Friendly & Secular Indian Army at Batsiyala. Makhidhar & Ichini of Rajouri district was organised on 30 May 2024. The aim of the campaign was to promote Peace, Harmony

and inclusivity with the diverse fabric of the society and also foster positive relations with the resident populace and Gujjar- Bakkarwal Community. The resident populace appreciated the efforts of motivating the Awam and lead-



ing them to the path of patriotism. This endeavor by the Indian Army served as a sincere effort to sculpt a better future for the present generation and help them becoming an active element of the Nation's mainstream.

## Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort pays tributes to Sant Ram, others

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bahu Fort, Jammu organized function to pay tributes to great krantikari writer, reknowned social reformer, yugpurush and founder of Jaat Paat todak mandal Sant Ram B.A Ji. He was a great social reformer. Rich tributes were also paid to Shaheed Rajni Bala. Two minutes silence was also observed for those who were killed in bus accident near Akhnoor.

While speaking on this occasion, Sham Lal Basson General Secretary Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bahu Fort, Jammu paid homage to great writer and social reformer late Sh. Sant Ram B.A. ji. He was born on 14th Feb 1887 at village Purani Bassi near Hoshiarpur (Pb) and took his last breath on 31st may 1988. He wrote more 100 books such as Hamara Samaj, Lok vijay, Swdeshi Videsh Yatra, mere Jivan ke Anubhav, Jaat Paat problems and solution. Hinduo Sambhlo, Hamari ye Jaat paat, why intercaste marriages etc. Sh F.C Satia general secretary all, J&K prajapati Sabha and president All India Federation of backward classes addressed the gathering and threw light on the life and struggle of Sant Ram B.A. Adv. Rajinder kumar also addressed the gathering. Sh kewal Krishan Fotra, newly elected president of All J&K Sain Samaj Sabha was honoured on this occasion. He also addressed the gathering and thanked SGRD, Sabha Bahu Fort, Jammu. Sham Basson Further said that



Then this presidential address was published in the shape of book named annihilation of caste/Jaat Paat ka Vinash. It is very famous book. Sant Ram B.A wanted casteless and classless society.

He also translated important English book of dale carnige "How to win friends and influence people into hindi. He was given many cash prizes for important books such as Hamara Samaj, Shishtachar, Mere Jivan ke Anubhav, why intercaste marriages etc. Sh F.C Satia general secretary all, J&K prajapati Sabha and president All India Federation of backward classes addressed the gathering and threw light on the life and struggle of Sant Ram B.A. Adv. Rajinder kumar also addressed the gathering. Sh kewal Krishan Fotra, newly elected president of All J&K Sain Samaj Sabha was honoured on this occasion. He also addressed the gathering and thanked SGRD, Sabha Bahu Fort, Jammu. Sham Basson Further said that

scheduled caste employees of Kashmir were not given justice. Transfer/promotion policies have not been framed till date. Safe accommodation have not been provided to these employees. Justice has not been delivered to the family of shaheed Rajni Bala.

Those who paid tributes included Sh. Kewal Krishan Fotra, Lokinder Singh Ravi, Retd ADG, Janak Raj thapa, Retd ADG Joginder kumar, Retd Col. Mohan Lal, Charan Dass Shivgotra, Darshan Lal, Karam chand, Bittu Ram, Kasturi Lal Basotra, Retd DSP and ex-president Sain Sabha, Dr Ashok Kumar, Er. Manga Ram, Kartar Singh, Manohar Lal Tidyal, Ashok Kumar Jagotra, sham Lal Bhaporia, Sudesh Kumar Tidyal, Veena Bakshi, Rajni devi, Veena Devi, Rattan Lal, Shakti Pushap, Ashok Kumar tripathi, Sanjay Kumar Sajgotra, Sushil Punday, Rattan Lal Bhagotra, Raj kumar Bhagotra Moti Ram angral and Kamal Kalsotra.

## Health Department celebrates 'World No Tobacco Day' at SDH Nowshera



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NOWSHERA, MAY 31

Health Department Block Nowshera celebrated World No Tobacco Day on Friday at Sub District Hospital Nowshera in collaboration with local community organizations on the topic 'Protecting Children from the Interference of Tobacco Industry'. On this occasion, all the employees of Sub District Hospital Nowshera took a pledge to make people aware about the prevention of tobacco consumption by holding banner posters in their hands. Speaking on the occasion, Block Medical Officer Nowshera Dr Iqbal Malik said that No Tobacco Day was celebrated by the Health Department at Sub District Hospital Nowshera

also known as World No Tobacco Day, is celebrated as a global initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO). Its aim is to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and advocate effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The day is observed to educate people about the health risks associated with tobacco use, including smokeless tobacco products, and highlight the importance of quitting tobacco. And governments, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to take action against tobacco use. World No Tobacco Day, observed worldwide on May 31 every year, was created in 1987 by WHO member countries to draw global

attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. This annual celebration aims to raise awareness among global citizens not only about the dangers of tobacco use, but also about the dangers of tobacco use. Individuals can contribute to this cause by pledging to quit tobacco, supporting tobacco control policies, and spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco among their friends, family, and communities. On this day, various activities and campaigns are organized around the world to promote tobacco control. These initiatives include public awareness campaigns, educational pro-

