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LS Polls: Wait Over, Results Today!

Counting of votes for 5 J&K LS seats today amid multi-layer security cover; 2500 security personnel deployed to secure counting centres, 1000 agents given access cards, to report at 6 A.M

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 3

Finally the big day has arrived as the counting of votes will start today (Tuesday) for the five crucial Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir amid multi-layer security cover.

The Election Commission has established 10 counting centers for the five Lok Sabha seats in J&K with one of these centers set up in Delhi to count the votes of Kashmiri migrants living outside Kashmir. The counting of votes for five J&K LS seats will begin



simultaneously with the rest of the country. Early Results for Ladakh and Udhampur among the six Lok Sabha seats of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, the results for Udhampur and Ladakh

are expected first. The results for the remaining four seats—Jammu, Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar, and Baramulla—will take longer due to the high number of candidates, which has necessitated the use of two EVMs for each seat.

Key Candidates Await Results

The fate of over 100 candidates, including prominent figures like Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, will be decided on June 4.

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Longest-surviving terrorists killed in Pulwama encounter

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

One of the longest-surviving terrorists, along with an associate, was killed in an encounter with government forces in the Nihama area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday.

A police officer informed the news agency that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on Sunday evening based on a specific input.

As the joint forces intensified their search towards the suspected hideout, the



hiding terrorists opened fire, triggering a prolonged gunfight, he said.

"Despite being given the opportunity to surrender,

the terrorists declined," the officer said, adding that the exchange of fire lasted for several

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Counting of votes for Anantnag-Rajouri seat Rajouri, Poonch districts to have major say in deciding fate of candidates

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 3

Finally the day has arrived when the people of trans-Pir Panjal Anantnag parliamentary constituency will know who will represent them in the Lok Sabha as the stage for counting is set today (Tuesday).

Whether it will be the candidate of National Conference Mian Altaf Ahmed or Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, or whether the BJP supported J&K Apni Party's Zafar



Iqbal Manhas. According to the news agency, voters of twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch will be having a major say in deciding the

fate of these candidates and whosoever will get lead from these two districts will have an upper hand.

More than five lakh votes were polled in Rajouri and Poonch districts and the major share of votes of these areas are of Gujjars and Paharis and these two communities vote in opposite directions.

It will be interesting to know whether the NC candidate, who is a religious figure within his

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Assembly elections soon in J&K: ECI

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 03

The Election Commission of India (ECI) Monday announced that it will soon initiate the process of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per news agency, during a press conference, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar expressed enthusiasm about the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir during the Lok Sabha elections, highlighting the eagerness of the people to engage in the democratic process.

"We are very enthused by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir



during the Lok Sabha elections, which showed the eagerness of the people to participate in the democratic process. The story of Jammu and Kashmir is a very hopeful story," said Kumar. He also referenced other regions, such as LWE

showed a photo of a girl, whose eyes were shining when she was voting. We want to fulfill people's desires that they can take their governance in their own hands and make their choice. We will very soon start that process of assembly elections in J&K," he stated.

The CEC was referring to the historic voter turnout during the recently held Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir in which more than 58 percent of people in Jammu and Kashmir exercised their franchise. This was the highest polling percentage in JK for LS polls witnessed in the last more than three decades.

areas and Manipur, noting the widespread desire for democratic participation. Kumar shared an anecdote about a young voter, and highlighted the commission's commitment to empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "I

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Weatherman predicts light rains from today

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 03

Amidst the hot and dry weather conditions across Jammu & Kashmir, the weatherman here has predicted light rains from Tuesday, saying that a relief is expected from the scorching heat till June 08.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency, that the rains are expected to put an end to the prevailing hot and dry weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, he said that no major relief is expected in the plains of Jammu and despite the possibility of light rains; the maximum temperature would continue to settle around 40 degree Celsius.

He added that with the possibility of the gusty winds, the plains as well as the higher reaches of Kashmir would receive the light rains and stated that the Jammu higher reaches will also receive rainfall from tomorrow afternoon.

The wet spell is expected to continue from June 04 to June 08 while the hot and dry weather conditions are expected from June 09 to June 13," he said.

Pertinently, the hot and dry weather conditions continued for last several weeks with Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir recording the record-breaking maximum temperature. KNO

Srinagar-Jammu highway to remain closed from 6 pm today for repair work

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 03

Srinagar-Jammu national highway will remain closed for traffic from 6 pm today till tomorrow in view of urgent repair between Ramban and Banihal, authorities said on Monday.

An official told news agency that as intimated by NHAI that urgent repair and maintenance has to be carried out between Ramban and Banihal during the intervening night of 3rd and 4th of June, traffic movement will remain suspended. He said that no movement of any kind of vehicle including fresh perishables and livestock will be allowed on NH 44 today after 6 pm from Qazigund towards Ramban.

"Similarly no vehicular movement shall be allowed from Nagrota (Jammu) after 5 pm and from Udhampur 6 pm. Commuters are advised to avoid journey on NH 44 till the work is completed," he said. KNO

Heat Wave: Forest Fire incidents spike in J&K, damage property worth crores

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 3

Forest fires are raging uncontrollably across Jammu and Kashmir, causing extensive damage to property and wildlife in Udhampur, Kathua, Rajouri, Reasi, and Poonch districts. The fires, spreading to new areas daily, have resulted in the loss of forest wealth worth crores of rupees and severely affected a significant number of national birds, including peacocks, and other wildlife. In some regions, the flames have encroached upon residen-



tial areas.

On Sunday, a fire erupted in the forests of Ganger Hill in Udhampur district. Udhampur

uncontrolled. Preliminary estimates suggest substantial damage, with a large part of the forest reduced to ashes, causing losses amounting to crores in timber and other natural resources. A significant fire has also been burning in the Daya Dhar forests of Ghordi block for three days, spreading rapidly.

As per news agency, the Ardhakunwari area on the traditional route of the Maa Vaishno Devi Yatra, a fire broke out in Lambi Keri. It took four hours of relentless effort to bring the blaze under control. A school in the

Dungu block of Rajouri was also affected by the fire. Additionally, forests along the road leading to Salal Dam in Dhyangarh, Reasi, have been burning intermittently. In Kathua, fires are active in Ramkot, Bilwar, and Basohli areas. An appeal has been made to the administration to deploy Air Force helicopters to combat the three-day-old fire in the Daya Dhar area of Ghordi block, Udhampur. Meanwhile, two individuals responsible for starting a fire in Reasi have been identified. In Rajouri, goods in a

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India creates world record with 64.2 cr voter turnout: CEC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference a day before the counting of votes, Rajiv Kumar said, "This is a historic moment for all of us. This is just to give you some small statistics. This is 1.5 times of the voters of all G7 countries - US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada. all put together. We are com-



paring voters and it is 2.5 times of the voters of 27 countries in the EU".

"That has been the incredible power of the voters of India. There are 312 million proud women voters. This is also the highest ever in the world" he added.

"Over 68,000 monitoring teams, 1.5 crore polling and security personnel were involved in the world's largest electoral exercise," said CEC Rajiv Kumar.

Speaking about the arrangements made

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BJP, Congress keep fingers cross as Counting begins for Jammu, Udhampur seats today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 03

Ahead of the counting day of 2024 general elections, both the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and opposition Congress party are keeping their fingers crossed and are hoping against the hope to get results in their favour as counting of votes begins today (Tuesday).

After the exit poll exercise, which has given both the seats of Jammu region, Jammu and Udhampur, to the saffron party, Congress party has increased its vigil around the counting centers at both Jammu and



Kathua.

According to the news agency, there is a close contest between BJP's Dr. Jitendra Singh and Congress party's Choudhary Lal Singh on Udhampur seat and the pendulum can swing to either side.

Whereas in the Jammu constituency, BJP seems to be having the edge as they are relying on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wave.

But things are not going to be easy for any of the candidates as this time

most of the voters were silent and they didn't open their cards till the end of the voting. The voting on Udhampur Lok Sabha seat was held on April 19 in the first phase whereas Jammu went for polls during the second phase on April 26.

Immediately after the polling and when all the electronic voting machines were kept inside the strong rooms in degree college Kathua, Congress candidate and his supporters kept a close watch and ensured that no untoward incident occurred inside or outside the strong room.

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Workshop on State Curriculum Framework for School Education Commences at JKBOSE

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

An intensive three-day workshop hosted by the JKSCF-SE Committee commenced today at Jammu Headquarter of The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to discuss and develop State Curriculum Framework for School Education for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The endeavor is scrupulously designed to resonate harmoniously with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.

A committee of the following eminent experts and luminaries from diverse institutions has been constituted to work on the draft of SCF-SE, these include Prof. Renu Nanda, HOD, Department of Education, Jammu University, Padma Shri Mohan Singh Ji, Convener, Sahitya Academic (Dogri), Prof Lalit Gupta, Art His-



torian, Mohd Rafi, former Director of School Education, Dr. Vikram Gulati, Principal, Shivalik College of Education Udampur, Fazl Illahi, Coordinator, Internships, IASE, Srinagar, Nazir Ahmad Wani, Ex-CEO, Syed Fayaz, Principal, HSS Kanir, Budgam, Dr. Romesh Sharma, Sr. Lecturer, HSS Dablehar, Sheikh Gulzar Ahmed, Academic Officer, JKSCERT-KD, Dr Alka Sharma, Teacher, HS City Chowk, Harish Sharma, Teacher, HSS Jhullas, Amol Sharma, GMS Pathwal and Naveed Gul, Teacher, GHS Hiller.

Chairman JKBOSE, Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas while formally inaugurating the workshop, lauded the considerable strides made so far in the formulation of the SCF-SE, proclaiming that the said framework will soon be finalised.

"NCF-SE is a well-researched document but it needs to be tuned to the local needs of this UT. The monumental task of developing the SCF-SE is compounded by the linguistic mosaic of Jammu and Kashmir, a microcosm of India's linguistic

diversity and it needs to be addressed in the right perspective. The SCF-SE must strike a delicate balance, harmonizing the content development with pedagogical soundness and a holistic evaluation ethos", he added.

Secretary JKBOSE, Manisha Sarin shed light on the Herculean challenges involved in drafting the SCF-SE. She said that the detailed and multifaceted nature of the NCF-SE necessitates a discerning and meticulous approach to localization. "It behooves us to accord

substantial significance to local and regional culture, indigenous folk music, and traditional educational methodologies, ensuring that the SCF-SE stands as a testament to our unique cultural tapestry," she emphasized.

Dr. Sudhir Singh, Director Academics at JKBOSE, in his Keynote address emphasized the profundity of this undertaking. He extolled the encyclopedic nature of the NCF-SE, asserting that the SCF-SE should transcend a mere facsimile of the national framework.

"The SCF-SE should manifest as an original magnum opus, inspired by the NCF-SE firmly rooted in localized knowledge, skills, and pedagogical strategies," he expounded, urging that the document be more than the sum of its parts and be finalised in the stipulated time.

Earlier the programme began with the welcome address by Dr. Yasir Hamid

Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics. "The SCF-SE shall be paramount for the educational renaissance of our region, ensuring that our curriculum is both pertinent and all-encompassing," he added. Dr. Arif Jan, Deputy Director, Academics KD proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Imran Iftikhar Academic Officer JKBOSE made a detailed presentation on the NCF-SE. It was followed by lively deliberations.

Others who attended include Dr. Aliya Qayoom, and Naila Nilofar Assistant Directors CDR Wing KD, Kashif Hashmi, Chandar Kumar and Zubair Khatlani Academic Officers, Mohd Jameel, Assistant Secretary JKSCS/CDRW JD, Shakeel Ahmed Dar, Assistant Secretary Academics Central and others. This workshop shall be followed by many online/offline meetings of the committee before finalisation of the draft.

Traffic restrictions imposed in Canal Head area to facilitate Flyover, road construction work

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

The Traffic Police today issued a traffic advisory in connection with construction of 4-lane Flyover with paved shoulder configuration along with service road from 4th Tawi Bridge near Bhagwati Nagar Chowk to Bakshi Nagar Canal Head.

Through an Advisory, the general public has been informed that the construction work has been started by the concerned construction agency at Canal Head which will be completed within the next 15 days.

To avoid traffic congestion at Canal Head there shall be some on ground restrictions and diversions for next 15 days.

There will be no movement of traffic from Canal Head to 4th Tawi Bridge Bhagwati Nagar, however the movement of vehicles from Bhag-

wati Nagar to Canal Head and further towards Bakshi Nagar Pulli/ Talab Tillo will be allowed.

The vehicles coming from Flyover/ below Flyover towards Canal Head shall be diverted from Steel Bridge Canal Head towards Science College Jewel and further towards their destination.

In case of Traffic congestion at Canal Head during peak hours, the traffic will be diverted from Bakshi Nagar Pulli towards Maheshpora Chowk and further towards their destination. The public in general is requested to cooperate with the Traffic Police/Local Police and plan their Travel accordingly to reach their destinations.

Inconvenience to the General Public is regretted. For any traffic related assistance please contact Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Jammu on 0191-2459048, 94191-47732.

DC Srinagar inaugurates Inter-Zonal Sports competitions at Indoor Stadium Over 500 Boys & Girls participating in chess & TT competitions

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Monday inaugurated the Inter Zonal competitions in Chess and Table-Tennis (TT) at SK Indoor Sports Stadium, here.

Besides Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Ashish Mishra, the event was attended by Joint Director Department of Youth Services and Sports, Mohammad Rashid Kohli, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Ghulam Hassan Lone, large number of participating players and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC congratulated the organisers for encouraging participation of youth in games and



sports, he hoped that the enthusiasm of young boys and girls towards sports would continue with the same pace and no stone would be left unturned in taking sports interest of our youngsters to the newer heights.

The DC said that the sport has invaluable importance in the lives of youth and plays a pivotal role in the makeup of a young athlete. Besides instilling values like disci-

pline, responsibility, self-confidence and mutual brotherhood among the participants it also nurtures physical as well as mental health of the youth, the DC further added.

Dr Bilal also complimented DYSSO Srinagar for his exemplary managerial skill in organising big sports events flawlessly.

On the occasion, DC administered the participating players pledge

against the menace of drug abuse.

Earlier, the Joint Director YSS while sharing details about the participation of students in such activities in Srinagar District, said that more than 40000 young student players participated in games like Football, Badminton, Volleyball, Chess, Table, Tennis, and other games at interschool level at District Srinagar. He added that during the last few weeks Inter School and Inter Zonal Level activities in various games are being organised across the Kashmir division.

Pertinently the zonal level competitions shall continue till 5th of the current month and student players are being adjudged by senior and experienced employees of the Department.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Awareness programme on LADCs Modified Scheme, 2022 at Waliwar Lar

JINews SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 3

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal today organized an awareness program on 'Legal Aid Defense Counsel Scheme, Modified Scheme 2022' at village Waliwar Lar Ganderbal.

The event was held under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority and also under the direction and overall supervision of Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal.

The programme was aimed at creating awareness among the participants about the Modified LADCs scheme, 2022 and to provide effective and efficient legal services



to eligible persons from weaker and marginalised sections of the society in criminal matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant, LADC, Ganderbal, gave an insight on the provisions of the scheme. He said that the scheme provides qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons.

He educated participants about the concept of legal aid and the services provided by Legal

Aid Defence Counsels. He informed participants about the legal services provided by the Legal Services Authorities to accused/ convicts, who are in custody or otherwise coming within the eligibility criteria spelt out in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

The programme was attended by the general public of village Chountwariwar of Tehsil Lar, Para Legal Volunteers etc.

FIR lodged against driver, conductor in Kaleeth accident

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

A Matador (mini bus) travelling from Akhnoor to Naryana met with a tragic accident at Kaleeth in the Khour subdivision yesterday. The accident resulted in the death of two passengers, while several others sustained injuries.

In response, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya announced that financial relief would be provided to the next of kin of the deceased. He also confirmed that an FIR has been lodged against the driver and conductor of the mini bus, with legal action to follow under relevant laws. The injured passengers are currently receiving treatment at SDH Akhnoor, where they are being provided with proper medical care.

MVD Kashmir achieves remarkable digital transformation by bringing 49 services online

Rs 421 crore revenue collected during 2023-24

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone by bringing 49 services online, enhancing convenience and efficiency for the public.

This accomplishment was highlighted during a comprehensive annual meeting chaired by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and attended by all Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) and other key officials of the Kashmir division.

It was stated in the meeting that during the fiscal year 2023-24, MVD Kashmir recorded an impressive revenue increase, surging from Rs.314 crore to Rs.421 crore, marking more than 33% growth of 106 crores. The key contributors to this revenue are the road usage tax of Rs.277 crore, the green tax of Rs.28

crore, the fresh permit fee of Rs.61 crore, the passenger tax of nearly Rs.6 crore and the compound challan amount of Rs.5 crore.

RTO urged all district officers to concentrate on improving passenger tax collection.

During the meeting, it was revealed that 98% of all the service applications have been timely disposed-off, with the majority of services available online except the few requiring physical fitness checks or inspection of a vehicle as mandated by law. It was revealed that the new vehicle fitness software module and forthcoming automated testing stations are expected to significantly enhance the vehicle fitness service experience for the public.

It was revealed in the meeting that in the past year, the Kashmir division registered 73,000 new vehicles, making the total vehicle population of the Kashmir division nearly 9 lacs. During the year, 6,024 fresh permits were issued, 22,050 permits were

renewed, 39,422 licenses were issued, and 33,561 were renewed. Additionally, 62,072 vehicles were inspected for fitness.

The RTO expressed contentment with the significant addition of mass transport buses in the region, including 257 new stage carriage buses and 404 new school buses that will potentially decrease the footprint of private vehicles on the roads and increase public convenience.

He also appealed to the stakeholders to take advantage of the bus subsidy scheme, which offers Rs 5 lakh against the scrapping of buses older than 15 years.