## Indian Army, others organize Cleanliness Drive at Khellani, Doda



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 31

With an aim to promote clean and healthy life style in the society, Indian Army and populace of Khellani market including school children organised a Cleanliness Drive'. The aim of the campaign was to spread awareness about cleanliness in & around houses and surroundings for a healthy society. The students were made to understand various health problems related to defecation in open, unplanned waste dispos-

al, unhygienic living conditions, sewage problems and personal hygiene. Civil administration also extended their support in giving impetus to cleanliness drive. The students and resident youth enthusiastically participated in the event. The event culminated with a pledge to keep their Houses, 'Mohallas, Villages, and Country clean'. A total of 50 students and 17 inhabitants attended the event. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and Awam.

## Rajesh Gupta expresses shock over rising road accidents in Jammu region

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Rajesh Gupta, the general secretary and media head Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed deep shock over Akhnoor accident and showed concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

In a statement released today, Gupta specifically referred to the recent Akhnoor accident, in which 22 people lost their lives and 69 others sustained serious injuries after a bus fell down in gorge on the way to Shiv Khodi.

Gupta taking a dig on LG Manoj Sinha said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan today. Gupta questions LG Sinha will, "mission save lives be implemented in reality or mere remains an event only?"

BSP leader expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

Expressing shock and anguish our daily road accidents, Gupta highlighted that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have suf-



fered severe injuries due to road accidents. He said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable.

BSP leader called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else. He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

Gupta acknowledged that while the conflict in the region often dominates headlines, it is essential to address the issue of road accidents, which disproportionately affects the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Kajal declared qualified for Award of Ph. D. Degree

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Kajal, D/O Girdhari Lal, and Geeta Devi has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, J&K. She has worked on the topic, titled "Designing and Simulation of Low Power PVT Variations Aware FinFET Circuits", under the supervision of Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU. During her Ph.D. program, she has published research papers indexed in SCI/SCIE-ranked journals. She has presented research papers in various International Conferences. Ms. Kajal expressed her gratitude to the Technical Education Quality Improve-



ment Programme (TEQIP-III) scheme for providing fellowship during her Ph.D. program. She acknowledged the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering for providing her with all the necessary facilities and support for conducting her research work. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha (Dean Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma (Supervisor), and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished her a bright future.



## Phase III of e-Courts Project would transform Indian Judicial System incredibly: Chief Justice

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, today virtually inaugurated a two day e-Courts Phase III Regional Cluster Workshop for North Zone, High Court(s), which is being held at J&K Judicial Academy, Srinagar.

The delegates from the High Courts of Delhi, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Allahabad along with the High Court of J&K and Ladakh are participating in the workshop which is being presided over by the members of e-Committee, Supreme Court of India and the NIC, Pune team.

The Chief Justice inaugurated the workshop virtually from Jammu wing of the High Court, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Chairperson IT, Committee, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar & Justice Rahul Bharti, Members, IT Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Justice Sanjay Dhar graced the occasion in person while other members of the IT Committee along with Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Justice



Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri & Justice Muhammad Yousuf Wani, joined the event virtually from Jammu Wing of the High Court.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice while embarking on the journey of the e-Courts project deliberated as to how it helped in streamlining the management and transition of various facets of judicial dispensation by overcoming various challenges encountered during the journey.

While highlighting the advantages of the technology, Justice Kotiswar emphasized that his addressing the participants in today's workshop seamlessly through virtual mode and joining of Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India was made possible only because of technological advancement made

in the Judicial infrastructure. He expressed happiness that the fear developed due to intervention of technology was overcome and Justice delivery system has become not only convenient but also transparent and accessible to the common masses with introduction of Case Information System, Digitisation, E-filing, and E-payment etc. The Chief Justice emphasised that Phase III is going to transform the overall Indian Judicial Scenario in the coming days in incredible ways.

In his special address, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Member IT Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, shared the historical perspective of development of e-courts project and hoped that its Phase III will prove to be a boon in the justice delivery system. He lauded the con-

tribution of Justice Badar Durez Ahmad, former Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, for providing impetus to the e-Courts initiatives both in the High Court and District Judiciary of J&K. He urged the delegates to derive maximum advantage out of the present workshop.

Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India, P.P Pandey, virtually addressed the inaugural session from New Delhi and complimented all the stakeholders for timely achieving the targets of e-Courts project. He also expressed optimism by stating that phase III of the e-Courts project will bring the Indian Judicial system far ahead in the world so far as the use of technology is concerned. He assured full support of the Department of Justice, Government of India in the execution of the project.

Arulmozhi Selvi, Member (Human Resources) E-Committee, Supreme Court of India, addressing the participants, stated that it was the initiative of the Chief Justice of India, to organise such workshops in different zones of the Country so that the

developments in technology and the needs of the Project are brought to the doorstep of the actual stakeholders.

Earlier, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Y.P.Bourney, presented a formal welcome address.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar Computers (IT) cum Central project Coordinator, High Court of J&K and Ladakh who also presented formal vote of thanks.

Other dignitaries and guests who graced the occasion included D.C.Raina, Advocate General, Tahir Shamsi, Deputy Solicitor General, India, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, Jawad Ahmad, PDJ, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, Registrar Vigilance, Rajendra Sapru, Registrar Rules, Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial (Jammu), Prem Sagar, Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Rajni Sharma, Joint Registrar (Judicial), Jammu and Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar (Judicial), Srinagar.

The event was also live streamed on YouTube channel of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

## DHSK observes World No Tobacco Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 31

The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) today observed World No Tobacco Day here in which the participants deliberated upon the health challenges posed by consumption of all forms of tobacco, for smokers as well as non-smokers.

To commemorate the global celebration, a grand function was organised by Tobacco Control Cell, DHSK at Tagore Hall. The WHO's theme for 'World No Tobacco Day' this year is "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference," while it "focuses on preventing the tobacco industry from targeting young people with harmful products and promoting policies that shield them from manipulative practices".

While inaugurating the event, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Nazim Zai Khan, emphasised upon the impor-

importance of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. He said that IEC activities will go a long way in dissuading tobacco consumption. He added that we have to act collectively to create wide awareness among the vulnerable segments especially youth regarding the seriously debilitating and harmful effects of tobacco consumption. He said that tobacco consumption is eating into the vitals of our society and we have to work jointly to fight this menace.

He said that anti-tobacco campaign is a constant program by the health department but the public too has to take a lead in making the program result oriented and more effective. He lauded the efforts of health department for taking anti-tobacco campaign to nook and corner of Kashmir.

Principal Government Medical College, Dr Iffat Hassan, enumerated adverse effects of tobacco on health and appealed

the people to break free from the shackles of tobacco and embrace a healthier lifestyle.

In his welcome address, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, said that awareness and education are important to curb the menace of smoking.

Director Health showed concern over the increasing number of youngsters caught in the web of smoking unable to wean off the habit. Quoting WHO, he said that "according to 2022 data, worldwide, at least 37 million young people aged 13-15 years use some form of tobacco." He said that passive smoking is more dangerous than active smoking which causes more serious health problems.

Project Director, AIDS Control Society, J&K, Dr. Abdul Rouf Bhat, also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the adverse affects of smoking and the need to save our younger generation from this menace.

## DC Ramban stresses on hindrance free NH-44 for SANJY-2024, tourist & fruit season

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 31

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, along with SSP Traffic NHW, Rohit Basotra and Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, inspected the measures being taken by executing agencies on National Highway-44 for smooth traffic movement from Nashri to Banihal, especially in view of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024, tourist and fruit season.

Addl. SP Gourav Mahajan, Project Director NHAI Parshotam Kumar, and several other officers were part of the Inspection Team. They visited several critical spots, including sliding areas along Nashri to Banihal stretch. The DC directed NHAI authorities and others concerned to ensure smooth double-lane traffic flow by improving road surface and effective traffic management.



The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed strategies to expedite the ongoing four-laning work on the NH-44 to facilitate hassle-free road connectivity for Yatris, tourists, passengers, and locals. He instructed construction companies to station adequate manpower and machinery at all vulnerable sliding zones to promptly address emergencies and regulate traffic efficiently.

Furthermore, he directed the traffic police to maintain smooth vehicular movement by providing safe passage to vehicles and implementing road safety measures.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed NHAI to install crash barriers at identified locations, fill potholes, conduct black-topping on the existing highway and install signage for the convenience of commuters.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner discussed security arrangements and emphasized enhancing the staying capacity in Yatri Niwas and shelter sheds. He assured that the District Administration, working as a cohesive team, will ensure all arrangements are in place well in time for the Yatra and tourist season.