It was revealed in the meeting that nearly 4,000 new contract carriage and taxi permits were issued last year, aimed at modernizing tourist transport and promoting local employment.

The introduction of a number of taxi aggregator services, including the popular Ola and Uber in Srinagar city, has also enhanced public convenience and has been well

received by the public.

The RTO emphasized a focus on promoting environment friendly electric vehicles (EVs) in the division, especially in the cities and towns with a focus on enhancing sustainable transport solutions.

It was stated in the meeting that the department has fully transitioned to an online Challans system.

The strengthened enforcement measures have resulted in improved fine recovery amounting to compound challan amounts of more than Rs 5 crore in the last year. The RTO stressed the importance of increased mass awareness programs on traffic and transport regulations, advocating for collaboration with transporters, educational institutions, and other stakeholders, ever more so in view of the recent frequent tragic accidents in the UT. He complemented the entire MVD staff for their effective transport planning and execution during the recent parliamentary elections.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: RO Jammu PC briefs contesting candidates on counting day protocols



JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Returning Officer for 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Monday convened a crucial meeting with the candidates contesting Lok Sabha election and their agents to discuss preparedness and protocols for counting of votes.

SSP, Dr. Vinod Kumar

was also present to elucidate security-related guidelines and protocols, ensuring candidates and their agents face no unexpected hassles on the counting day.

The meeting was also attended by ADDC Sher Singh and Deputy District Election Officer Rameshwar Kumar.

The counting of votes will be held at Government Polytechnic College

Bikram Chowk and MAM College Jammu on June 4.

During the meeting, the RO gave a detailed presentation on the preparations and protocols for the counting process. Parking and security arrangements were explained thoroughly, including the areas where mobile phones would be prohibited. Other arrangements for the candidates were also explained to them.

The RO highlighted that Section 144 and the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) would remain in force on counting day, prohibiting any violations. Furthermore, no celebratory processions will be allowed without the permission by the DEO and the bursting of crackers will be strictly banned within Counting Centre premises.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani

Instructs Officers to ensure elaborated arrangements for Mela

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 3

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan today chaired a meeting of officers to review the arrangements put in place for smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani at Kheer Bhawani Asthapan Manzgam and Mata Tripur Sundari Khanbari, Devsar.

During the meeting, DC reviewed security arrangements, availability of essentials, accommodation facilities, traffic management, medical facilities, sanitation facilities, besides the availability of power and water supply.

While reviewing the preparedness of the concerned departments for the Mela, the DC stressed



upon officials to ensure devotees are provided all the requisite facilities for performing religious rituals.

Concerned from KPDC and Jal Shakti were instructed to provide uninterrupted power and water supply at both the places.

Further, the DC directed officers to maintain close coordination and ensure appropriate arrangements are put in place for the smooth conduct of Mela.

EOs of Municipal Council Kulgam and Municipality Devsar were directed to ensure proper sanitation at Both the places.

He directed the officers to visit both the places and ensure proper arrangements are in place to facilitate smooth and hassle free celebrations of the festival at both the places.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; ACD, Syed Naseer; ACP, Nazia Hassan; Executive Engineers of PHE and R&B, Tehsildars of D.H Pora and Devsar, EO and other concerned officers.

Besides, the President and members from Shree Tripur Sundari Sanastha and Kheer Bhawani Asthapan Manzgam attended the meeting.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Counting Observers for Srinagar PC review preparations for Counting of Votes

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

A day ahead of Counting for Lok Sabha Elections-2024, Counting Observers nominated for all 18 Assembly Segments of O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency Monday took a detailed review of the preparations and arrangements put in place for Counting of Votes at designated Counting Centres at SKICC-Centaur.

The Returning Officer (RO) O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in detail briefed the Counting Observers about the arrangements made at the designated Counting Halls in SKICC-Centaur for smooth and hassle free counting process viz. Entry of RO staff, ARO staff, Counting Staff, Micro Observers, Counting Agents and Media persons, besides transporting and handling of EVMs, establishment of Media Centre, Control Room, Media Gallery, installation of Public Address System, issuance of ID cards.

The RO informed that 12 Counting Halls have been established at SKICC and 6 Counting Halls at Centaur Complex with 8 Counting Tables in each Hall. The Counting of votes will begin at 8 am with postal ballots, followed by the counting of votes in EVMs starting at 8.30 am as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

Similarly, he also informed about the parking of vehicles, barricading

and parking management, Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Aashish Mishra who was present in the meeting also briefed the Counting Observers about the security related arrangements made in and around the venue of the Counting Centres. He also informed the Observers about barricading and parking management, security access and security passes.

On the occasion, the Counting Observers stressed on ensuring error free and seamless arrangements for the smooth counting process in the constituency.

They also emphasised on strict adherence to the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India during the counting

process for free, fair and hassle free counting process. Pertinent to mention that Counting of votes for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Seat of Lok Sabha is scheduled on (Tuesday) June 4, 2024 at designated Counting Halls at SKICC-Centaur

Assistant Returning Officers of all 18 Assembly Segments of Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat, various Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Later, Returning Officer along with designated Counting Observers visited SKICC-Centaur to oversee the arrangements in all Counting Halls designated for each Assembly segment of O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for SANJY-2024 at Transit Camp Manigam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 3

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Monday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), 2024 at the Transit Camp Manigam.

The meeting focused on the arrangements being made by various departments to ensure a smooth and efficient pilgrimage experience.

During the meeting, the DC assessed the status of permanent and temporary washrooms, electricity supply, tents area, water supply, signage, public conveniences and other necessary facilities.

He emphasized the importance of setting up high-quality tents equipped with proper bedding and all required



amenities.

The DC stressed the need for maintaining cleanliness in toilets and installing clear signage. He also highlighted the efficient utilization of space and proper waste management to facilitate the smooth conduct of SANJY 2024.

Moreover, the DC instructed the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council Ganderbal to design and submit a plan for signage and banners to be installed within the transit camp at the earliest.

The departments, including Municipal Council

Ganderbal, Tourism and Rural Development Department were directed to ensure the timely installation of washrooms and complete any necessary repair works promptly.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; ASP, Aijaz Ahmad; Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal, Tehsildar Lar, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers from Jal Shakti and R&B, District Information Officer, and other concerned officials.

Director JKEDI e-inaugurates 10-day EDP at Ramban

28 women registered under Tejaswini self-employment scheme

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Rajinder Kumar Sharma on Monday e-inaugurated a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) in Ramban under the Tejaswini initiative of Mission Youth, J&K.

Addressing participants after inauguration, Director JKEDI emphasized the importance of empowering women through entrepreneurship and providing them with the necessary skills and resources to succeed in the business world. He highlighted JKEDI's role in nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and facilitating economic self-reliance among women



across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders, including the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and partner organizations, for their unwavering support and commitment to the Tejaswini initiative. He reiterated JKEDI's commitment to empower women entrepreneurs and drive socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 28 applicants have registered for the 10-day long EDP at DECC, Ramban. Tejaswini-the radiant, is a self-employment initiative of the government of Jammu

and Kashmir under Mission Youth, J&K aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs of the UT of J&K, has been making significant strides in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth.

The e-inauguration of the EDP in Ramban underscores JKEDI's commitment to imparting neces-

sary training and capacity building skills to the potential entrepreneurs among women in Jammu and Kashmir.

The EDP will offer comprehensive training and support to aspiring women entrepreneurs, covering various aspects of business development, including idea generation, business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, and access to finance. Participants in the EDP will benefit from expert guidance and mentorship provided by the professionals and industry experts, equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to start and manage a successful business.

The e-inauguration ceremony was attended by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Ramban, Course team and aspiring women entrepreneurs from Ramban district.

Director Agriculture visits SMF Gangbugh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Gangbugh and inspected different blocks of the farm.

He also took stock of different Agriculture activities, crop status of different agriculture crops cultivated for seed purpose.

Speaking to the staff and technical experts of the farm, the Director said that the Department has started an initiative and is endeavouring to optimize the utility of Departmental farms

to attain self reliance in the field of seed requirement for Kashmir Division. He said they have already started many interventions in order to maximize the output from different departmental Farms.

Director said that the department is executing a comprehensive plan to

transform all the departmental farms into revenue earning and employment generating assets.

He appreciated the efforts of the concerned technical experts and asked them to work with close coordination, so that the Farm could achieve new heights in the years to come.

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Empowering Young Athletes: YSS Ganderbal hosts thrilling Inter-School Handball Competition for Girls

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 3

In an inspiring display of athleticism and sportsmanship, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Ganderbal organized a highly successful inter-school zonal level Handball competition for girls under 19 years of age.

The event, held at the zonal office ground in Kijpara, Kangan witnessed enthusiastic participation from various schools of the zone. The competition culminated in an exciting final match between GHSS Kangan and GHS Preng. Both teams showcased exceptional skill and determination. Ultimately, GHSS Kangan triumphed over GHS Preng in a closely fought match to claim the championship trophy.

The event, held at the

ly fought match to claim the championship trophy. The outstanding efforts of both teams were honored during the presentation ceremony, by awarding them well-deserved trophies.

In addition to the Handball competition, Zone Tullamulla of the district conducted intramural sports events, including Carrom at MS Larson

and Yoga at MS Waskura. These activities are part of ongoing preparations for International Yoga Day, with schools organizing various Yoga sessions and competitions.

Zone Hariganiwan also contributed to the day's sports festivities, hosting intramural Volleyball at HS Sumbal and Table Tennis at BHSS Gund Kullan.

SANKALP-HEW Srinagar organises Self-Defence Training for students of GGHSS Kothi Bagh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

The SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) - Mission Shakti Srinagar, Department of Social Welfare took an initiative for Self-Defence Training among the female students of various educational institutions across the district.

In this connection, the SANKALP-HEW prepared a Self-Defence tentative planner for the months of June and July in collaboration with Department of Education, J&K Sports Council, which officially commenced with the first session held today at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothi Bagh Srinagar that will last for three days per educational institution.

The training programme was organized to equip girl students with self-defence techniques



for their safety and security in view of the rising number of crimes against girls. Self-Defence training is a life skill that helps girls to be more aware of their surroundings and be prepared for the unexpected at any time.

Through the Self-Defence training, the girls are taught to become psychologically, intellectually and physically strong enough to protect themselves in times of distress.

Self-defence training techniques instills self confidence amongst girls and helps to promote girls' education particularly their transition to secondary and higher secondary level and to reduce the dropout rate in schools.

The girls are trained to use everyday articles such as, key chain, dupatta, stole, mufflers, bags, pen/pencil, notebook etc as weapons of opportunities/improvised self-defence

weapons to their advantage.

Besides the Self-Defence Trainings, Career Counseling sessions will be also carried out simultaneously in collaboration with the District Employment and Counseling centre Srinagar with main focus on empowering female students with information, guidance and resources to make informed career decisions.

Rajouri: Traffic advisory issued for Counting Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 3

In connection with the Counting of Votes GELS-2024 at Government Degree College Rajouri, the Traffic police have issued traffic advisory for public to avoid congestion during the movement of vehicles of Counting parties, Contesting Candidates, agents and Media Persons around the Venue:

There will be one way traffic or brief diversion on the movement of vehicles around the Venue and approaching route as per the ground requirement to avoid any inconvenience to the Counting parties, Contesting Candidates/General Public.

No heavy vehicles (Trucks, Tippers, Dumpers, Tractors, Load Carriers) shall ply inside the town Rajouri on the day of counting.

No vehicle shall ply from Panchayat Ghar BGSBU Link Road

towards Degree College Rajouri and shall adopt the BGSBU Link Road route via BGSBU, Dhanidhar, Sheema Crossing-Panja Chowk.

Vehicles coming from GMC, Darhal and Thanamandi shall adopt the Charlie TCP route via GO Mess Sheema Crossing-Panja Chowk. The Vehicles coming from NHW 144-A to Rajouri Town Shall adopt the route via Tariq Bridge-under Abdullah Bridge.

Vehicles coming from Old City and Gujjar Mandi intending to go Jawahar Nagar shall Adopt the route of Gujjar Mandi Sheema Crossing Panja Chowk. Charlie TCP Stand shall operate from Darhali Bridge 04-06-2024.

Participants are advised to park their vehicle at designated parking places only i.e. Diet Ground Kheora Rajouri and avoid illegal / haphazard parking on the road side. Wrongly parked vehicles will be towed and challaned under the provisions of MV Act/rule.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| E-TENDER NOTICE | | | | | | | | | |
| The Deputy Chief Engineer /BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:- | | | | | | | | | |
| S. No. | Tender No. | Name of work | Approx Cost (Rs.) | Earnest Money (Rs.) | Date of opening | Bidding start date on IREPS | Cost of tender form Rs. | Completion period of work | |
| 1 | OT-10-JRC-2024 | Replacement of existing damaged/asbestos sheets including painting and replacement of corroded steel members of all sheds of Bridge Workshop Jalandhar Cantt. | 2,36,77,303.27 | 2,68,400.00 | 24.06.2024 | 10.06.2024 to 24.06.2024 | 0 | 06 Months | |
| Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender | | | Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date. | | | | | | |
| Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded. | | | The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. | | | | | | |
| No. 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated : 31.05.2024 | | | | | | | | | |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE | | | | | | | | | |

Bangalore Rural BJP candidate Manjunath requests additional security forces on counting day

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JUNE 3

In a resolute move to safeguard the sanctity of democracy, the BJP submitted an earnest appeal to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, imploring for fortified security measures ahead of the impending vote counting process in the Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency.

Embodied in a meticulously crafted missive, BJP's esteemed candidate for Bangalore Rural, Dr CN Manjunath, eloquently voiced profound apprehensions born from the crucible of the electoral process that unfolded on April 25.

Against the backdrop of the constituency's electoral saga, Dr Manjunath articulated the specter of election-related tumult and



voter intimidation that loomed large, thereby accentuating the urgent necessity for an ironclad framework of security protocols. Dr Manjunath, in his capacity as a guardian of electoral integrity, pointed to potential disrup-

tions, especially in the eventuality of an adverse outcome for the Congress candidate, DK Suresh.

The missive also delineated the apprehensions over the entanglement of the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, DK Shivakumar, whose familial ties to the Congress candidate posed a potential nexus to manipulate governmental resources in favor of disruptive elements.

The heart of Dr Manjunath's appeal pulsated with a call to fortify the ramparts of security, echoed in his fervent plea for the deployment of additional security forces.

Emphasising the imperative of bolstering the contingent of police and paramilitary personnel stationed around the hallowed

precincts of the counting center, the BJP candidate articulated the need for a strategic alignment of security assets to stymie any nefarious machinations seeking to breach the bastions of electoral sanctity.

Furthermore, Dr Manjunath enjoined the verification of entrants into the space of the counting arena.

With a clarion call for thorough scrutiny of the credentials of individuals seeking ingress, save for the indispensable presence of party emissaries, officials, and accredited members of the press, Dr Manjunath invoked the imperative of limiting entry solely to those approved by the august authority of the Election Commission.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Randomization of Counting Staff for Srinagar PC conducted successfully



J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

In connection with Counting of Votes scheduled on June 04, 2024 (Tuesday) for Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the second Randomization of Counting Staff for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC) was successfully conducted as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was held under the supervision of Returning Officer, O2-Srinagar PC, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of General Observer, Mukul Kumar and Counting Observers for all the

18 Assembly Segments of the Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Aashish Mishra was also present on the occasion.

During the Randomization, Counting Halls were allocated to the Counting Staff deployed at SKICC-Centaur for counting of votes for O2-Srinagar PC comprising 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam (Partly) and Pulwama and Shopian (Partly) Districts.

On the occasion, the designated 630 Officials were classified into teams, each comprising Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Counting Micro Observers assigned to their respective Counting Halls.

The third and final Randomisation of Counting Staff will take place tomorrow morning, during which Counting Tables will be assigned to the Officials designated for Counting of Votes.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was facilitated by dedicated software to ensure transparent, free and fair elections devoid of human interference.

The Randomization process was also video recorded as per the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

Deputy DEO Srinagar, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer ETPBS, Mujaba Ahmad Bandy and other Officers of District Election Authority were also present on the occasion.

SW Monsoon advances into some more parts of Karnataka, AP, TG: Met

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

Southwest Monsoon advanced into some more parts of the central Arabian Sea, some more parts of Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, some parts of Telangana, and some more parts of Westcentral and Northwest Bay of Bengal during the next 4-5 days. Under its influence, heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in Telangana on June 4, 5 and 6. Thunderstorms with rain accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (speeds ranging from 40-50 or 30-40 kmph) are

likely to occur at isolated places in several districts of the state during the next five days. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at many places, a few places, or isolated places over Telangana during the next seven days. Heavy rain occurred at a few places in Nalgonda, Narayanpet, and isolated places in B. Kothagudem, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak, and Suryapet Districts of Telangana during the last 24 hours.

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JD leader murdered in Nalanda

AGENCIES
RAJGIR (BIHAR), JUNE 3

Janata Dal (United) leader Anil Kumar was beaten to death by unidentified assailants in Bihar's Nalanda district on Monday, police said.

Police sources said that JD (U) leader Anil Kumar (62), a resident of Mau village, left home this morning with a farm patwan.

Meanwhile, four people ambushed from the east beat him to death.

The injured JD (U) leader was rushed to Biharsharif Sadar Hospital, where he died during treatment. Superintendent of Police Ashok Mishra said a land dispute was the reason for the murder.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LS Polls: Wait Over...

Other notable candidates include former minister Chaudhary Lal Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Congress working president Raman Bhalla, veteran NC leaders Mian Altaf and Ruhullah Mehdi, Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas and Mohd. Ashraf Mir, People's Conference chief Sajjad Gani Lone, and Awami Ittehad Party chief Engineer Rashid. In Ladakh, the results will determine the fate of BJP's Tashi Gyalsan, Congress's T Namgyal, and independent Haji Hanifa Jaan.

Security and Preparations for Counting Section 144 has been imposed outside the counting centers, which will remain in effect until June 5. The district administration has issued I-cards to personnel on counting duty, and around 1,000 agents have been given access cards. Approximately 2,000 to 2,500 personnel have been deployed for vote counting. A meeting was held between District Deputy Commissioners Sachin Kumar and the election candidates and their agents to ensure smooth vote counting. Counting will be held at SKICC Srinagar. For Baramulla Seat, counting will be held in Degree College Baramulla. On the other hand, counting of votes for Anantnag- Rajouri seat will be held in Degree College Anantnag. Jammu parliamentary seat will take place at MAM College Jammu and Polytechnic Vikram Chowk. Talking to reporters in Jammu on Saturday, Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain had said that each counting centre is under the 24x7 surveillance of the CCTVs while there are at least two companies of security forces deployed for securing the counting centre. The DGP had stated that there will be multi-layer security cover at every counting centre.

Strategies by Political Parties

Political parties, particularly BJP and Congress, have strategized with their booth agents for the vote counting on Tuesday. Agents are expected to report at 6:00 am, accompanied by a large number of supporters outside.

Security at the Strong Room

A tight security cordon surrounds the strong room at Polytechnic College Jammu, where the vote counting for the Jammu parliamentary seat will take place. Police officers are personally monitoring the strong room, with extensive security measures implemented within a 200-meter radius of the counting center.

Exit Poll Predictions

Exit polls indicate that BJP is likely to secure two seats in Udhampur and Jammu, while NC is projected to win three seats in Anantnag, Srinagar, and Baramulla. All parties have finalized their preparations for vote counting, and agents have been briefed on necessary protocols. KNO

Longest-surviving...

hours, resulting in the deaths of two terrorists. He identified the slain as Riyaz Ahmad Dar, a resident of Sethargund Kakapora, who had been active for the last eight years, and Rayees Ahmad of Larve Kakapora, who had been active for three years.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, termed the killings as a significant development towards achieving a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the encounter, which began on Sunday evening and continued until Monday afternoon, resulted in the killing of the two terrorists.

An official said that the Kakapora hamlet in Pulwama was once a hotbed of terrorism, particularly associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "With the elimination of these two active terrorists, the area of Kakapora no longer has any active terrorists," he said. KNO

community, will be able to get their votes or not. PDP president on the other hand is hopeful of getting handful votes of Gujjar community besides sweeping Pahari votes.

Apni Party candidate is relying on BJP's support and after the polling was postponed from May 7 to 25, the newly formed party which is contesting its first ever election, is hopeful of getting the votes of BJP core workers and supporters.

Experts believed that NC and PDP will get good number of votes from Rajouri and Poonch districts and 11 Assembly segments of south Kashmir will decide the fate of candidates. KNO

Rajouri, Poonch districts...

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Assembly elections...

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly election of 2014 took place in five phases from November 25 to December 20, 2014. During this election, voters elected 87 members to the Legislative Assembly, whose six-year term was set to end on January 19, 2020. The results were announced on December 23, 2014. Voter-verified paper audit trails (VVPAT) were used along with electronic voting machines (EVMs) in 3 out of the 87 assembly seats.

This election was the last before the territory's special status was revoked and Ladakh was designated a separate union territory in 2019. It resulted in a coalition government between the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as Chief Minister. Following Sayeed's death in January 2016, Mehbooba Mufti took over as Chief Minister after a brief period of Governor's rule.

In June 2018, the BJP withdrew support from the PDP-led government, leading to the imposition of Governor's rule. The state assembly was dissolved in November 2018 by then-Governor Satya Pal Malik, despite efforts by several political parties to form a government. President's rule was imposed on December 20, 2018.

The political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir shifted significantly in 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to the region. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act reconstituted the state into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, effective from October 31, 2019.

In March 2020, a three-member Delimitation Commission was established, chaired by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to delineate the union territory's constituencies. The commission's final report, released on May 5, 2022, added six seats to the Jammu division and one seat to the Kashmir division, raising the total assembly seats to 114, with 24 seats designated for Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The new delimitation came into effect on May 20, 2022.

In 2020, District Development Council (DDC) elections were held, marking the first elections after the revocation of special status. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) secured 110 seats, while the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370 as constitutional and mandated the Election Commission of India to hold legislative assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before September 30, 2024. Additionally, the parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2023, which reserves seven seats for Scheduled Castes and nine seats for Scheduled Tribes in the assembly.

Key Events ahead of Assembly Elections in JK:- November 25 to December 20, 2014: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly election took place in five phases.

December 23, 2014: Election results were announced. January 19, 2020: The six-year term of the elected assembly members was set to end.

January 2016: Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passed away, and Mehbooba Mufti took over as Chief Minister after a brief period of Governor's rule.

June 2018: The BJP withdrew support from the PDP-led government, leading to Governor's rule.

November 2018: The state assembly was dissolved by then-Governor Satya Pal Malik.

December 20, 2018: President's rule was imposed. August 05, 2019: Article 370 was abrogated.

October 31, 2019: The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act came into effect, reconstituting the state into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

March 2020: A three-member Delimitation Commission was established.

May 5, 2022: The Delimitation Commission released its final report.

May 20, 2022: The new delimitation came into effect. 2020: District Development Council (DDC) elections were held.

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Apr-May 2024: Parliament Elections were held with JK witnessing 58 percent of polling- highest in the last 35 years. KNO

Heat Wave: Forest...

school were turned to ashes. The fire, which broke out on Saturday night, affected areas including Dungi, Grati, Bhangai, Tatapani, Kalakot, and Dhanaur forests. The fire continued throughout the night. As per the officials, the fire department personnel, along with the Forest Protection Force and Forest Department, managed to bring the situation under control by Sunday evening. However, the fire had already reached the Government High School in Jhalas area of Dungi block, damaging the school shed and destroying mid-day meal rations and other items. The Education Department will assess the damage on Monday.

In Reasi, a fire broke out near the main road leading from Bidra village to Salal Dam on Saturday evening, causing extensive damage to forest wealth. The fire was brought under control by night, and two individu-

als responsible for starting the fire have been identified. Another fire in the forest of Maadi village was also brought under control.

The Forest Department has been using loudspeakers to warn villagers not to set fires in the forests, threatening strict action against violators.

In Poonch, fires have been burning for several days along the Line of Control in the Salotri area. The fire has spread to the mining area, causing landmine explosions intermittently. The blaze originated from across the border and has since spread to this side.

Despite the widespread fires, the Maa Vaishno Devi Yatra remains unaffected. A fire broke out under suspicious circumstances at around midnight on Saturday in the Lambi Kerry area. Although the fire damaged a 200 to 300-meter area of forest, the pilgrimage continued smoothly without any interruptions. KNO

India creates world...

by the EC, Rajiv Kumar said, "Nearly four lakh vehicles, 135 special trains and 1,692 air sorties were used in conducting 2024 Lok Sabha elections."

"We seized Rs 10,000 crores in cash, nearly 3 times the value seized in 2019," he added.

The seven phase of polling for the 18th Lok Sabha ended on June 1, while the counting of votes will take place June 4.

The CEC informed that only 39 re-polls took place in 2024 general elections as against 540 re-polls in 2019.

"The Election Commission disposed of over 90 per cent of 495 major complaints related to Model Code of Conduct violation," he said.

BJP, Congress keep...

The returning officer also reacted swiftly to the demands of candidates and improved the security of the strong room by installing extra close circuit television cameras inside and outside the strong room.

Now, when the countdown has begun and the counting of votes will start on Tuesday morning, both the parties have kept their fingers crossed.

A senior BJP leader told KNO that they are expecting to win both the seats. "We will win both the seats of Jammu and Udhampur but one thing is there as well that Congress party has managed to get good votes as compared to previous elections," the BJP leader said.

"There was a strong resentment against the BJP candidate on Udhampur seat till polling day but in the end many voters voted for the BJP because of the Modi factor and this could go in our favour. As far as the Jammu seat is concerned, we are winning hands down," he added.

But Choudhary Lal Singh on the other hand believes that he is winning the Udhampur seat easily. "We will not get provoked by the exit polls or through any other tactics and will not create any sort of trouble in and outside the counting centers because I am winning. Those who have travelled with me during the campaigning know the exact poll rather than these exit polls," Singh told reporters at his home in Kathua this afternoon.

Meanwhile, security arrangements have been put in place in and outside the counting centers at both Jammu and Kathua and people have been advised to stay away 100 meters from the counting centers. Returning officers of both the constituencies alongwith police officers reviewed the arrangements. For the counting day agents of candidates have been told not to bring their mobile phones and any electronic gadgets with them inside the counting halls. KNO

Amid scorching heat, Ranbir Canal Park serves as refreshing retreat, developed by Jammu Smart City

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

People from all walks of life—young children, elderly couples, fitness enthusiasts, and casual strollers enjoying the cool breeze and the lush green surroundings at Ranbir canal park developed by Jammu Smart City under Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA).

Under the ambitious Jammu Smart City initiative, the Blue Green project of Ranbir Canal has transformed it into a vibrant community space, ushering in a new era of urban rejuvenation.

As residents and visitors flock to these scenic spots, the true value of these projects, virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, comes to life.

The first segment, stretching from BSF Paloura to Shakti Nagar Bridge, has become a bustling hub of activity. The landscape lawns, adorned with vibrant flowers and well-manicured grass, provide a perfect spot for picnics and relaxation. Lower deck areas offer tranquil spaces for meditation and yoga, where the sound of flowing



water enhances the sense of peace.

A 2.80-metre-wide sandstone path meanders along the canal, ideal for joggers and walkers seeking a scenic route.

"I walk here every morning," says Anjali, a local resident. "The new path is so smooth and beautiful, it makes my morning routine a joy." Seating benches are strategically placed throughout the area, offering rest spots for the elderly, while ample parking ensures accessibility for all.

As dusk falls, the decorative lights illuminate the walkway, creating a magical ambiance.

"The lights are wonderful," remarks Rajesh, who often visits with his family. "They make the evenings

feel special, and we love coming here after dinner." The new footpaths on the left side of the canal provide safe and convenient passage, further enhancing the area's appeal.

Further downstream, from Shakti Nagar to Pawan Ice Cream, the second phase of the project shines brightly. This segment features improved access points, pergola seating areas, and additional landscape lawns. The wide sandstone path continues, encouraging morning walks and outdoor activities, while seating benches, parking spaces, and toilet facilities make it a complete package for family outings.

The canal parapet, clad

in stone and equipped with new railings, provides safety without compromising aesthetics. Pedestrian bridges connect both sides of the canal, fostering community interaction. "These bridges are fantastic," says Suresh, a local shop owner.

"They connect us all and make it easy for everyone to enjoy both sides of the canal." Decorative lighting ensures that the canal remains a welcoming space even after sunset, creating a glowing ribbon of light that invites exploration.

A standout feature of the project is the children's park, ingeniously constructed using waste materials. This eco-friendly play area not only

provides endless fun for kids but also stands as a testament to sustainable development. The park is equipped with water ATMs, toilet blocks, and a variety of engaging play structures, all made from recycled materials. "It's amazing to see something beautiful and useful made from waste," says Meena, a mother of two. "My kids love playing here, and I feel good knowing it's environmentally friendly."

The transformation of the Ranbir Canal under the Jammu Smart City initiative has not only rejuvenated an important urban waterway but also created a beloved communal space.

"This place has become the heart of our community," says Anil, a retired teacher. "It's wonderful to see people from all walks of life coming together, enjoying the beauty and tranquility of the canal."

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Inter APS's Ethics Bowl Competition Cluster-I clinched by APS Ratnuchak

J I NEWS SERVICE
RATNUCHAK, JUNE 3

In a testament to its unwavering commitment to educational excellence, Inter APS's Ethics Bowl competition was held at Army Public School Ratnuchak. This esteemed event brought together eight prominent schools from the cluster-I under the aegis of the Western command, namely APS Ratnuchak, APS Damana, APS BD Bari, APS Miran Sahib, APS Sunjan, APS Jammu Cantt, APS Kaluchak, and APS Samba. The program commenced on 24 May 2024 and culminated on 3 June



2024.

Each participating school fielded one team comprising of six speakers. The competition was fierce and intellectually stimulating. Ultimately, four teams advanced to the semi-finals: APS BD Bari, APS Damana, APS Ratnuchak, and APS Jammu Cantt. Demonstrating exceptional skill and poise, APS Ratnuchak and APS Damana triumphed over their opponents in the semifinals, earning their places in the grand finale.

Judging criteria were comprehensive, focusing on the clarity in addressing central ethi-

cal dilemmas, awareness, thoughtful consideration of opposing viewpoints, and most importantly, respectful dialogue.

In a commendable display of eloquence and critical thinking, six students were recognized as the Best Speakers and awarded trophies. The prestigious AWWA Ethics Bowl Rolling Trophy was proudly clinched by APS Ratnuchak, marking a significant achievement for the school.

This event underscores the dedication of Army Public School Ratnuchak in fostering ethical awareness and intellectual growth among students.

IIM Jammu's Roundtable 1.0 at New Delhi sparks Meaningful Industry-Academia Discussions

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 1

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu organized a Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The event brought together an esteemed group of attendees, including senior leaders from academia and industry, to discuss strategic initiatives and foster collaborative partnerships.

The Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) was graced by the presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, who led the proceedings with his insightful perspectives on the future of management education and industry-academia collaboration. Other notable attendees from IIM Jammu included Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics; Dr. Baljeet Singh, Chairperson Placements; Dr. Atanu Dutta, Placement Officer; and the Placement Committee, IIM Jammu. The Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) consisted of two topics of discussion: "Exploring Industry's Expectations from a B-School" and "Discussing Avenues of Collaboration Between Industry and Academia." Each topic had dedicated panel mod-



erators to guide the discussions.

The Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) saw participation from top-notch industry leaders of conglomerates, facilitating meaningful dialogues and networking opportunities. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, including the latest trends in human resource management, the evolving role of technology in business operations, and strategies for enhancing employability among management graduates.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu mentioned, "This Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to strengthen the ties between academia and industry. The insights shared today will undoubtedly help us refine our curriculum and better prepare our students for

the dynamic business environment."

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, highlighted the significance of the event, saying, "This Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) has provided an excellent platform for exchanging ideas and best practices. Our commitment to aligning our academic programs with industry needs is reinforced by the active participation of industry leaders today."

Dr. Baljeet Singh, Co-Chairperson Placements, IIM Jammu, added, "Engaging directly with industry leaders through events like the Roundtable 1.0 (Industry Academia Meet) is crucial for understanding the evolving expectations of the corporate world. These interactions help us tailor our placement strategies and ensure our students are well-prepared to meet industry demands."

VC, University of Jammu releases Checklist of Birds of J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

In a landmark event for regional ornithology, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, today released a full checklist of the birds of Jammu and Kashmir, meticulously compiled and produced by a team of researchers.

The special issue, published by the reputed journal, Indian BIRDS, features 592 bird species across 21 orders and 88 families, revealing the rich avian diversity of Jammu & Kashmir.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor lauded the dedication and hard work of the researchers exhibiting one of the most significant ecological group, the birds of the entire UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He hoped that this checklist would be a valuable resource for scholars, ornithologists, conservationists, and nature enthusiasts, helping to promote the study

and conservation of bird species across the region.

The book release ceremony was graced by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof. J.P.S. Joorel, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, Dr. M.K. Kumar (IFS), Chief Conservator of Forests and Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Dr. Deepika Slathia, acting HOD, Environmental Sciences and the authors of the checklist, namely Dr. Muzaffar A Kichloo, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Parmil Kumar, and Sh. Parvez Shagoo.

Registrar University of Jammu Prof. Rahul Gupta and Rector Bhaderwah Campus Prof. J.P.S. Joorel appreciated the collaborative efforts that enabled this publication and encouraged the authors to publish similar information material for a wider public outreach. "Such initiatives lead to a better understanding of the ecosystem and the develop-



ment of effective conservation plans," Prof. J P Singh Joorel emphasized.

Speaking on behalf of the team, Dr. Neeraj Sharma from Institute of Mountain Environment and one of the checklist's authors outlined its contents and thanked Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu for his patronage, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus for his consistent guidance, and Indian BIRDS for their support in making this happen. Muzaffar A Kichloo, the

first author, elaborated on the methodology and several stages of review that went into the compilation of the checklist, highlighting the diverse sources of bird records including museum specimens, media records and the detailed field notes. Dr. M.K. Kumar (IFS), CCF & RWLW, Jammu commended the publication as a valuable tool for wildlife management and conservation in the region.

He noted that the checklist not only enhances our knowledge of avian species

but also plays a vital role in monitoring and protecting these species against threats such as habitat loss and climate change.

The event concluded with a ceremonial distribution of the first copies of the checklist to the dignitaries and a vote of thanks by Prof. Parmil Kumar, Head Department of Statistics, University of Jammu, who praised the collaborative spirit and dedication of all involved in this significant project. This newly published checklist is expected to be a cornerstone for future research and conservation efforts, providing a solid foundation for understanding and preserving the avian biodiversity of Jammu and Kashmir. Other outreach material including the familiar birds of J&K, Asian Waterbird Census in J&K, and an illustrated field guide of mammals of the mountains of J&K, compiled by IME, was presented to the dignitaries.

LAACL, Adbi Kunj Ladakh jointly organize District Level multilingual Mehfil-e-Mushaira

J I NEWS SERVICE
KARGIL, MAY 31

The Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Kargil UT Ladakh in collaboration with Adbi Kunj Ladakh Chapter today jointly organized a District Level Multilingual Mehfil-e-Mushaira at Academy Hall, Kargil. The program was organized in the seminar hall of the academy in which poets belonging to different languages of Kargil district participated and recited their poetry.