## VC JU Visits 7-Day Heritage Exhibition at Kala Kendra



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Professor Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, today visited Kala Kendra to witness the ongoing 7-day photo exhibition by journalist Sunny Dua, themed "Resilient Heritage." The exhibition, which concluded today, highlighted the rich architectural heritage of Jammu through over 150 rare photographs.

The concluding ceremony was presided over by Professor Rai while Prof. Manisha Swaroop Kohli, Principal of Govt Degree College Kunjwani, Arun Bangorta, Principal Govt Polytechnic College Jammu, Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary of the Kala Kendra Society, Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director of IGNCIA, and social activist Ruchi Mir Khan were in the presidium.

In his welcome address Dr. Javid Rahi stated that the exhibition's objective of connecting the new generation with their roots and raising awareness about heritage conservation. He noted that over the seven days, hundreds of students, scholars, and conservators visited the five galleries where the photographs were displayed.

Sunny Dua, in his address, spoke about the journey of documenting these heritage structures and stressed the need for conservation efforts by

both conservators and government agencies.

In his address, Professor Rai remarked on the significance of such exhibitions in connecting us with our rich past. He highlighted the uniqueness of the structures captured in the photographs and stressed the need for preserving and conserving the endangered heritage. "These rare pictures provide a tour of the old city, making us proud of its rich history and architecture," said Professor Rai. "Sunny Dua's work speaks volumes about his intellect and dedication beyond academic excellence. This exhibition showcases a side of Jammu that has been brought to the forefront for the first time, deserving all the appreciation."

Professor Manisha Kohli added, "The exhibition serves as a poignant reminder of Jammu's illustrious past and aims to rekindle appreciation for its architectural marvels."

Dr. Arun Sharma, Principal of ITI Jammu, stated, "Through these initiatives, our students of architecture learn many things about old built heritage." Prominent who attend the programme includes Ritupal Singh, Mehesha Malohtra, Sangeeta Sharma and Parveen Kumari Dy Director Libraries.

The program was conducted by Mehak Sharma, who also presented the vote of thanks.

## K K Sharma, Former Advisor to LG of J&K visits IIM Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 31

Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma, (IAS Retd.), Former Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, visited the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on 31st May 2024. During his visit, he was given a campus tour of the state-of-the-art IIM Jammu Jagti Campus, including significant landmarks such as the Nalanda Library and the smart classrooms.

The visit commenced with a warm welcome by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, who accompanied Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma on the campus tour. Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma was briefed on the various academic and

infrastructural advancements that the institute has achieved in recent years. The tour included a detailed overview of the cutting-edge facilities and the serene, conducive learning environment that IIM Jammu offers to its students. Present on the occasion was Shri Shailesh. K. Lohiya, Librarian, and Officiating Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), IIM Jammu.

Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma, IAS mentioned, "It is a pleasure to visit IIM Jammu and witness the impressive infrastructure and academic environment. The institute's commitment to excellence is evident in every aspect of the campus. I am confident that IIM Jammu will contin-

ue to be a beacon of high-quality education and will significantly contribute to the development of future leaders."

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu mentioned "We are happy to have Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma visit our campus today. His vast experience and insights are invaluable to us. The state-of-the-art facilities at IIM Jammu are designed to provide our students with the best possible environment for learning and development. We are committed to fostering an academic culture that promotes excellence and innovation."

The visit ended on a positive note with a commitment to fostering excellence in education and leadership.

## Awareness Program on hazards of Drug abuse held at GHSS Katra

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAY 31

To combat the rising issue of drug addiction among the youth, District Administration Reasi, in collaboration with Karismatic Production organized a comprehensive awareness program today at Government Higher Secondary School Katra.

The event was aimed to educate and sensitize students about the perils of drug abuse and the importance of making informed choices. District Development Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan was the Chief Guest.

In his address, DDC Vishesh Mahajan highlighted the detrimental effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large. He emphasized the importance of awareness and enforcement measures in combating the menace. He urged students to stay vigilant and seek help if they or anyone they know is struggling with addiction. Commandant Yardum Bunkar, CRPF 06 Battalion, Katra, shared insights on the



psychological and physical repercussions of drug abuse. He stressed the significance of a supportive community environment in rehabilitation efforts.

SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra; SP Vipin Chandran; Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Katra, Tehsildar Katra, Assistant Director Tourism Katra, EO Municipal Committee Katra, Principal GHSS, Katra, Block Medical Officer Katra and other senior officers present.