As many as 17 poets from different parts of Kargil recited their compositions in different languages. Padma Shri awardee Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, a renowned Balti writer and poet was the Sader-e-Mehfil-cum-Chief Guest, while State Awardee Ghulam Ahmed Jawan, Renowned Writer poet of Sheena, was Guest of Honor and Aga Sayed Hadi and Mohd Ibrahim Rahi renowned Purgi Poet/Writer of Kargil was Spe-

cial Guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat lauded the efforts of the Ladakh Cultural Academy, Kargil and Adbi Kunj Ladakh Chapter, Kargil for jointly organizing such graceful and fruitful programs from time to time. He termed the poets as the eyes of the society who can play a great role in eradicating the social evils by virtue of the persuasive power of their poetry. He also lauded their efforts for taking keen interest in the realm of poetry that has no apparent benefits in terms of money.

He also urged the Deputy Secretary, Cultural Academy Kargil to organize such literary programs at different places to disseminate the poetic tradition and message to wider audiences.

Aga Sayed Hadi said it is a matter of great satisfaction that the land of Kargil has a good number of poets in such a small magnitude of the population as



compared to other places. He applauded the role of poets in guiding and encouraging young and aspiring poets to excel in the field of poetry and literature.

He further said local poets have the calibre to keep the tradition of

poetry in Kargil alive. He emphasized the need to organize such programs at schools and colleges to impart awareness and to imbibe poetic inspiration among youth.

While welcoming the gathering, Nazir Hussain, Deputy Secretary of the

academy lauded the writers/poets fraternity and that their contribution in the literacy field is commendable and has been instrumental in making the society healthy. He said that Ladakh Cultural Academy Kargil is committed to preservation

and promotion of rich Art, Culture and Languages in Kargil through such literary and other programs.

Deputy Secretary Kargil expressed gratitude on behalf of the academy to Adbi Kunj Ladakh Chapter their tremendous support for jointly organizing such programs. He further said Ladakh Cultural Academy is open to help people who are interested to showcase their poetic talent. He urged the novices to participate in such programs to have a know-how of the ambience and to seek necessary guidance from senior poets.

He urged the concerned quarters connected with the academy to keep continuing their support enabling the academy to fulfil the desired objectives.

The poets, who recited their poetry on the occasion, include Padma Shri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, Ghulam Ahmed Jawan (Sate Awardee), Aga Sayed Hadi Shah Aga

Massive Forest Fire broke out at Suigarh, Doda



J I NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 3

A massive forest fire broke out in forest adjacent to NH 244 near Suigarh forest (Puldoda) within the range of one kilometer. Two Quick Reaction Teams of Indian Army rushed to the spot at about 07:25 PM for carrying out firefighting. Fire brigade reached at 07:35 PM and fire was completely dozed off at about 08:45 PM and no

loss of life was reported. Firefighters displayed unmatched bravery, skill and fire control which avoided further spreading of fire in nearby areas with the help of civil water bowser. Their rapid response and unwavering dedication averted a disaster, earning them profound admiration and gratitude. Heroic actions of Indian Army exemplified the selflessness and professionalism of our firefighting teams.

EDITORIAL

Need for road safety reforms!

The recent suspension of six officials from J&K Transport Department following a major fatal accident in Akhnour, where an overloaded bus plunged into a gorge claiming 22 lives, starkly highlights the urgent necessity for accountability and systemic reforms in the region's transport sector. This incident, involving a bus designed for 55 passengers but carrying about 85, underscores a chronic disregard for regulatory norms and highlights deep flaws within the regulatory framework. The bus had previously been penalized for overloading, further pointing to severe lapses in enforcement and compliance. The deteriorating condition of roads in the Jammu district exacerbates the perilous situation. Poor maintenance and sharp bends make these roads treacherous, contributing significantly to frequent and often fatal accidents. The roads, turning into veritable 'deathtraps' for commuters, necessitate immediate and decisive action from the authorities to address and mitigate overloading and over-speeding—two leading causes of accidents claiming hundreds of lives annually. The severity of the issue is not new. A similar tragedy struck in Doda district on November 15 last year, killing 39 passengers and injuring 17. In response, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh established an expert committee to evaluate and propose preventive measures. Additionally, the traffic police and the Transport Department initiated a drive against traffic violations post the Doda incident. Despite these efforts, accidents continue to claim lives at an alarming rate. In a recent incident on March 29, 10 people died when an SUV veered off the Jammu-Srinagar NH and fell into a gorge in Ramban district. Statistics from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) paint a grim picture: from 2018 to 2022, 4,287 lives were lost in road accidents in J&K. Official data from the traffic police reveals that in 2023 alone, 883 people were killed and 8,456 injured in 6,288 accidents across the Union Territory. Of these, 171 fatalities occurred in Jammu district. This year, by the end of March, 185 lives had been lost and 1,530 people injured in 1,214 road accidents. Most accidents in the mountainous areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, and Poonch have been attributed to sharp curves and human error. The magisterial inquiry and subsequent suspensions should not be mere reactions to public outcry but should drive a fundamental shift in road safety and regulation enforcement. The inquiry panel, mandated to report within a week, must conduct a thorough and transparent investigation, examining the entire regulatory framework. The inclusion of technical experts for wreckage analysis and testimonies from eyewitnesses is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the incident. This tragic bus accident must serve as a catalyst for a comprehensive overhaul of transport policies and practices. Routine investigations post-major accidents have proven ineffective in curbing fatal errors by drivers. What is needed are robust measures: improving road infrastructure, enhancing driver training, and enforcing traffic regulations stringently to foster safe driving practices. Ensuring justice is served is critical to prevent future tragedies. Rigorous accountability and proactive measures are essential for transforming our roads from perilous passages to safe routes for all.

GUNJAN SINGH

The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is crucial in our day-to-day movement. With the evolution of space programmes and technologies, this is also becoming a theatre of competition between nations. Navigation is also a source of crucial information. As with all space-related technologies, this also has dual-use capacity, and can be used for monitoring and locating crucial infrastructure.

On the benign side, it is essential for the movement of resources, people, and information. As a result, it has developed into a very profitable commercial endeavour, and it is not surprising that today there are multiple players who want to gain a foothold in this area.

In addition to the economic aspect, a successful and commercially viable navigation system also

underscores the space capabilities of countries, and can be a parameter to judge its success and failure. A successful navigation system is a feather in the cap for any space-aspiring nation.

Bilateral or multilateral sharing of navigation technology and data is also a path adopted by countries. However, with sharing, the fear of access denial is also prominent, especially if there is a conflict. It can also be used as a bargaining tool to mould and influence the user country's foreign policies and decisions. Given this backdrop, this article aims to provide an overview of a comparison between China's BeiDou and India's NavIC.

BeiDou and NavIC

China launched its first BeiDou satellite in 2000, and by 2020 it was successfully operating its third generation of the system. Today, BeiDou is operational in all domesti-

cally-manufactured vehicles and mobile phones. In 2023, as per the Civil Aviation Administration of China, BeiDou was recognised as a global standard by the International Civil Aviation Organization of the United Nations. BeiDou has 56 operational satellites, and it is capable of providing better data and precision to its users. In 2023, the value of the system was around \$70 billion. According to Global Times, to support the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) the Chinese communication system today covers the whole of China, South-east Asia, Africa, West Asia, and South Asia. It also is functional in Europe and the Pacific. It provides Internet access and high-speed broadband.

One challenge with BeiDou is that it is a two-way navigation system, and can pinpoint the location of the service users and transmit it back to the satellites.

NavIC has been developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and consists of eight satellites. The first satellite was launched in July 2013. It covers the whole of India, and is in the process of extending its reach to 3,000 kms beyond the Indian borders. The Indian government is in the process of launching NavIC as a platform for all mobile devices by 2025. NavIC, thus, has primarily a domestic reach.

Given the overview of both the systems, the gap between BeiDou and NavIC is quite apparent. The Chinese system, given its reach and precision, can be considered a global system, while the Indian system is domestic with minimal regional reach. This disparity also provides Beijing far superior access to data and monitoring, and it gives it an edge in any conflict situation.

The advance nature of

BeiDou also reduces the Chinese dependence on the Global Positioning System (GPS), and it has its own operating ecosystem. On the other hand, New Delhi will continue to be dependent on GPS for a few more years, and lacks its own source of data for any monitoring or analysis.

There have also been reports which argue that the Chinese navigation system is more updated, precise, and faster compared to the GPS, which has been the global system for a very long time. The Chinese have clearly gauged the necessity and use of a functional navigation system for its economic and military growth, and the BeiDou has been developed and is also in the fray to replace the GPS. With the expansion of the BRI and the strengthening of the Chinese automobile industry, the reach of BeiDou is going to continuously expand.

As with every space technology, navigation is also dual-use, and has become central to geopolitical aspirations. There had been reports that China had provided data to Russia for the ongoing Ukraine war. Today, Beijing and Moscow are keen to co-operate in developing the navigation systems (BeiDou and GLOSNAVSS) jointly. This will further enhance China's reach.

The use of BeiDou for BRI projects provides China with advanced knowledge of the South Asian region, and gives it an edge if there is any future conflict between Beijing and New Delhi. The Chinese eyes in the sky which are more advanced provide Beijing an advantage and a clearer picture of geopolitical ground realities.

(Gunjan Singh is Associate Professor, OP Jindal Global University.)

Kerala Govt faces backlash over flawed liquor policy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The demand that all bar owners in the State should pay Rs 2.5 lakh per establishment instead of cancelling a Government order that makes it mandatory for all watering holes to down shutters on the first of every month and restrictions on opening more bar hotels underscore the opinion that it is time for the Kerala Government to come out of liquor business.

The latest controversy about the demand made by the powers that be to the bar owners to pay exorbitant money as a bribe for altering the excise department's laws establishes that the CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress-led UDF are swindling the State alternately, a charge made time and again by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his campaign speeches in the State.

The Government has no business to be in business and is more so in the case of the liquor business. Unlike other States, Kerala and Tamil Nadu follow liquor policies that promote high-level corruption. The Governments in these two States are the monopolies in the liquor trade. The Beverages Corporation of Kerala (BEVCO) and Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC), the State-owned entities are the

only bodies that can buy and sell liquor. Bar restaurants owned by the private sector should procure the liquor supplied by these two bodies. Long back there were private liquor outlets in these States doing roaring business.

After the "nationalisation" of the liquor business in Kerala, the tippers face severe hardship in getting their daily quota of spirits and they are also forced to consume what the brands that BEVCO 'impose' on them.

Earlier, the tippers had the choice of getting their favourite brands and drinking too. After the taking over of the liquor business by the Government, the brands to be sold in the States are decided by the party in power and there is no transparency in the selection of liquor to be traded through the outlets or restaurants(bars). The liquor manufacturers who pay the ruling parties get the contract and laugh at the banks.

The Government claims that the nationalization is the prelude to the introduction of total prohibition in Kerala. This is a dream that will never materialise unless other States bring in legislation banning liquor. Neighboring Karnataka is a tippler's paradise as the private outlets sell all popular brands patronized by the consumers.



While arrack, the country spirit is banned in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the same is available in the rest of the country much to the delight of the working class. Those who toil in farmlands from morning to evening need a bit of relaxation after a hard day's work and hence it is not proper on the part of the Government to ban the stuff.

Pinarayi Vijayan, chief minister of Kerala, is on record stating that toddy is a most nutritious drink and not alcohol. Tamil Nadu has banned toddy tapping forcing the poor workers to rush to TASMAC with their hard-earned wages to buy the spirit for the

evening. If arrack is not banned in these States (where spurious arrack is available from bootleggers) the workers need not have spent the day's earnings in State-owned liquor outlets.

The notion that liquor would imperil health has to go. Many findings have been confirmed through scientific research that a moderate quantity of liquor is good for health. There is a Chinese adage about liquor: "A man takes a drink. The drink takes more drinks. Finally, the drinks take the man". If the authorities could make the man consume fewer drinks, that would be the best solution to alcohol-

ism. But it should not be by killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. We live in an era when Indian-made scotches have beaten the spirits brewed in Scotland and the USA to emerge as their rivals in the global market.

Colombo and suburbs, hardly an hour of air journey from Kochi is a study in contrast. Though there are many liquor outlets in Sri Lanka, one cannot come across long queues of tippers in front of these shops. Devan Ramachandran, a judge of the Kerala High Court, said recently that the drinkers need much better treatment from the BEVCO outlets. He was drawing the atten-

tion of the Government to the plight of tippers who have to wait for hours in the queue braving the scorching sun and heavy downpours to get their daily evening quota.

Sunil Kumar, a fellow journalist, said that the Government's stringent and outdated regulations alone are responsible for making people consume more and more liquor.

He says that the decision to down the shutters of liquor outlets on the first day of every month is a regressive measure as it forces the drinkers to buy an additional bottle in the previous evening to stock for the next day. But what happens is that they consume that extra bottle on the same evening leaving them "high and dry" on the day of shutdown. Let the tippers have the freedom to gulp down their quota.

It is impossible to have total prohibition in the country. Piloos Modi, the veteran parliamentarian said during a debate on prohibition that he could stay away from alcohol for any number of years. But I cannot live even for a minute without the right to consume liquor," Piloos Modi had said. Let better sense prevail.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views are personal)

Mind Management is crucial for happiness

RAVI VALLURI

What is the difference between PK and PIKU? Two letters, 'I' and 'U'; I is us and U are them (an extraterrestrial Aamir Khan). Their CPU is cerebral and our CPU is at the level of abdomen. Or say for vast multitudes the focus is at the abdomen. It would be quite captivating watching the main protagonists PK (of the eponymous movie) and Bhaskor (of Piku fame) sharing their thoughts and respective metabolisms in a spaceship.

Food has a tremendous impact on our system, which we do not quite comprehend. Improper diet first takes a toll on the metabolism and then attacks other organs of the body. Simply put, intake of toxic foods generates repugnant thoughts and results in a weak mind and body.

The human mind is an

enigma and a reservoir of potential. But the moot question is how do we tap this potential? The mind is a movie theatre where we script and enact innumerable movies and soap operas.

Technology alone cannot be a substitute for the enormous potential of the mind. It needs to be cultured, harnessed, and harmonized with needs and wants.

We need to distinguish brain from the mind. The brain is an organ that serves as the center of the nervous system in all vertebrate and most invertebrate animals. Only a few invertebrates such as sponges, do not have a brain, diffuse or localized nerve nets are present instead.

Mind on the other hand is the faculty of consciousness and thoughts. It is an individual's intellect or memory or his attention span or will.



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has captured it very succinctly. He says mind is like the sky and thoughts are like clouds. Your thoughts make or mar the progress and development of the mind.

To be happy in life

humans need to calm the obdurate and recalcitrant mind. Further keep reminding ourselves that we are blessed, grateful and have abundance in our lives. Life is full of valleys and peaks. It can never be a rising curve or a

straight line permanently. The human mind vacillates between the past and the future. In the past, the mind is regretful and if it is in the future, it is anxious. In either situation the mind is not at peace nor in the present moment and

thus remains unhappy. Incidentally there is a deep connect between the stomach and mind. That is why it is called the gut feeling or the sixth sense. Our solar plexus keeps sending us signals. It depends as to whether we are conscious and wakeful enough to grasp those signals.

We humans can truly celebrate only if we are able to silence our mind. There are techniques to do it and develop a relaxation room or space in our minds and harness the energy so that it does not get enervated. By practicing Suryanamaskars and Padmasadhana as crafted by Gurudev we can enhance our Prana, (chi) or energy levels substantially.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Sustainable eating: Forget synthetic meat, lab grown dairy is here

THE search for sustainable, healthy alternatives to meat currently has two paths: the meat-mimicking veggie burger and lab-grown proteins. But in the land of dairy, there's only plant-based alternatives like cashew "butter" and almond milk.

Whether you're milking them or slaughtering them, industrial cattle husbandry is bad for the planet. Studies show it to be a key culprit in the climate crisis and a source of localized environmental damage. The refrigerator aisle has been full of plant-based dairy for some time, but now there are a few startups who, like the purveyors of cultured meat, want to take dairy one step further. Already under siege by falling milk sales, Big Dairy lobbyists have been lashing out at makers of plant-based rivals as they grow market-share. But their next enemy may be coming from the laboratory, in the form of synthetic whey, and investors are already lining up. While fewer people are drinking cow's milk, they're still eating yogurt and cheese, and a crucial protein that comes from making those products is whey. It's relatively flavorless and incorporates well into a range of food formulations for everyone from infants to adults. There's already a huge market for it, as demand for whey protein and whey-based products is on the rise thanks to consumer demand for protein in everything, from bars to shakes. The U.S. is the single largest exporter of whey products, with estimated sales of

\$10 billion last year. BCC Research said the category will grow by 6% annually through 2023. But for all its popularity, all that whey still comes from cows, a fact increasingly seen as a liability for climate- and health-conscious dairy and protein lovers. Ryan Pandya saw an opportunity in this consumer conundrum. He wants to be the first to market a non-animal whey protein through his San Francisco area-based company, Perfect Day. Like other food startup founders, Pandya and partner Perumal Gandhi are both vegan. Rather than forego the taste of real cheese and dairy for poor vegan substitutes, the pair decided to invent their own version of the real thing. The startup focused on the well-worn food path of microbial fermentation harnessing custom yeast and bacteria to grow the proteins that make milk taste like milk. But first, the company and others like it face some big hurdles: consumer squeamishness and regulatory reviews that may end up focusing more on the genetically modified organisms (GMO) used to make lab-grown whey. Five years ago, Perfect Day joined the synthetic biology accel-

erator IndieBio as it searched for microbes that could be engineered to make functional milk proteins. Today, it has more than 60 employees, \$60 million in funding and says that it's produced one metric ton of lab-grown whey (for scale, the U.S. uses more than 200,000 metric tons of all types of whey annually). Late last year, agriculture giant Archer Daniels Midland agreed to invest in Perfect Day as the startup seeks to lower the cost of making whey. "When you're creating something that already exists, there is already an established price point," said Victoria de la Hueraga, vice president of ADM Ventures. "The goal for companies that are leveraging new technology to make new food is you have to make it affordable." Though it's still early days, Perfect Day contends its proteins require 98% less water and 65% less energy than that required to produce whey from cows. The company said it hopes to one day license its ingredients so they can be used by food manufacturers in a range of products but those involved concede that scaling the effort won't be easy. Still, Perfect Day Chief Technical

Officer Tim Geistlinger said the process is "fully adaptive you can do it anywhere in the world and it doesn't matter how hot it is." Having come over from plant-based burger maker Beyond Meat, Geistlinger argued that "if you want to raise your flag on sustainability or tolerance to climate change, this one solves a lot of things."

While Perfect Day wants to be an ingredient supplier, food startup New Culture wants to make the end product: cheese from its own lab-grown casein, another protein derived from dairy. In the lab, New Culture has crafted a super stretchy, believable version of mozzarella the most consumed cheese in the U.S. A third startup, Motif Ingredients a spinoff of Ginkgo Bioworks is using \$90 million in funding to focus on lab-grown dairy proteins as flavor and texture ingredients. Matt Gibson, the New Zealand born founder of New Culture and a self-described committed vegan, said he didn't like the non-dairy options on the market. "I just don't think you can make cheese with any of the plant-based proteins," he said.

There's even a nonprofit working on lab-grown whey. Real Vegan Cheese, based in Oakland, California, has been researching how to make multiple casein proteins with bacteria, and plans to do the same with yeast. The group said it wants to disseminate its recipe so others can develop their own sustainable, animal-free dairy products.



Comfort food: When you're hungry for nostalgia

INDIAN cricket captain Virat Kohli is one of the fittest athletes in the world. But even the star sportsman, whose daily diet includes grilled chicken and salmon, mashed potatoes, green vegetables, spinach, can't stay away from an occasional cheat meal from Ram's chole bhature in Rajouri Garden, Delhi. "That too I'll go to his shop and have it, not take away. By the time it comes home, it's not a bhatura anymore. It feels like stale bread. Fresh bhatura's where you pop a hole with your finger along with some onions, mint chutney and some pepper pickle," he said during a TV show in 2017. His loving description of the dish, a combination of chana masala and bhatura (a fried bread made from flour), makes it not just his cheat meal, but also his comfort food.

There are various definitions of comfort food, but roughly it's the kind of food that provides you with a sense of well-being, and is associated with childhood or home cooking. "Corporate life is difficult and sometimes can be all consuming... after a hard day's work, I often eat a plate of simple dal-chawal that I would often eat at home before exams while watching some soap on TV. I instantly I feel much better and re-energised," says Deepti Srinivas who is with a consulting company in Gurgaon.

Why does Kohli or Srinivas feel good after they polish off a plate of their respective comfort food?

A study conducted by Lukas Van Oudenhove of the University of Leuven in Belgium show that there are certain areas of brain that are activated by our moods response to fatty acids. So most comfort foods, such as junk food, contain

a large amount of fatty acids. There is also a strong link between scents and emotional memory. "Smell of foods can evoke vivid and detailed emotional memories of our past. Our learning history predisposes us to enjoy certain foods.... Because odour-evoked memories tend to be positive, the smell improves the mood and produces feelings of social connectedness," writes Shahram Heshmat in Psychology Today.

While there is a lot of discussion on nature's own anti-anxiety product (comfort foods), there are some foods that should not make the grade, warn nutritionists, even if they lift your mood: Junk food and sweets. "Junk foods are designed to create cravings and addiction. Sweets reduce stress hormone cortisol temporarily, but leads to fatigue and tiredness," explains nutritionist Kavita Devgan in a YouTube explainer on comfort foods. In a STEMjobs, Giovanni Cizza, MD, a researcher with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, US, writes: "Maybe if you're sad and you feel like that chocolate could help you, go for it. Don't feel too guilty, but try to limit what you eat and maybe later cut down on something else."

Indians are very lucky when it comes to comfort because there is so much diversity in food across the regions. Celebrated Indian food writer, chef, cookbook author Tarla Dalal has a fine list that includes the best of various regions: Rasam, kichdi, kesar peda; soups such as makai shorba, cream of tomato soup; snacks such as moong dal chilla, stuffed moong dal chilla, vada pav, samosa and dahi vada. It's time to dig in, and feel happy!



Link between stress, cervical cancer uncovered

A new study has established an association between cervical cancer and stress in patients, stating that females having cervical cancer with stress-related disorders are at a higher risk of succumbing to the disease. Findings of the study were published in the journal 'Cancer Research'.

"Patients receiving a cancer diagnosis are at increased risk of several stress-related psychiatric disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and stress-reaction and adjustment disorders," said Donghao Lu, the study's author.

Lu added, "Emerging evidence from both experimental and epidemiological studies indicates that psychological distress might affect the progression of many cancer types." For the following study, researchers gathered and examined records of 4,245 patients diagnosed with cervical cancer in Sweden between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2011. At the same time, researchers also identified patients who had experienced a stressful life event, such as the death or severe illness of a family member, divorce, or being between jobs, as these events would increase emotional burden on patients.

Moreover, researchers also identified women who had cervical cancer or unspecified uterine cancers as their cause of death. During the study, 1,392 patients died, and cervical cancer was listed as the cause of death for 1,005 of them. In all,

sible explanations for the link between psychological stress and cervical cancer-specific mortality. One reason can be that a woman suffering from a psychological disorder may be less likely to seek treatment and may be



researchers found that 1,797 patients either had stress-related disorders or had undergone stressful life events. Patients with either a stress-related disorder or a stressful life event were 33 per cent more likely to die of the disease. Those who had stress-related disorders were 55 per cent more likely to die of their cervical cancer, while those who had experienced a stressful life event were 20 per cent more likely to die of their disease.

There are several pos-

diagnosed at a later stage, added Lu.

"Our findings support that oncologists or gynecologists perform an active evaluation of psychiatric status on return visits to see how patients with cervical cancer are doing, not only somatically, but also mentally," said co-author Karin Sundstrom.

"If confirmed in other populations and countries, psychological screening and intervention may be considered as an integral component in cervical cancer care," Sundstrom added.

AGO trap: Eliminates female mosquitoes to help curb chikungunya virus

A disease control centre developed an Autocidal Gravid Ovitraps (AGO trap) that attracts and captures female mosquitoes looking for a site to lay eggs. Researchers reported that AGO traps successfully protected people from chikungunya virus.

The lack of effective tools to control Aedes aegypti mosquito populations has resulted in the continued expansion of dengue virus, Zika virus and chikungunya virus. Some recent attempts at curbing mosquito populations have resulted in reductions in mosquito density but not reductions in human disease. AGO traps consist of a pail with hay and water to attract egg-bearing female mosquitoes and a sticky lining to which the insects adhere. Previous studies have shown that placing three AGO traps outside of 85% of homes in a community resulted in an 80% reduction in adult mosquito populations but the studies did not assess rates of mosquito-borne diseases in humans, reported the study published in the journal of PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

The researchers randomly selected 290 households in Puerto Rican communities that had AGO trap interventions and 349 households in communities with-

out AGO traps. 175 household members from intervention communities and 152 from non-intervention communities were enrolled in the study.

Blood samples were collected from each participant to detect chikungunya virus infection and surveys recorded demographic information as well as data on mosquito repellent and bed net use and frequency of mosquito bites. A total of 114 participants (34.9%) were seropositive for the chikungunya virus. Among people who spent most of their daytime hours inside the community they lived in, 10.3% were seropositive for chikungunya virus in communities with AGO traps whereas 48.7% were positive for chikungunya virus in communities without traps. Among all participants, including those who did not spend as much daylight time within the community, 26.1% were seropositive for chikungunya virus in the intervention communities and 43.8% were positive in communities without traps.

"AGO traps are a novel chemical-free, effective approach to control Ae. aegypti populations and provide protection from infection with the pathogens that these mosquitoes transmit. Further evaluations should determine if AGO traps are sustainable and effective in larger-scale community trials," said one of the researchers of the study.



Modified radiotherapy less likely to damage healthy cells

A modified way of concentrating radiotherapy dose in tumour while minimising damage to healthy cells has been proposed in a recent research. The study published in the journal of Scientific Reports proposes that focusing high-energy particle beams on a small spot deep inside the body could potentially enable clinicians to target cancerous tumour precisely. External beam radiotherapy involves treating patients with either high energy X-rays or particle beams. Tumour cells are killed by the radiation, which is usually administered in multiple fractions, which are applied daily over several weeks. Prof Dino Jaroszynski, who led the project, said: "Around half of the population will suffer from cancer at some time in their lives. Of these people, half will be treated using radiotherapy or a combination of radiotherapy and chemotherapy."

One of the challenges in radiotherapy is to deposit a high radiation dose in a way that the dose fully 'conforms' to the tumour to ensure that all cancerous cells are killed while preventing damage to healthy cells. Our study

showed that we can very simply focus radiation onto a tumour to irradiate it while reducing the dose in surrounding healthy tissue."

One of the disadvantages of using X-rays in

ary. An effective radiotherapy modality uses heavier particles such as protons and ions. These have the advantage of radiation doses that can be confined to a small region called the "Bragg peak."

"This work presents a comprehensive numerical study of fundamental issues encountered in cancer treatment with very high energy electrons for a wide range of geometries. Results suggest that technology and beam transport systems routinely employed in high-energy particle accelerators could find direct application in this field, expanding the range of tools available for radiotherapy," said Dr Enrico Brunetti, one of the researchers of the study.



Malaria linked to 30 per cent higher risk of heart failure: Study

A new research has warned that malaria infection is linked to 30 per cent higher risk of heart failure. The mosquito-borne infection affects more than 219 million people worldwide each year, according to 2018 statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"We have seen an increase in the incidence of malaria cases and what is intriguing is that we have seen the same increase in cardiovascular disease in the same regions," said the first author of the study, Philip Brainin, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Herlev-Gentofte University Hospital in Denmark. "Even though we have taken preventive measures to decrease the malaria numbers, it remains a major burden," Brainin said.

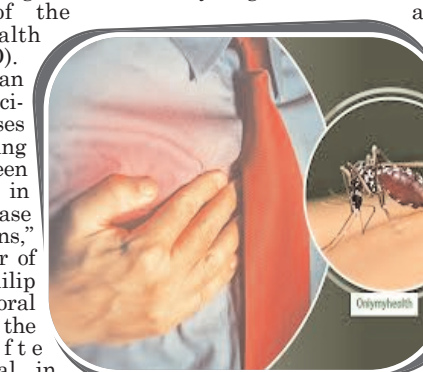
The researchers used Danish nationwide registries to identify patients with a history of malaria infection between January 1994 and January 2017. The mean age of patients in the study was 34 and 58 per cent of the subjects were male. Around 4,000 malaria cases were identified, with 40 per cent having plasmodium falciparum, a parasite transmitted through mosquito bites that is responsible for majority of severe malaria cases in humans. The 11-year follow-up of patients revealed 69 cases of heart failure, which were very high as com-

pared to the general population, and 68 cases of cardiovascular death, which were considered within normal range.

"These patients had a 30 per cent increased likelihood of developing heart failure over the follow-up time," Brainin said.

While more research will be needed to further validate the findings, recent studies have suggested that malaria could be a contributor to functional and structural changes in the myocardium, which is the muscle tissue of the heart. Experimental studies have also shown that malaria may affect the blood pressure regulatory system causing hypertension, which is a contributor to heart failure. Malaria can also affect vascular pathways that cause inflammation in the heart, which could lead to fibrosis and then heart failure.

According to the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), a combination of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and coronary artery disease are among the most common risk factors for heart failure. The findings were presented at the ESC Congress 2019 together with the World Congress of Cardiology in Paris. Among the high malaria burden countries, India has made substantial progress in disease control. The malaria burden has declined by over 80 per cent malaria cases came down to 0.39 million in 2018 from 2.03 million cases in 2000. Malaria deaths in India have declined by over 90 per cent from 932 deaths in 2000 to 85 in 2018, according to Indian Council of Medical Research.



CINNAMON FOR DIABETES: Simple tips to add the common Indian spice to your diet

A person is said to be diabetic when their blood sugar is excessively high and the insulin hormone produced in the pancreas that breaks down the glucose is neither made by the body nor utilised well. The condition, if not managed well, can severely damage one's eyes, kidneys and overall health. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) estimate, 1.6 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes in 2016. It was the seventh-leading cause of death that year. But, it's not all grim. The good news is that diabetes can at times be managed through a disciplined diet, regular screening and exercising.

There are several home remedies that could help you to deal with sugar level in your body along with the doctor's prescribed medicines. One such ingredient is cinnamon, a common spice in Indian kitchen. It is used to add distant flavours to various dessert and savoury recipes. A study reported in the July 2000 edition of Agricultural Research Magazine found that consuming 1g of cinnamon per day can increase insulin sensitivity and help manage or reverse type 2 diabetes.

Benefits of having cinnamon in your diet:

- * The spice is known to stimulate cells for glucose consumption.
- * Consuming cinnamon promotes the release of insulin from the pancreas and boosts insulin sensitivity that helps in the processing of glucose.
- * It also contains mineral chromium that keeps one's appetite under check and helps in getting rid of visceral fat.
- * Packed with essential nutrients, it makes for an excellent detox drink.
- * Results from a clinical study published in the Diabetes Care journal in 2003 suggest that cassia cinnamon (cinnamon bark) improves blood glucose and cholesterol levels in people with type 2 diabetes, and may reduce risk factors associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.



Discovery of new liver cells can make liver transplants redundant

RESearchers have found single-cell RNA sequencing to identify a type of cell that may be able to regenerate liver tissue, treating liver failure without the need for transplants. The scientists have identified a new type of cell called a Hepatobiliary Hybrid Progenitor (HHyP), that forms during our early development in the womb.

Surprisingly, HHyP also persists in small quantities in adults and these cells can grow into the two main cell types of the adult liver (Hepatocytes and Cholangiocytes) giving HHyPs stem cell-like properties. The team examined HHyPs and found that they resemble mouse stem cells which have been found to rapidly repair mice liver following major injuries, such as occurs in cirrhosis. The findings are published by The Journal Nature Communications.

Dr Tamir Rashid from the Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine at King's College London said, "For the first time, we have found that cells with true stem cell-like properties may well exist in the human liver. This, in turn, could provide a wide range of regenerative medicine applications for treating liver disease, including the possibility of bypassing the need for liver transplants."

Symptoms of liver disease include jaundice, itching and feelings of weakness and tiredness and in more severe cases, cirrhosis. The only treatment for severe liver diseases at present is a liver transplant which can lead to a lifetime of complications and for which the need for donor organs greatly outweighs the increasing demands. Liver disease can be caused by lifestyle issues such as obesity, viruses, alcohol misuse or by non-lifestyle issues such as autoimmune and genetic mediated disease.

"We now need to work quickly to unlock the recipe for converting pluripotent stem cells into HHyPs so that we could transplant those cells into patients at will. In the longer term, we will also be working to see if we can reprogramme HHyPs within the body using traditional pharmacological drugs to repair diseased livers without either cell or organ transplantation," said Dr Rashid.

Balwant inaugurates Natrang's Summer Theatre Camp for Children

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 3

Natrang's Summer Theatre Camp- 2024, the most sought after event for children in the region inaugurated here today at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu with the lighting of traditional lamp by Director Natrang, Padmashri Balwant Thakur.

Natrang's Children Theatre Wing was started in the year 1990 and since then, annual Summer Theatre camps, Spring Theatre workshops, Winter Theatre Workshops have been a regular feature of Natrang's children activities. The period of Summer Vacations is exclusively dedicated for Children Theatre every year by Natrang as this is the only time when children have many days in continuity to learn, explore and groom their personalities and improve



their immense inner abilities in a fun-filled creative space and occasion. Till now, Natrang has groomed the personalities of thousands of children with an effective and efficient transforming tool called theatre.

A new full-length play would also be prepared by the participants during Natrang's Theatre Camps-2024 which would be presented before larger audiences who get a chance to watch a wonderful children's play every year as the outcome of the summer theatre camp. The training module is

designed by Padmashree Balwant Thakur, who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the Country. His children theatre productions like 'Mere Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai', 'Aap Hamare Hain Kaun', 'Hum Hain Na', 'Udaan' etc. are considered to be the landmark children productions of India. His play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' has been translated and staged in French, English and Creole internationally.

Special training focus of the workshop will be on developing commu-

nication skills, public speaking and imbibing of confidence through latest developed techniques of theatre. The skill developing techniques, devised by Sumeet Sharma (Recipient of SNA's National Award for Theatre Direction) during his consistent work with children for over 20 years, prove very successful in imparting the benefits of theatre to the children. The workshop module is consistently developed and upgraded by the innovative inputs by the top professionals and children would get training under the super-

vision of expert trainers. The camp will also have the intervention of allied arts, Cartooning, Yoga and visual arts in addition to dancing.

A dedicated team of artists/trainers which includes Mohd. Yaseen, Kananpreet Kaur, Palshin Dutta & Mihir Gujral will facilitate the smooth functioning of the workshop.

Those who are attending this workshop include Advik Sharma, Saisha Malhotra, Adira Gupta, Priyanka Gupta, Viraj Singh, Aadhiraj Dharmat, Viraj Gupta, Kyra Luthra, Kamakhya Bali, Aariya Shan, Raaga Sharma, Shravya Sharma, Rubaab Kour, Mehak Chib, Dhanak Chandan, Ruhaan Chandan, Amira Mahajan, Shivaay Illa Mittal, Vidhanshi Jamwal, Nirvana Sah, Jazz Sah, Reet Gupta, Aryan Gupta, Daivik Gupta, Ayaan Dutt and Aaradhya Sharma.

BJP ready to celebrate PM Modi's third term on June 4: Kavinder Urges people of J&K to celebrate victory in a grand manner

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 3

Expressing full confidence in the credibility of exit polls giving thumping majority to BJP, senior party leader and former deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said on one side Saffron party is preparing to celebrate PM Narendra Modi's third term and on the other the defeated Congress party is planning protests and finding alibis to go for catharsis.

In a statement issued to media persons, BJP stalwart leader said that people have voted in support of PM Modi with open hearts and that is the reason behind euphoria among the party cadre. He said that starting from June 4, it is the time for the party to celebrate the momentous victory of PM Modi as exit polls have made things clear even before the counting of votes. He said that record breaking voting percentage in J&K is also due to success of the Kashmir Policy brought in by the PM Modi and therefore the BJP has got people's support duly on its credible work and people-friendly outlook.

He said that Congress leadership has already started assessing the factors responsible for their bad performance as the party is planning nation-



wide protests. He said that it is also expected that the dynastic party may accuse BJP of wrongdoing but the people of the country know it well that BJP's victory is hard earned after doing wonders on ground be it abrogation of Article 370, teaching Pakistan a lesson of life, getting the people of Kashmir rid of terrorism and so many other achievements, which are known to one and all.

Kavinder said that even ECI has praised the BJP government for accomplishing the herculean task by bringing back people in Kashmir to the polling booths and setting new records of voting percentage.

Kavinder said that Congress holds every right to protest, but the reason should be genuine viz. their leadership failed to make connections with the people, and corruption being their top priority, which has created a wedge between the common man and the oldest political party of the country.

The senior BJP leader has welcomed the statement of Chief Election Commissioner of India with regard to holding of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He also said that BJP has conducted elections in J&K for 13 times including Panchayat Raj and Urban Local Bodies while the successive regimes had conducted the same only for 4 times in last more than 70 years, which speaks of the difference and how the saffron party has strengthened democracy at the grass roots level.

The former deputy Chief Minister appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the victory of BJP in grand style and join in the festivities that mark the historic third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized that this victory is not just a win for the party, but a triumph of the people's will and their faith in the leadership of PM Modi.

Kavinder urged every supporter to participate enthusiastically in the celebrations, as it is a moment to acknowledge the progress and positive changes brought about by the BJP government. He expressed hope that the coming term will continue to bring prosperity, development, and peace to Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India.

JKPCC leaders hold meeting on eve of LS poll counting

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 3

President Vikar Rasool Wani, Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat and JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla along with senior JKPCC leaders held a meeting on Monday to discuss the party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls and its preparation for the counting of votes scheduled to take place on June 4. The meeting, presided over by JKPCC Chief, was also learnt to have taken stock of exit polls predicting a big win for the BJP-led NDA, rejecting the forecast. The meeting was attended by Sr. Vice President JKPCC and Chief Spokespersons Congress Ravinder Sharma, District Jammu Urban President Manmohan Singh, Dev Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma, Ex Minister Yashpal Kundal, Naresh K Gupta, Narinder Gupta, Satish Sharma, Amrit Bali, Rajesh Sogotra, Vijay Sharma Babbi, Bopinder Singh Jamwal, Sanjeev Sharma, Balbir Singh, Inder Seghal, Ajay Kumar, Latish Sharma, Dewarka Choudhary, Sandeep Dogra Sonu, Sanjeev Katal, Surinder Singh Dutt, Capt. Ghar Singh, Jaspreet Kour, Ajay Slaria, Rajinder Singh Randhawa, Dara Singh and others.

A day before the votes are counted in the Lok Sabha elections, Wani on Monday questioned the veracity of the exit polls which have predicted a comfortable victory for the BJP-led NDA and claimed that the agencies conducting them were only trying to create a

conducive atmosphere in favour of the BJP. He invoked Mahatma Gandhi's "do or die" call for the country's future and said the youth are ready to sacrifice themselves. He said the BJP's "corrupt policies" are not capable of protecting the nation, adding that youth are now ready to take part in a "new freedom movement". "That is why the public, remembering Mahatma Gandhi's 'do or die' call, is now agitated and ready to fight a new freedom movement to save their own and the country's future. He said that the INDIA bloc's victory will be a victory for the country and its people.

"Our exit poll says that the INDIA bloc is winning all five seats in J&K. I have got an internal survey done that also shows good numbers for us," he said. "We and media were among the people to strengthen democracy. We have seen they (BJP) did not have people (in their rallies), their tents were empty...nothing was seen in their favour," Wani said. Questioning the exit polls, he alleged that many agencies that conducted the exit polls used to do work of booth management for the BJP. "These exit polls agencies are making a conducive atmosphere in the BJP's favour," he said. "They (BJP) want to threaten the opposition. This has been their politics since the beginning... But this time, people are ready. Our youths and all sections of society are ready to protect the votes cast by them," Wani said. Urging the poll watchdog to make adequate security arrangements for agents of



opposition parties, Wani claimed that when the BJP appears weak, it will try to threaten the agents as the administration is with the party.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said "The elections are over. The exit polls are showing many things. The BJP is responsible for many things. They disturbed peace and brotherhood. They conspired to end the reservation. They increased crime against women. They made a record of wrong behaviour. They triggered inflation and unemployment. The poor become poorer," Bhalla added. Sharpening his attack on the BJP, Bhalla said, "Businesses were ruined by demonetisation. Small shopkeepers were made victims of recession by corrupt GST. BJP wanted to usurp farmers' land and to bring black laws for farmers. It did not give remunerative prices for crops and pushed the country into unemployment. "Loans worth billions of rupees of the rich were waived but farmers had to commit suicide due to loans. Savings

of the middle class were rendered useless by reducing interest rates and other charges.

"The BJP government brought a deadly vaccine without testing. This will have a direct impact on the health of the public and will also affect the health of the coming generations," Bhalla added. "The exit polls have played a psychological trick. Huge money is involved in the exercise," he claimed. He said, "The exit poll agencies may claim to have carried out their own surveys. But we gained a first-hand sense of the popular sentiments during the elections. Our leader Rahul Gandhi, and the coalition represented by him, promised jobs, fresh recruitment in railways and restoration of earlier system of employment in armed forces." "On the other hand, all that was on offer from NDA were threats of theft of buffaloes, mangalsutras, and water taps," remarked Bhalla, in a veiled dig at PM Narendra Modi's election speeches. He claimed, "There have been a high

number of votes cast through postal ballots this time. Such votes are often known to be in favour of a change. We expect that these will be counted properly, taking all parties into confidence." "We also expect that photo copies of Form 17C will be made available to candidates and counting agents, and every round will be declared complete only after all parties have expressed their satisfaction," he added.

Sr. Vice President JKPCC and Chief Spokespersons said the meeting discussed the voting pattern observed as to how polling took place. "This was also reviewed," he added. He said the meeting, which was attended by JKPCC senior leaders, held an "extensive discussion" on Lok Sabha elections and deliberated on the deployment of party's polling agents for counting of votes. "That polling agents reach in time across all booths, their proper deployment, whether there is any problem in this - all these things were discussed," he said. The meeting also discussed if there is "any suspicion" over counting of votes anywhere and party office bearers were asked to pay "special attention" to such a situation, he said. "The meeting only reviewed the elections and voting and discussed arrangements and deployment of party workers for counting of votes," he added. He stressed that the poll panel should issue clear guidelines on the counting process and ensure that those are implemented.

Campaign to preserve, promote Dogra culture getting massive support: Prof. Mohtra



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 3

In an impressive awareness programme held at Bishnah by the local unit of Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust, dozens of prominent persons were offered Dogra safa/pagri. It was organised by Satish Bharti, Incharge Bisnah unit and one in the series of such events being undertaken in different parts of Jammu province.

Prof. (Dr.) Kulbushan Mohtra, Managing Director of the Trust, along with team members namely Er. Dilbahadur Singh Jamwal, Balbir Ram Rattan and

Smt. Vijay Gupta, graced the occasion and appreciated the first of its type of initiative in Bishnah town by Satish Bharti.

Prof. (Dr.) Kulbushan Mohtra, while speaking on the occasion, said that Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust, has launched a campaign to make people aware about the rich Dogra culture and Dogri language and the public has massively supported the cause. He said that the major population of Jammu and Kashmir, called Dogras, have adopted the modern lifestyle and are forgetting their own ancient culture.

Prof. (Dr.) Kulbushan Mohtra, said that there is no problem or objection in marching a head and progress but it should not be at the cost of our own mother tongue and the beautiful culture. He said that preserving and promoting one's culture is must to keep the younger generations connected with their roots.

Prof. Mohtra said that the Trust, reiterates its commitment to work for Dogri and Dogra culture and appeals all the dogras to come forward and become part of the noble cause by devoting at least one day in a week, wear Dogra dress and cook Dogra food, adding that Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust, is reaching the people, offering them safa/pagri to males, suggesting females to adopt dogra dress and also use dogri as mean of communication in day to day life.

MoU Signed between SMVDU and SKUAST-J

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 3

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu joined hands in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony held at SMVDU premises. With Signing of MoU by Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, SMVDU and Dr. Sushil Kumar Gupta Registrar SKUAST, doors have been opened for cooperation between the two premier institutes.

The MoU signing event



was graced by the presence of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU, Professor B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST, Deans and Heads of Schools from SMVDU, Dr. R K Salgotra, Director Institute of Bio Tech, SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dean Faculty

of Agriculture SKUAST, Dr. Sushil K. Sharma, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Engineering, SKUAST Jammu. On the occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar articulated the significance of the partnership between SMVDU and SKUAST, emphasizing the importance of synergistic collab-

oration to drive academic and research endeavors to new heights. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs SMVDU gave a comprehensive presentation offering insights into the rich academic tapestry of SMVDU. A brief overview of different programs being offered at SMVDU and introduction of new programs such as B. Tech (Biotechnology), Bachelors of Design (B Des), B. Tech in Mathematics and Computing, Design your Degree Program and offer-

ing B. Tech (Honors) and B. Tech with Minor Specialization from Academic Session 2024-25 at SMVDU was also presented. The Comprehensive presentation offering insights into the overview of SKUAST was delivered by Prof. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST. With the signing of MoU, students pursuing different programs at both institutions stand to benefit from enhanced opportunities from cross-institutional collaboration, enriching their academic journey and preparing them for the challenges of the modern world.

Indian Army organizes lecture on Employment Campaign for Resident Populace at Thanamandi, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI : 03 JUN 2024

A 'lecture on employment for resident populace' was organized by the Indian Army at Thanamandi for spreading awareness amongst resident populace to enhance their skill for self-employment and provide better job opportunities in remote parts of Thanamandi. The aim of the event was to interact & educate young generation, women and resident populace about the various educational and



scholarship schemes of Central Govt/ State Govt to address the problems of unemployment in our country. Officer of Indian Army addressed residents and gave an insight on various initiatives of the Govt and actions being taken to slowly decrease the level of unemployment. Various

initiatives have been launched to boost employment skill development programmes, job fair and entrepreneurship with Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP).

PM Modi writes why India needs new dreams

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

A spiritually rejuvenated prime minister on board his flight from Kanyakumari to Delhi addressed the citizen of Bharat and implored them not to limit their aspiration and dreams, rather resolve to weave new ones and go ahead and fulfill them with purpose.

"We must move forward in every aspect of life," wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi after concluding his 45-hour meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Modi in his letter to the citizens said: "We need to dream new dreams, convert them into reality and begin living those dreams".

Modi wrote down his thoughts between 4.15 and 7 pm on June 1 onboard his flight to Delhi. PM Modi said, "Now, without wasting a single moment, we must step forward towards



greater duties and larger goals. We need to dream new dreams, convert them into reality and begin living those dreams".

"The development trajectory of Bharat fills us with pride and glory, but at the same time, it also reminds the 140 crore citizens of their responsibilities," wrote PM Modi.

The letter titled "Kanyakumari ke Sadhna se Naye Sankalp" talked about how "from Kashmir to Kanyakumari... there is a common identity that is deeply ingrained in the heart of every citizen of the coun-

try".

Recounting his 10 years achievement the Prime Minister said, "Today, Bharat's governance model has become an example for many countries around the world. Empowering 25 crore people to rise above poverty in just 10 years is unprecedented."

He further added that, "Innovative practices such as Pro-People Good Governance, aspirational districts, and aspirational blocks are being discussed globally today..." adding, "Our efforts, from empowering the poor to last-mile

delivery, have inspired the world by prioritising individuals standing at the last rung of society".

"We also need to change our traditional thinking regarding reform. Bharat cannot limit reform to just economic reforms. We must move forward in every aspect of life towards the direction of reform," he wrote.

PM Modi said to make our country a 'Viksit Bharat', "We need to work quickly in all four directions: Speed, Scale, Scope, and Standards".

Alongside manufacturing, we must also focus on quality and adhere to the mantra of zero defect-zero

effect."

Invoking the words of Swami Vivekananda, who once said, "Every nation has a message to deliver, a mission to fulfil, a destiny to reach," Modi reminded all citizen what the future expects them.

"For thousands of years, Bharat has been moving forward with this sense of meaningful purpose. Bharat has been a cradle of ideas for thousands of years.

We have never considered what we have acquired as our personal wealth or measured it purely by economic or material parameters. Therefore, Idam-na-mama (this is not mine) has become an inherent and natural part of the character of Bharat."

Inspiring the way forward, Modi said: "We must redefine our heritage in a modern way while embracing ancient values in a modern context."

Snatched weapon of Tripura BSF by smugglers returned by BGB

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, JUNE 3

An Indian border guard BSF jawan belonging to 150 battalion was allegedly attacked by a group of Bangladeshi smugglers on Saturday along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura's Sepahijala district at Gate No 196 under Kalamchoura Border Outpost, police sources said here on Monday.

Police said a BSF constable identified as Bhole when performing duty at the border found a group of Bangladeshi miscreants crossing over wire fencing illegally and gathered near the fencing gate intending to smuggle sugar in broad daylight. "The accused group abused the jawan with vulgar gestures and language. When he attempted to disperse the miscreants, they harassed



him and tried to drag him to Bangladesh.

They also snatched his weapon along with a radio set. The jawan managed to escape, however, he was assaulted with bamboo sticks and an iron rod due to which he sustained grievous injuries," police stated.

A commandant-level

flag meeting of BSF was held on Monday with its counterpart, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) over the issue, and the Indian force demanded action against the miscreants for attacking Indian jawans. After the meeting, BGB returned the snatched weapon and radio set to BSF, police added.

J&K Police slaps PSA on hardcore criminal Kulbir Bhagat @Rinku in RS Pura, Miran Sahib

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 2

A hardcore criminal has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in R.S.Pura-Miran Sahib area of Jammu District today on 03-06-2024.

The hardcore criminal identified as Kulbir Bhagat @ Rinku Kumar S/O Bhushan Lal R/O Langotian, Miran Sahib Tehsil R.S.Pura, District Jammu has been booked under Public Safety Act for his continuous involvement in criminal activities in an organised manner, thus posing a threat to public peace and order.

The accused did not mend his behavior in refraining his involvement in criminal activities in spite of being booked in multiple FIR's that were registered by various Police Stations of Sub Division R.S.Pura and was recently involved in two



heinous criminal cases in the area of PS Miran Sahib & PS RS Pura.

The hardcore criminal was arrested by Police in number of cases, but the substantive law was not enough to tame him down, and he continued with his criminal activities, thereby posing a great threat to the public at large. He was involved in such activities which were likely to

disturb public order & tranquility, particularly in R.S.Pura-Mran Sahib area of Jammu District

Keeping in view the activities of aforesaid accused as these amount to propagating the criminal activities, thus accused was ordered to be detained under section-8 of Public Safety Act (PSA) by the orders of the District Magistrate Jammu.

Action against notorious hardcore criminals is among the top priorities of Jammu & Kashmir Police which aims not only to take stringent action as per law of the land against notorious criminals but also preventive steps towards maintenance of peace and order. The

arrest was made by a team of Police Station Miran Sahib headed by SHO P/S Miran Sahib under the close supervision of SDPO R.S.Pura, SP Headquarters Jammu & overall supervision SSP Jammu.

The locals of the area have highly appreciated the efforts of the J&K Police in taking tough stand and curbing criminal activities in the area.

Vanposh Mela celebrated at Nagriwari Eco-Park, Kupwara

JINNEWSERVICE
KUPWARA, JUNE 3

Kupwara- The VANPOSH MELA, a significant event aimed at promoting environmental conservation and eco-tourism, was successfully held at the Nagriwari Eco-Park. Organized by the J&K Forest Department of the Kamraj Forest Division, the event was inaugurated by Anurag Arya, IFS, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Kamraj Forest Division, Kupwara.

Anurag Arya, IFS along with Arshiya Ojha, a noted criminologist, visited various stalls set up by different departments and wings. These stalls showcased the diverse crafts and livelihood opportunities from various corners of the Division, highlighting the district's potential.

The event featured a skit at Nagriwari Park, delivering a compelling message on environmental conservation. Additionally,



cultural activities, drawings, and lectures focused on the importance of the environment, engaging attendees in meaningful discussions.

In his address to students, stakeholders, citizens, and members of civil society, DFO Kamraj

Anurag Arya emphasized the critical role of forests and shared insights into eco-tourism activities. He highlighted the efforts of the Forest Department in promoting sustainable practices and the need for community involvement in preserving natural

resources.

The mela also featured a vibrant nukkad natak by students, effectively communicating the adverse effects of deforestation in simple yet impactful language. This performance resonated with the audience, driving home technical points about environmental preservation.

The event, with participation from various departments, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and private agencies, underscored the collaborative effort required to safeguard the environment while exploring sustainable livelihood opportunities.

'Forever in Operation Division' organizes Summer Carnival 2024 at Dras



JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

As part of Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas, 'Forever in Operation Division' organized a Summer Carnival 2024 at Dras under the 'Operation Sadbhavana' initiative, aimed at promoting local talent, sports and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Dras valley. The Carnival was

inaugurated on 28 May 2024 at Sando Rear Polo Ground, Dras and hosted an array of thrilling activities that brought together Sports enthusiasts and Cultural connoisseurs. The Carnival was conducted from 28 May to 03 Jun 2024 and featured thrilling competitions of Tent Pegging, Horse Polo and Archery, captivating spectators with displays of skill, agility and team-

work. Summer Carnival - 2024 culminated on 3rd June 2024 with Chief Guest, HE Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd), witnessing performances by children from Army Goodwill Schools and adventure sports displays by army team, including Hot Air Balloon and Para Motors. Against the backdrop of the majestic mountains and lush

landscapes, this Carnival was a beacon of joy and unity, bringing together people from all walks of life. The Summer Carnival not only served as a platform for military-civil interaction fostering bonds of trust but also highlighted the Indian Army's commitment towards youth empowerment and promoting Dras region's sports and cultural legacy.

J&K Police freeze properties worth Rs 2.0 crores belonging to notorious drug king pin "Chirag Attri"

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

The Jammu & Kashmir Police In Jammu District continuing its action against drug peddlers today on 03.06.2024 freed/confiscated the properties of notorious drug smuggler (Kingpin) namely Chirag Attri @ Chetan S/O Late Ved Raj Attri R/O Chak Jaralan Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. as a part of a drive against Drug Peddlers under Operation SANJEEVANI.

The said drug smuggler is a habitual, repeated offender and several NDPS cases have been registered against him in the past and has been recently detained under PIT NDPS.

J&K Police in Bishnah area Jammu today freed/attached the 03 properties i) Under Khasra No. 345, situated at village Chak Jaralan, Bishnah ii) A commercial Pacca Hall having dimensions of 50'X27' feet situated at village Chak Chua, Bishnah and iii) Also freeze a vehicle Swift Desire bearing registration No. JK02DE-6002



of the said notorious drug smuggler.

The action was taken under sections 68-E, F of the NDPS Act of 1985 and is linked with different cases of NDPS Act registered against the above mentioned notorious drug peddler. The properties were identified as illegally acquired properties during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by the Police. The properties were prima facie acquired from the proceeds of illicit traffick-

ing in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler.

Presently, the said notorious drug peddler is detained under PIT NDPS Act issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and below mentioned cases under NDPS were registered against him.

1. Case FIR No. 134/2022 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act, Miran Sahib
2. Case FIR No. 192/2022 U/S 341/324/201/34 IPC, P/S Bishnah
3. Case FIR No. 203/2022 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act, P/S Bishnah.

Police have urged people to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood and warned that any person found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt strictly as per law. This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed this initiative of J&K Police.

Tripura BJP celebrates exit polls, INDI bloc rubbishes them

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, JUNE 3

The ruling BJP in Tripura is in celebratory mode after exit polls indicated a comfortable victory for the BJP-led NDA to form the 18th Lok Sabha, while the opposition parties rubbished the prediction, terming it "biased and partisan".

The INDI bloc leaders in Tripura have claimed that the exit polls this time would be proven wrong just like in 2004, as they are concocted and fabricated to please the ruling saffron brigade.

However, BJP State President Rajib Bhattacharya claimed the number of seats predicted in the exit polls would gradually surpass 400 by June 4, on the day of counting. "Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always guaranteed

Viksit Bharat and India will celebrate the centenary of its Independence in 2047 as has been proclaimed by him for youths, women, and farmers," Bhattacharjee stated, adding that Modi's 10-year performance till now was "just a trailer and the complete show is yet to reveal itself".

"INDIA bloc's leader Rahul Gandhi said they would remove poverty, but they neither have solution nor plan. Half of their leaders are in jail, and the rest are waiting to go to jail over corruption. People do not support them. People have rejected them," Bhattacharya added.

Meanwhile, CPI-M state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury criticized BJP and said in the exit poll, almost all organisations have declared the BJP as the winner, which is far from the truth and this

time those prediction will be reversed.

"In 2004, there was a Atal Bihari Vajpayee-wave, a leader very popular and better than the present prime minister; then also, exit poll organisations declared BJP as the winner, but it turned out to be totally opposite as NDA lost and the UPA government was formed," he pointed out.

In 2014, there was the slogan 'Achhe Din,' and in 2019, they won using the Pulwama attack and surgical strike. This year, they can't make any impact using Ram Mandir, and Modi's guarantee has vanished gradually, he said.

Meanwhile, senior leader and Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman claimed that every exit poll is concocted and fabricated with a motive to serve the party in power.

SKUAST-J imparts training on 'Processing of Vegetables into Value Added Products'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 03

Division of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi organized one day training programme on "Processing of Vegetables into Value Added Products" under DST funded project entitled, "Documentation, Revival and Upscaling of Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Scientific Development in Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges of UT of Jammu and Kashmir" here today at Karua village in Reasi dist. of J&K which was attended by a number of rural women of area. The programme was organised under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, able guidance



of Director Research, Prof. SK Gupta and Director Extension, Prof. Amrsh Vaid of SKUAST-J. Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Professor, SKUAST-J spoke on the significance of value addition in fruits and vegetables and discussed on women empowerment through SHGs formation. He expressed that fruits and vegetables processing have immense scope in hilly areas and the women farmers can generate extra income and employment for their livelihood. Dr. Anil Bhat, Assistant Professor, AEABM and Principal Investigator of the

project explained briefly about the mandate of the project. He advised rural women to concentrate on quality of the value added product and assured them to provide assistance for marketing and branding of their products. Dr. Julie D Bandral, Professor, PHM and Co-Principal Investigator of the Project gave detailed demonstration for making value added products of vegetables. She also discussed on the nutritional significance of fruits and vegetables and their potential into processing. She elaborated the scientific techniques

of processing of fruits and vegetables and stressed on the preparation of bottle gourd products, turmeric products, apple jam, aonla candy, pickles, juice etc. by elaborating their scientific preparation. She also discussed about the ingredients used in the value added products of fruits and vegetables to increase their shelf life. Earlier Dr. Banarsi Lal, Sr. Scientist & Head, warmly welcomed the participants and explained the importance of value addition in seasonal fruits and vegetables to fetch more returns. He urged the participants to avail the benefits of training and start agri-entrepreneurships in rural areas. He motivated the participants for the processing of fruits and vegetables by which they can generate more money. He stressed on SHGs/FPOs formation.

Gangster Arun Gawli to surrender following SC stay on premature release

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JUNE 3

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed an order granting remission by the Bombay High Court to gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli, who is expected to shortly surrender before the authorities.

Sources close to Gawli confirmed he will surrender. Gawli is currently serving life imprisonment for the 2007 murder case of Shiv Sena corporator Kamalakar Jamsandekar.

Earlier the Bombay High Court in its order said that Gawli is "entitled" to benefits of the 2006 remission policy by the Maharashtra government and directed authorities to "pass consequential order" in that regard. A vacation bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta heard the state government's plea opposing the premature release of Gawli, who was convicted under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

On April 5, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court allowed Gawli's plea for premature release based on the remission policy dated January 10, 2006. This policy was in effect at the time of his conviction on August 31, 2012. Gawli argued that he met all the conditions of the 2006 policy, and the rejection of his application for premature release by state authorities was unjust and arbitrary. Gawli, had, claimed to have been certified as weak by the Medical Board, qualifying him for the benefits of the 2006 policy. However, the state government opposed his plea, citing revised guidelines from March 18, 2010.

These guidelines stipulate that convicts of organized crime should not be granted premature release unless they have served 40 years of actual imprisonment.

Impressive Shobha Yatra taken out to celebrate 626th Birthday of Sant Kabir Maharaj

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

The 626th birthday of Shiromani Sant Kabir Sahib Maharaj was celebrated with reverence and devotion. An impressive Shobha Yatra commenced from the village Kotli Gala Bana, R.S. Pura, and proceeded through the main bazaars of R.S. Pura, where locals warmly welcomed the participants by serving sweet water and refreshments to the devotees.

The Shobha Yatra was initiated by Ex-Block Development Counsellor Dalip Kumar and featured notable figures such as Chaman Lal Floria (President), Darshan Bhagat (Secretary), Surjeet Singh, Jeet Raj, Balak Ram, Shashi Kumar, Som Nath, Ex-Sarpanch Suraj Parkash, Ghara Ram (Ex-M.C.), and Dr. Preeti Bhagat, Vicky



Mahajan also joined the Shobha Yatra.

Attractive Jhankis depicting various aspects of the life of Sant Kabir were part of the Shobha Yatra attended by the devotees from across Jammu district.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaman Lal Floria said that the objective of the Shobha Yatra was to send a message of Sadguru Kabir Maharaj's ideology/philosophy which is based on humanity and welfare of all mankind irrespective of any religion, caste or creed. He threw light

on the life of Sant Kabir and highlighted his contribution in eradication of social evils from the society. He said that the greatest contribution of Sant Kabir was towards establishment of a harmonious society based on social and economic justice. He said it was Sant Kabir who envisioned a society where every individual and community would be treated as equal. He said that the preaching of great Saints and Gurus like Sant Kabir Ji have played a great role in the evolution of Indian society with its unique fea-

ture of composite culture. He called upon the people to enthuse in themselves such spiritual teachings to fight the challenges of today's era of confusion and chaos. Many revered personalities, including Baba Bhagwan Dass Jee Maharaj and Mata Bimla Devi, imparted their holy blessings to the devotees from the locality and distant areas. Sweet offerings from Baba Udas Marg Sanstha were distributed to the devotees.

The Shobha Yatra concluded at Sant Kabir Temple in Kabir Nagar, Kotli Gala Bana, R.S. Pura. President Chaman Lal requested the devotees to attend Guru Ka Langar and invited everyone to participate in the mega celebration on the 4th of June 2024 (Tuesday) at Sant Kabir Temple, urging them to join with family, friends, and loved ones.

SC refuses YSRCP plea challenging relaxation of postal ballot norms by ECI in Andhra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a petition filed by the YSR Congress Party challenging the relaxation of postal ballot norms by the Election Commission of India in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Vacation Bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Sandeep Mehta dismissed the YSRCP petition saying, "We do not find any merit in the case."

The apex court endorsed the Andhra Pradesh High Court's decision to not interfere with the ECI's decision and gave liberty to the petitioner to challenge it in an election petition after the declaration of results, which is happening tomorrow.

The YSR Congress Party had approached the



Supreme Court challenging the ECI circular regarding the counting of postal ballots in Andhra Pradesh.

The ruling YSRCP contended that the circular dilutes the requirement of an attesting officer to put name and designation in Form 13A. The dispute pertains to the validity of about 5 lakh votes cast in Andhra Pradesh through postal ballots (a system of voting for certain categories of persons who are unable to go to polling stations to cast a vote). As per 1961 Rules, the postal ballots are to be submit-

ted with 3 covers - called Forms 13A, 13B and 13C.

Form 13A is a declaration to be given by the elector/voter, which is to be duly signed (by the elector) and attested by an authorized officer (who shall also put his designation along with the sign and seal). The petitioner has assailed the Andhra Pradesh High Court order of June 1, whereby YSR Congress' writ petition over the same issue was dismissed, with liberty to raise the contentions through an election petition.

Bhavani Revanna absconding, confirms Priyank Kharge

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JUNE 3

The political arena in Karnataka is heating up as RDPR and IT Minister Priyank Kharge confirmed that Bhavani Revanna is absconding, having failed to appear for a trial related to an abduction case involving a sexual assault victim and her son, Prajwal Revanna. In a scathing

critique, Kharge questioned the integrity of the Revanna family. "If they believe they are innocent, why are they evading the law? HD Revanna seeks anticipatory bail but fails to appear for hearings. Prajwal has been mentioned in connection with Rahul Gandhi for 30 days now, yet Bhavani remains elusive," Kharge told reporters on Monday.

Kharge's comments come amid an intensive search operation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) across three districts to locate Bhavani. Her disappearance has not only sparked a high-profile manhunt but also thrust the case into the public eye, raising significant questions about the family's adherence to legal processes.

The minister didn't mince words, calling for Bhavani's immediate arrest and the denial of her bail.

He also took a jab at the ethical stance of the Janata Dal (Secular) party, to which the Revanna family belongs. "They talk about ethics... Why are they avoiding us if they have done nothing wrong?" Kharge asked pointedly.

Braham Jyot flags off Langer Sewa Trucks for Mindal Mata Yatra at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 2

Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) flags off Langer Sewa Trucks for Mindal Mata Yatra at Jammu.

Program was organized by Vishal Sharma (Chairperson Aap Shakti Sewa committee), Pawn Sharma and Kewal Sharma.

Raj Kumar (Bari brahmna), Vishv Dubey, Jatin Sharma, Jasbir Singh (bitte), Sachin, Inderjeet, Rakesh Kumar were present on the occasion.

This is the first mega bhandara organized at Mindal, HP for Machail Mata pilgrims and it will start from 3 June and will last upto 15 June 2024.

Every year Aap Shakti sewa committee with mutual contributions organizes Bhandara for Machail Mata devotees at Machail.

In the program firstly dignitaries offered prayers and pray for peace and harmony of nation. Then they flagoff to the langer sewa trucks. They Praise efforts of vishal Mahajan and Aap Shakti Sewa committee.

Speaking on occasion Braham Jyot extend greetings and appreciated the work of Aap Shakti Sewa Committee, Pawan



Sharma and Kewal Sharma on this holy occasion and said Mata Machail will bless all with health and prosperity.

He said The pious, tranquil and splendid temple of Kali Maa is said to be in Satayug and the feeling of maternal love is experienced by the devotees performing Darshnas today even. Mindal yatra has also been started from Jammu and Kashmir to Pangi Dham in the month

of June through Kishtwar-Kalad route. It will help to promote integration of cultures of both states.

He said Every year lot of devotees get the blessings of Machail Mata and the origin of this Mata is said to be from Mindhal Mata Dham, Pangi in Himachal Pradesh. Mindhal Mata Dham is located at Chamba district of dev bhumi Himachal Pradesh.

He said Machail chandi Mata temple is a Goddess

Durga shrine popularly known as Machail Mata. It is in the village Machail of Sub Division Paddar, from where it derives its name, in Kishtwar District of Jammu region in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Thousands of devotees paid obeisance at Mindal, Himachal Pradesh and left for Mata Machail shrine every year mainly from Jammu region. The pilgrimage happens in August only, every year. The idols and pindi form of Chandika are famous for shaking their jewellery of their own without any wind force or any shock and also flickering their closed eyes. There are a lot of supernatural happenings that the pilgrims experience and report.

Delhi water crisis: SC asks Upper Yamuna River Board to call for emergency meeting on June 5

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Upper Yamuna River Board to call for an emergency meeting of all stakeholder states on June 5 to resolve the water crisis being faced by the residents of Delhi and submit the status report by June 6.

The Vacation Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and KV Viswanathan were hearing a writ petition filed by the Delhi government seeking directions to the State of Haryana for the immediate release of water to the crisis-hit national capital.

The Court asked the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to facilitate the Board's meeting on June



5 so that the crisis can be resolved. The case pertains to a petition filed by the Delhi Government in the Supreme Court stating that the capital was facing an acute shortage of water due to the severe heatwave conditions prevailing in North India.

The Delhi government had requested the Apex Court to intervene in directing the neighbouring

states to cooperate with Delhi as it is an emergent situation.

The Delhi government admitted before the Top Court that Himachal Pradesh had agreed to share its surplus water with Delhi, but cooperation was required from the State of Haryana to avert the crisis.

Senior Advocate Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi

appearing for the Delhi Government said that it is the reciprocal obligation of Haryana and it must come to Delhi's aid in resolving the water and sanitation crisis.

To this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta replied that the Board can meet and arrange for additional water, but the Delhi government must stop wasting nearly 50% of water supplied to the national capital.

The Delhi government clarified that the assistance for additional water supply was sought merely as a stop-gap arrangement to deal with the current crisis, without prejudice to any inter-state water dispute and/or the capital's claim over shared water resources.

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
Office of the Additional Director, Jambu Zoo
Nagrota, Jammu
Email: jhuujambuzoo@gmail.com

Corrigendum

With respect to the e-NIT No. **07/WLW/JZ of 2024-25** i.e. Construction of Fox, Hyena, Wolf and Jaekal Enclosures at Jambu Zoo, due to technical error in terms and conditions of floated tender, the tender is hereby cancelled and will be retendered soon.

-sd-
Additional Director,
Jambu Zoo, Jammu

DIP/J-934/24
Date: 3-6-24

Journalism club of Jammu Sanskriti School hosts insightful interaction

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

The Journalism Club of Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu organised an interaction program for the budding journalists to get enhanced in their journalism activities. The eminent guest invited was Vishal Bharti, Bureau Chief of UNI, Jammu region. He shared his valuable thoughts and insights pertaining to journalism. The students were enthusiastic to get to know about the different aspects of journalism. Vishal abetted the students to gain the trust of the audience via



ethical and responsible, journalistic practices and offer workshops of various lengths. The motive of the interaction was to bring

more journalism education into the classroom and to give every child the opportunity to learn journalism skills and influence

the use of social media for disseminating factual, not fake news and information. Students had enriching session and gained insights. They asked questions and slighted out their queries.

Rohini Aima, the Principal cum Vice Chairperson shared words with him and the students of the Journalism club. They were empowered to develop own path in journalism and learned how sports, business, communications and politics, education and marketing all utilize the elements of journalism. It was a great platform for achieving splendor.

Police recovers illicit liquid fuel in Baramulla, 02 accused arrested



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 3

Police in Baramulla have recovered illicit liquid fuel from Wailoo Kralpora & Souchpalpora villages in the jurisdiction of Police Station Pattan and arrested 02 accused persons involved in the commission of crime.

Police Station Pattan received a specific information regarding the sale of illicit liquid fuel. Accordingly, a police party of headed by SHO Pattan raided a specific location in village Wailoo Kralpora. During search, Police party recovered 70 litres of illicit petrol & 50 litres of illicit kerosene from the spot. The accused person involved in the commission of crime has been identified

as Bashir Ahmad Bhat son of Sonaulah Bhat resident of Wailoo Kralpora.

In another action, a police party headed by SHO Pattan during a raid in village Souchpalpora recovered 20 litres of illicit petrol & 15 litres of illicit diesel. The accused person involved in the commission of crime has been identified as Peer Sharief-ud-din son of Gh Mohi-ud-Din resident of Souchpalpora.

Both the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Pattan and investigations have been initiated.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank continues to expand presence; launches its 900th banking outlet



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) has announced the inauguration of 900th outlet of the bank at Khunti, Ranchi, Jharkhand. With this, the Bank now operates a total of 903 outlets nationwide.

Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, "It is a landmark day for us as we inaugurate our 900th banking outlet of the Bank at Khunti, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Jharkhand is a significant state for us, and the inauguration of our 7 new banking outlets across Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh further reinforces our commitment to these regions. Our new banking outlets will not only foster local entrepreneurship but would also provide essential resources to strengthen the financial resilience to enhance the livelihoods of these entrepreneurs and individuals alike".

These banking outlets will offer micro-banking loans for business development services to underprivileged or low-income individuals or groups

who have limited access to financial services. The JLG model of group lending involves a peer-guarantee loan model, enabling individuals to take loans without providing collateral or security on an individual basis, while promoting credit discipline through mutual support within the group and prompt repayment of their loans. These loans aim to give the required capital to expand your business. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank offers Micro banking JLG loan products that are tailor made to suit the individuals to kick-start their entrepreneurial journey. This helps the individual start, build or expand their entrepreneurial journey seamlessly.

Customers can access banking services through various channels such as Banking Outlets, Micro ATMs (during banking hours), Internet banking, Mobile banking, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), and the Call Centre.

Additionally, the Bank provides facilities for customers to open a bank account without visiting the banking outlet through the tablet-based application-assisted model, "Digi On-Boarding".

Indian Army organizes "Know Your Army"- lecture, demonstration

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 3

The Indian Army organized "Know your Army" event at remote Luni Darman, village in Rajouri District. The event encompassed display of specialized equipment ranging from specialized latest state-of-art weapons, day and night surveillance devices and specialized equipments and vehicles. A talk about life in army was also



organized along with the weapon display which was attended by children from nearby villages especially

from Gujjar and Bakarwal community. With a focus on transparency and community engagement, the event aimed to foster understanding and appreciation for the armed forces. Children were invited to explore various weapons, accompanied by informative sessions highlighting the importance of defense, peacekeeping, and national security.

Shiv Sena has demanded to roll back Toll hike, 2nd hike in 2024



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has strongly objected to the second increase in toll collection in the last five months in the state and has demanded its roll back.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the approval of increase in toll rates and prices of Amul products before the results of the Lok Sabha elections governs doubts on the government's intentions and insensitivity.

Sahni said that instead of providing relief to the people struggling with unemployment, inflation and economic recession, they are being continuously burdened with tax and inflation. He said that

if road tax is collected on the purchase of a vehicle, then toll collection and its continuous increase is beyond his understanding.

He said that the government should stop boasting about the development of national highways. This national highway is being built by looting the pockets of the people. Along with this, Sahni strongly objected to the increase in the prices of Amul products and demanded the government to put a stop to these arbitrary increases. Sahni said that the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra is starting in the next few days and they are demanding to make the toll free for the pilgrims, but the government is increasing the toll collection. On this occasion Gen secretary Vikas Bakshi, Secretary Rajesh Handa were present.

Police seizes 03 vehicles involved in illegal mining in Baramulla



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 3

Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals at Shrai & Delina Ghat, Police in Baramulla have seized 03 vehicles and arrested 03 drivers.

The Police initiated the action under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla & SDPO Tangmarg assisted by SHO PS Tangmarg & IC PP Mirgund. Police seized 02 tippers, 01 tractor & arrested their drivers identified as Gh

Nabi Sheikh son of Gh Ahmad Sheikh resident of Gutlipora, Gh Mohammad Rather son of Ab Ahad Rather resident of Shrai & Aqib Nazir Tantray son of Nazir Ahmad Tantray resident of Darpora.

They were found involved in illegal extraction/ transportation of minerals and accordingly cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in PS Tangmarg & PS Baramulla and investigations have been initiated.

JKP attached property worth Rs 42.5 lakhs of notorious drug peddler



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Under operation "SAN-JEEVANI", Continuing its strict action and showing fearless resolve against drug peddlers, Jammu Police today attached one residential house valuing in Lakhs belonging to notorious drug peddler namely

i) Shakeela W/O Late Ashok Kumar R/O Rajeev nagar Jammu under section 68-Fof NDPS Act 1985

The residential house was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Jammu Police. The property was prima facie accrued from the proceeds of illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic Substances by the owner of above mentioned house.

Pertinently the said Drug peddlers are involved in Case FIR NOS:- i) 267/2017 U/S 8/20

NDPS Act PS Bahu Fort Jammu.

ii) 353/2021 U/S 8/20/21/22 NDPS Act PS Bahu fort Jammu

iii) 110/2022 U/S 8/20/27/29 NDPS Act PS Bahu Fort Jammu

It is pertinent to mention here that in last month three more properties worth crores were also freeze in Rajeev Nagar and Ragoora area of PS Bahu fort and bagh e bahu by

Jammu police. This operation reaffirms the commitment of Jammu Police to combat the drug menace with full force. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Jammu Police with regard to the attachment of immovable property, which has been raised/ used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddlers in the District Jammu.

"Fit India" lecture organized at Thanamandi, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 3

Indian Army organized a 'lecture on physical fitness' for spreading awareness amongst resident populace particularly young generation regarding importance of physical fitness in life to remain healthy. This lecture helped promoting and spreading the knowledge on best practices to boost physical & mental well-being amongst resident populace. The aim of the event was to interact & educate young generation and resident populace about life style diseases like Cardio Vascular Diseases, Diabetes, Cancer, Stress & Depression and also highlighted the importance of Mental Health in overcoming all other diseases. Indian Army demonstrated some of the physical & Yoga exercises to the audience to imbibe them in their daily routine to remain healthy. This lecture mainly emphasized on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan, maintaining personal hygiene & increasing happiness quotient amongst people and youth.

Indian Army holds Recruitment Rally in Uri

JI NEWS SERVICE
URI, JUNE 3

In coordination with the Civil Administration and with an aim to generate fair job opportunities for the local youths of Kashmir Valley, the Indian Army organised a Recruitment Rally at Uri for 600 vacancies of Army Porters with effect from 03 Jun to 05 Jun 2024.

Enthusiastic crowd turned up in huge numbers, approximately 2000 on the first day itself and well thought out plans eased the processes which were appreciated by all participants. Military Authorities laid emphasis on spreading awareness amongst the local popu-



lace, about fraudsters, touts and even the Station Commander, Uri himself briefed all participants.

The candidates were

assured and witnessed the fairness of conduct. The locals were overwhelmed with the professional conduct, a wonderful oppor-

tunity to serve the Nation and support the men in uniform along the borders in discharging their duties.

Jal Shakti Deptt Kashmir rebuts scarcity of Irrigation supplies at some places in District Ganderbal & Sumbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

The Jal Shakti Department Kashmir Monday rebutted the news item published by a local Urdu daily on 03 June, 2024 regarding scarcity of Irrigation supplies at some places in District Ganderbal and Sumbal.

The said local Urdu daily had published a news item with the headline "Scarcity of irrigation Water in many villages of Bandipora and Ganderbal, paddy fields have dried up, locals blame authorities for not cleaning irrigation canals".

In this regard, the Jal Shakti department has issued an official communiqué wherein it has given detailed clarification area wise.

As per the official handout, regarding irrigation water scarcity in Dangerpora, Tulmullah of District Ganderbal it

has been given out that the CCA of the said area is irrigated from Maryab Canal through Tulmullah Dangerpora. The usual practice is that the land at the head portion is irrigated first and that at the tail portion is irrigated only once the irrigation requirement of the head portion is complete. However, this season the zamindars at both head and tail started cultivation simultaneously resulting in insufficient water at the tail portion of the canal.

However, the matter has been sorted and necessary irrigation demand as required at the tail portion has been met through warabandi.

Similarly, regarding irrigation water scarcity in Gund Nesbal in District Ganderbal, the CCA of the said area is dependent on the Ahansar lake Gund, Nesbal where water is supplied through gravity

channels. The said channel was maintained by the zamindars by themselves till date.

However, this year due to the temperature rise and lack of rain, the water level in the Ahansar Lake decreased resulting in slight water scarcity in the said area. The issue is being resolved by lifting water from Ahansar Lake through Mechanical means by installing a diesel pump to meet the water deficiency in the said area.

Also, in connection with Bachpora B/O Padshahi Canal at Ahmad Nagar regarding growth of Weed at the said Spot (District Ganderbal), it has been given out that in the said area, the entire command has been urbanised and irrigation channels are now being used as drains by the residents which has resulted in excessive weed growth. As a temporary

relief, the weed is being cleared

However, for permanent resolution of the grievance the maintenance of the drains is to be carried by City Drainage, ULB and SMC.

Regarding Bahaman irrigation water scarcity (District Ganderbal), after visiting the site, Ex. Engineer IFC Ganderbal has reported that there is no such problem of water scarcity as far as irrigation is concerned in the said area. In connection with Sumbal, Markanda area irrigation water scarcity (District Bandipora), the irrigation facilities in the said area are being provided through Lift Schemes dependent on power supply. Due to frequent power cuts, irrigation facilities get disrupted.

The issue has been taken up with KPDCI for uninterrupted power supply.



A delegation of social activists comprising of Sh Shabir Hussain, popularly known as Blood Man of Kashmir and members of RED DROP, a unit of Blood Donors, headed by Dr Touseef Ahmad today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. Later, representatives of Traders Association Central Lal Chowk Srinagar led by its President Sh Feroz Ahmad Baba, and a young social activist Sh Jehanzeb Allaqaband also met the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan today.



Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today. Dr Andrabi discussed with the Lt Governor the developmental works and measures undertaken by the Board, including development of Sufi shrines in J&K. Subsequently, Sh Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Development Council, Budgam, and Ms Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson District Development Council Ganderbal also met the Lt Governor.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

DM Jammu issues Prohibitory Order within, around Counting centres

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

To maintain public peace, order and tranquility on the day of counting, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Magistrate, Jammu in exercise of the powers conferred upon section 144 Cr.P.C has issued prohibitory order within the premises of Counting Centres. An order issued here today stated "Whereas, the counting of votes for the General Elections

to the Lok Sabha 2024 is fixed on the 4th June 2024; whereas, there exists every apprehension of problems related to law and order, public peace, order and tranquility on the day of Counting;

Therefore, in order to maintain public peace, order and tranquility on the day of counting, I, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Magistrate, Jammu in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under section 144 Cr.P.C. do

hereby prohibit; Procession and Sloganeering of any kind within the premises of the counting centres; Use of P.A. System/loudspeakers and celebration by any political party or candidates within the premises of the counting venue; Carrying of sticks either with or without flags, lathis, processions or big gatherings within a radius of 100 Meters from the counting centres; Bursting and throwing crackers on the roads and

at public places on the day of counting."

Further the order stated that no victory procession/rallies or any sort of other rallies/procession by any candidate/political parties shall be allowed without prior permission of the undersigned.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and remain in force till 5th June, 2024. This order shall be applicable within the jurisdiction of District Jammu."

ADC discusses establishment of Drug De-addiction centre in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 3

Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia chaired a meeting here today to discuss the establishment of a Drug De-Addiction Center in District Udhampur by the District Red Cross Society under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

District Social Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildar Udhampur and Medical Superintendent GMC Udhampur attended the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding the setup for the Drug De-Addiction Center which included infrastructure requirements, necessary facilities, and logistical arrangements to ensure the center's effective operation.

During the meeting, the Tehsildar Udhampur was tasked with identifying suitable accommodation for establishment of the center. ADC emphasized the importance of coordinating with NGOs to ensure the smooth functioning of the Drug De-Addiction Center.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 Counting Observers inspect counting halls, strong rooms at PG College Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 3

The Counting Observers, Rajdeep Sanjay John and Sanjeev Kumar Besra, visited Government PG College Rajouri today to oversee the preparations for the counting process scheduled for tomorrow.

The Observers were accompanied District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, DIG Rajouri Poonch Range, Tijender Singh; SSP, Amrit Pal Singh; AROs of all seven Assembly Constituencies of Rajouri & Poonch districts and other officers associated with elections process also remained present during the visit of the Observers.

The Counting Observers inspected the counting halls and strong rooms that have been set up at Government PG College Rajouri.

It is pertinent to mention here that a total of 7 counting halls and 7 strong rooms have been

established at the PG College Rajouri to facilitate the smooth and efficient counting of votes on tomorrow.

During the visit, the Observers thoroughly examined the facilities and infrastructure in place to ensure that all necessary arrangements have been made for the counting process.

Various aspects were discussed to ensure a seamless and transparent counting process. The Observers expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements made for the counting and directed the officers and officials that the counting is done in a fair and peaceful manner.

The counting in the Anantnag Rajouri constituency is scheduled to take place tomorrow and all necessary steps have been taken to maintain the sanctity of the electoral process and uphold the democratic ethos of the Nation.

Suraj Kumar, Nidhi Aryan win Kishtwar Idol Season 2 Title in respective category

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 3

The much-anticipated grand finale of Kishtwar Idol Season 2.0, a district-level singing competition, concluded here today at Tourist Reception Centre.

Organized by the District Administration, the event featured exceptional performances by the contestants who had progressed through rigorous ground and theatrical auditions.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav was the chief guest, while Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh attended as the special guest and SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom as the guest of honor.

Among others present were ASP Kishtwar Pawan Sharma; ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh; DSWO Kishtwar Tariq Parvez Qazi; CEO Kishtwar R.K. Vesheshta; DIET Principal Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat; CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar; CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik; DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar and Dy.

SP Sajjad Khan.

More than 500 spectators, including school students and local music enthusiasts, filled the venue.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries, followed by the singing of the national anthem.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed his delight over the competition's success and emphasized its role in providing a platform for local singers to showcase their talents.

He praised the Kishtwar Idol team, led by District Information Officer and commended the young participants for their outstanding performances.

Dr. Yadav also announced that the winners would receive specialized music training and opportunities to record albums with renowned recording studios, furthering their musical career.

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, lauded Dr. Yadav's efforts to promote local talent through innovative initiatives like Kishtwar Idol and

hoped for continued collaboration between Kishtwar and Doda districts to elevate the cultural profile of the Chenab Valley.

In the grand finale, 21 singers, including 11 in the above-18 category and 10 in the below-18 category, competed for the title. The jury, comprising esteemed music maestros Ravi Thakur, Suresh Chauhan, Zahida Tarranum and Bhavna Dubey evaluated the contestants' performances meticulously.

Suraj Kumar emerged as the winner in the above-18 category, while Nidhi Aryan won the below-18 category title.

Both winners were awarded a prize of Rs 10,000 and certificate of achievement. They will also receive sponsorship for music training and album recording from the District Administration Kishtwar.

In addition, Zulkar Nain and Rohan Bhandari were named the first and second runners-up in the senior category, while Shreya Sharma and Sushat Aryan secured the same positions in the junior category.

The first runners-up received Rs 7,000, and the second runners-up were awarded Rs. 5,000 in each category. All participants were recognized with participation certificates.

The guests, including DC Kishtwar, DC Doda and SSP Kishtwar, extended their heartfelt congratulations to the winners and participants.

Presenting the vote of thanks, the DIO expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, particularly Dy. SP Sajjad Khan, Ashok Ji, Sanjeev Sharma, local mentors, the instrumentalists and media persons, JKAACL representative Gulab Saifi besides the other stakeholders who contributed to the event's success. He also thanked anchors Awani Sen and Zorawar Singh, the TRC management, and Picture Time Theatre officials for their support and all were felicitated on the occasion.

Special thanks were extended to the officers, officials, and staff of the Educational and Police Departments for their collaboration in ensuring the grand finale's success.

4 minors forced into child labour rescued at Tikri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 3

District Rescue team for child labour/child Marriage/child abuse today rescued 4 children forced in child labour here at Tikri area of district Udhampur. The drive, conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai and SSP Joginder Singh, was led by Assistant Labour Commissioner Sapna and District Child Protection Officer Kanika Gupta. The District rescue team conducted surprise



inspection of shops, Restaurants and Rehri stalls in the Tikri area and res-

cued 4 minors. Child helpline coordinator, Harikrishan, CDPO

Udhampur, Outreach worker DCPU, Case worker CHL, Medical Staff, Police personnel along with lady police constables were part of the rescue team.

The rescued boys were produced before CWC for rehabilitation and were provided temporary shelter in Palaash (child care Institute for boys) Udhampur. The establishments employing underage children will be booked under Chil.

Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament concludes in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 3

The Inter-School Zonal Level tournament for U14 and U17 boys and girls concluded successfully in district Doda. The event was organized under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh

and on the directions of the Director of Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash Chander Chibber. The tournament featured competitions in different disciplines as outlined in the annual calendar activity for 2024-25. The tournament was guided by the Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports Ved Prakash.